

THE FREEDOM SCHOOL PROJECT PRESENTS a ZOOM PANEL DISCUSSION:

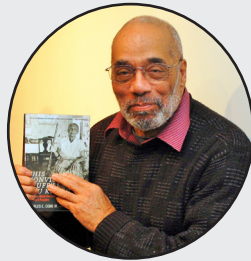
WHAT WE WERE TRYING TO DO AND WHY:

FREEDOM SCHOOLS AND LIBERATION SCHOOLS IN THE 1960S



Gwendolyn Zoharah Simmons, Ph.D.
Human Rights Activist and
Scholar of Women in Islam

Descending from a family that had been sharecroppers in Mississippi, Dr. Simmons was a student at Spelman College when she went to work for Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee's (SNCC) Mississippi Summer Project in 1964. She became the Freedom School Director and Project Director in Laurel, Mississippi, deep in Klan country. She left college to do Movement work full-time, helping to develop the intellectual rationale for Black Power, later working with the American Friends Service Committee, The National Black Independent Party, and National Council of Negro Women.



Charles E. "Charlie" Cobb, Jr.
Journalist, Author,
and Activist

While a field secretary with SNCC in 1963, Mr. Cobb wrote a proposal that led to the creation of Freedom Schools as part of the 1964 Mississippi Summer project. His subsequent career included co-founding the National Association of Black Journalists and serving as a senior analyst at allAfrica.com. Mr. Cobb's books include *Radical Equations: Civil Rights from Mississippi to the Algebra Project* (with Bob Moses); and his latest: *This Nonviolent Stuff Will Get You Killed: How Guns Made the Civil Rights Movement Possible*.



Ash-Lee Woodard Henderson, Ph.D.
Co-Executive Director at
the Highlander Center

Born and raised in Southeast Tennessee, Dr. Henderson is a former staff member of the Chicago SNCC History Project and a past member of the United Students Against Sweatshops. Her activism includes working around issues of mountaintop removal mining and environmental racism in central and southern Appalachia. An active participant in the Black Lives Movement, she is a member of the board of directors for the Philanthropic Initiative for Racial Equity, and co-Executive Director at the Highlander Research and Education Center.

**Virtual Event Date:
Monday, October 25th 7:00 PM**

To Register: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwtcO2ppzgvGd3d3A65D3HfLp0WGpFqXVMV>

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ABOUT THE VIRTUAL SERIES

This event is sponsored by The Freedom School Project, an attempt to change the national conversation about education for the children of disenfranchised communities. We advocate re-engineering some schools in such communities based on the principles underlying SNCC Freedom Schools and similar efforts -- schools that approach learning as affirming, elevating, rigorous, and transformative for self and community. For further information or to join our mailing list, write cornwall1@newark.rutgers.edu