

Atkinson Bio

Danielle Atkinson has spent her entire professional career working on behalf of workers and families in Michigan and Florida. Atkinson founded Mothering Justice and serves as the director of it and its sister organization, Mothering Justice Action Fund. Founded in 2014 and 2018, both organizations work to equip mothers as activists to fight for family-friendly policies. Atkinson has led Mothering Justice's successful campaigns to enact a paid leave law in Michigan and raise the state's minimum wage.

As an activist in our community, Atkinson has spent the last four years organizing parents in her school district to hold the school district accountable to instituting a culturally competent curriculum inclusive of the diverse history and student population of Michigan.

Atkinson, a child of Jamaican immigrant parents, understands firsthand the challenges of navigating a college experience independent of a family legacy. The beauty of an array of life perspectives that add to a learning community. Atkinson graduated from Pfeiffer University in North Carolina as a student-athlete with a dual Bachelor's of Arts in Political Science and Sociology in 2003.

Atkinson was the 2020-2021 Distinguished Taconic Fellow for Community Change. Atkinson has extensive experience as a church-based, electoral, and community organizer. She has worked on behalf of such causes as economic justice, childcare, women's rights, and the environment.

Atkinson's work organizing mothers has earned her numerous awards, including the Michigan Women's Progressive Caucus' Progressive Outstanding Women's Empowerment Revolutionary award and the 2018 African American Leadership Rainwater Award. Atkinson is the Board Chair of 9 to 5 National Association of Working Women, The Vice-Chair of Family Values at Work, and is a board member and former Chair of BISC, Ballot Initiative Strategy Center.

Over the last several years Atkinson has been published in Ms. Magazine, Huffington Post, VOX and been feathered on MSNBC and CNN. Atkinson is the proud daughter of Enid and George Atkinson, sister of Georgette and Carol Brown. She lives in Royal Oak, Michigan, with her husband Frank Houston and their 6 Eva, Livia, Josiah, Zinnia, Akiva, and Wila.