



## Crime Victims Advisory Board

Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

### **LaNaisha Edwards**

#### **Board Member**

LaNaisha Edwards has a master's certificate in Restorative Justice from Vermont Law School. She is a survivor of multiple violent crimes, a community activist, restorative justice practitioner and advocate for all survivors of violence. In 2010, LaNaisha's younger brother, Vinnie Edwards, was murdered and in 2016 her younger brother Vaughn Edwards was murdered. These tragedies caused her to reevaluate her life and start taking positive steps towards rebuilding. In 2013, Edwards began her education at California State University - Dominguez Hill where she received a B.A. in Human Services with a minor in Public Administration.

LaNaisha's work is formed through her lived experience. After the murder of her young brother, LaNaisha started her journey to healing by turning her pain into power, working with organizations across California and supporting programs that focus on reducing community and gang violence. She has worked with Los Angeles Gang Reduction Youth Development (GRYD) program, Urban Peace Institute where she is a one of many violence interruption training facilitators. LaNaisha is the Membership Engagement Associate for Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice, co-chair for the Los Angeles District Attorney Office Crime Victims Advisory Board. LaNaisha also consults for the Office of Violence Prevention as the Community Violence Intervention specialist. Lastly, LaNaisha is the Co-Founding Director of United Communities for Peace.

Since the murder of LaNaisha's younger brothers, she continued to share her story publicly with the goal of sharing her healing storytelling and mobilizing turning your pain to power. She is dedicated to creating opportunities for transformation and healing for everyone impacted by violence including people who have been harmed and people responsible for harm.

