



Sakira Cook is director of the justice reform program of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and The Leadership Conference Education Fund. The Leadership Conference is a coalition charged by its diverse membership of more than 200 national organizations to promote and protect the civil and human rights of all persons in the United States. At The Leadership Conference and The Education Fund, Cook leads the development of the justice reform programs policy agenda and coordinates the programs communications, organizing, and policy advocacy strategies for a broad coalition of civil and human rights groups. The justice reform program works to advance transformative policy solutions that eliminate structural inequity, racism, and injustice at every stage of the criminal legal system – from policing and pretrial justice, to sentencing and incarceration, to reentry.

Cook is also engaged in human rights advocacy at the United Nations and with the federal government, including promoting the U.S. ratification of important human rights treaties, monitoring domestic implementation of U.S. human rights commitments under the Universal Periodic Review, Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and International Covenant on Civil Political Rights, and advancing the established goals and outcomes of the International Decade for People of African Descent.

Prior to joining The Leadership Conference and The Education Fund, Cook served as a legal and research fellow at the Open Society Policy Center, focusing on criminal, civil, and racial justice reform. Cook attended Howard University where she earned a B.A. in International Business and Management, and Wayne State University Law School where she earned her J.D.