

**This essay was written by Walter Williams in response to a question at quora.com**

### **Why don't descendants of American slaves ever return to Africa to live there?**

The vast majority of Africans were brought to the east coast of North America between 1619 and 1808, when the Trans-Atlantic slave trade was made illegal. European Americans are descended from immigrants who came to North America mostly between 1820 to 1924, after which immigration was severely restricted.

So, the average African American has been in this country for MANY more generations than the average European American. One to three CENTURIES earlier!

Plus, the average African American has a much higher percentage of Native American ancestry, than the average European American. So, in terms of both their degree of indigenous American ancestry, and the number of generations their ancestors have lived in North America, black people have more right to be here than the average white person.

Plus, the suggestion of moving to Africa is complicated by the reality that a high percentage of African Americans also have European genetic ancestry. So, if such persons were to leave, which of the many countries of Africa or of Europe would be chosen? And who would make such decisions? And who would pay for the cost of rounding up over 41 million American citizens, deciding which country they should be sent to, gaining the permission of those countries to receive them, and transporting them there?

Such a scenario is ridiculously absurd. Why can't Americans (of any race) be sent anywhere? Because the Constitution states that anyone born in the United States is a citizen, and all citizens have the equal protection of the laws. There is a thing called the Bill of Rights. If you do not understand that, you are in severe need of a course in political science and another in American history.

The United States is a nation characterized by diversity; if you cannot accept that reality then it is you who should go elsewhere. Please leave on your own. The sooner the better.