

A person wearing a white headscarf with a large white flower on top is shown in profile, looking upwards. Their hands are raised in a gesture of prayer or supplication. The background is a bright, overcast sky.

# **The Intentional Eradication of Hate & Indifference**

**By: Sister Dina**

## *The Intentional Eradication of Hate & Indifference*

In the past 3 years, communities across America have increasingly been affected by violence born out of hate. We have lost loved ones that just took a trip to the Mall, to pick up a pair of "skinny Jeans" or to buy their favorite perfume. In some districts, children have become afraid to go to school. Guns have entered our churches and killed the innocent. And it is time we heal. We must begin the healing process. And it begins with the Intentional Eradication of Hate and Indifference. It is a process that will only work, if we are willing participants for change and proponents for peace.

We are living in a new era: an era where women are now invited to the discussion table, an era where Dads unapologetically work from home and push their newborn's stroller to a lunch-for-2 in the park. We are living in an era where the bully is shamed and made a public spectacle, where silence is no longer the bed of the victimized. We have advanced to an era where communities are able to simultaneously engage in meaningful discussions around life-impacting issues - while participants freely and openly offer their views.

The White descendants of slave masters, descendants of the men who owned and brutally beat their slaves - no longer want to be associated with that atrocity. The White Great-Great-Grandchildren of slave owners have intermarried with Black men, with Black women and are happily and intentionally raising their children to interact and love colorlessly, love purposefully, and love beyond the racial boundaries set by previous generations.

There are important teachings and lessons we can pull from and preserve, but hate and indifference is not one of them. We are no longer shackled to our past. What has worked, we want and must preserve. But we must be

courageous stewards of the future hope of our next generation of young leaders and pioneer change for what has not worked.

As the issue of race and race relations demand a slice at the banquet table, respectful and heart-poured recounts of The Struggle - lend meaningful insight: that we are more the same than we are different. We all pray for a cure against cancer. All Veteran families get that same sinking feeling, when military personnel come to their door and ask: "Is this the family of?" We all feel pain. And that shows we are so much more alike than we are different. Take the example of being in a large movie theater showing a film where a horrible tragedy is about to befall a little child. I guarantee: over 90.9% of the crowd (in one accord) would champion for that child to get away from danger and get to safety. Lastly, when a category 4 hurricane strikes and utterly destroys a town - friends and neighbors all come together and offer to share what little resources they have left. What I am trying to say is: during major tragedies (i.e. The Towers on 9/11), we do not see color or status. We see people...because we all matter.

As a Black woman, I want to look into the lens of my White Brothers, of my White Sisters and say: I love you. I love you. You have not hurt me. You are released from carrying the blame for the acts of your Great-Great-Grandparents. You are no longer obliged to continue the learned acts that divide and destructively teach the next generation of White leaders to look for the White candidate and to block all votes for the Black candidate – instead of selecting the appropriate candidate for the job.

Love is long overdue. We need to declare a truce and say: The fighting is over! I am sorry for the actions of my past generations. I am not better than you. You may be created differently, but you were equally created in GOD's image.

Let us walk together hand-in-hand into 2024, as we labor to reinstate love, rebuild tolerance, sow compassion, and leave a lasting legacy in the fabric

of our communities. Let America wear an emblem, as the powerful nation of a unified people. Let America pioneer models of communities where people of all races, color, creed, religious belief, or different lifestyle preferences - may feel acceptance, welcomed, and embraced.

I can truly say: the dream of our great Civil Rights Leader - Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (that one day, little White girls and little White boys would hold hands with little Black girls and little Black boys; that they would play together and see no color) – his dream has climbed Freedom's Mountain and continues to make its appeal at the door of each heart. Love is deliberately knocking at the door of your heart, at the door of my heart. And Love is as color-blind as my best friend's pooch. Love wants to invite you on a journey and take you to the Bridge of Racial Divide. Love invites you and me to be the first to intentionally eradicate the use of this old bridge and to begin removing the stones of "hate," the brick of "indifference," and the bars of "separation." The dismantling of what has divided us, will allow to build in its place – The Together Bridge: a bridge which we'll each proudly say we had the honor to help build, a bridge that will reflect each heart that Love took there; a bridge that will allow us to come closer and intimately examine what makes us more the same than what makes us different. The Together Bridge will afford me the opportunity and honor to listen to your personal experiences, become acquainted with the issues that matter to you, and invite your voice toward forging a more effective, all inclusive, and people friendly government - where the delivery of services and of resources are allocated equally and without segregatory influence.

As your Advocate, I vow to work with fairness, equity and integrity. I vow to promote balance and unity. I will strive to ensure access to affordable housing for ALL, ensure free and quality emergency shelters for single men, single women, and families who are temporarily homeless. And I will strive to ensure equal access to federal financial assistance in: housing, social benefits, education, employment, and transportation. Join me while I journey to intentionally eradicate hate and indifference. Join me by

reporting all acts of hate and discrimination. Let us -together- build the “Together Bridge” through acts of kindness, intentional forgiveness, and the willingness to partake in creating a “Culture of Good.”

## ***Coming Soon***

Thurgood Center For Housing Advocacy & Capacity Building  
Because You Matter!

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