



**Chris Harris** is a long-time organizer in the Black community in Toronto. From 2000-2002, Chris was the Program Director of For Youth Initiative (FYI), developing Black anti-racist youth programs in the oppressed Jamaican and Somali communities. From 2000-2009, Chris was the lead youth organizer at the Black Action Defense Committee (BADC), launching the Freedom Cipher Program (2007-2009). Freedom Cipher was a revolutionary anti-racist youth movement inspired by the Black Panther Party, that organized Black street youth who were Bloods and Crips into a “Hood2Hood” campaign to end gang violence in Toronto’s Westend; and young black women into “Set It Off” girls groups to close the educational attainment gap in local Westend high schools. From 2006-2008, Chris was a founder of Basics, a communist student newspaper that organized anti-gentrification, anti-police brutality, and young people’s journalism campaigns ([basicsnews.ca](http://basicsnews.ca)). Since 2005, Chris (a.k.a Wasun) released three revolutionary hip hop albums every 5 years: [What Must Be Done?](#) (2005); [The Prison Notebooks](#) (2010); [Comrade Music](#) (2015). Chris Harris completes his doctoral dissertation at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, on the history of revolutionary nationalist/communist activism in Toronto’s Black Left from the ‘60s Canadian Black Power movement to the Black Action Defense Committee in the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In 2015 Chris launched the Antonio Gramsci-inspired radical adult education institute, Freedom Justice Academy, as a legacy of the Freedom Cipher Program ([fjademy.org](http://fjademy.org)). FJA organizes healing, mentorship, and leadership training programs for indigenous and Black federal ex-prisoners in this era of mass incarceration. FJA also offers microgrants to social entrepreneurs and anti-capitalist activists engaged in indie media and community organizing; and revolutionary Indigenous/Black hip hop artists producing revolutionary hip hop in oppressed indigenous and African communities. As a Community Legal Worker at Parkdale Community Legal Services, Chris recently launched the “I Am Not Invisible” campaign to raise awareness about indigenous and Black Federal Prisoners experience of colonial containment and institutionalization in this era of mass incarceration.