

#### **DECLARATION OF FREEDOM**

This is where we begin.

Before systems. Before struggle. Before oppression.

We begin with freedom.

The United States of Black America stands on this truth:

Our freedom wasn't denied. It wasn't granted. It was inherited.

Through legacy. Through memory. Through covenant.

This declaration affirms our freedom.

Read it with power.

Protect it with purpose.

Let it stand as the foundation for everything we build.

# We, the descendants of the enslaved, who endured the unimaginable and still chose to survive, make this Declaration of Freedom.

We offer it as an act of remembrance not as a reaction to what was done to us, but as confirmation of who we are.

Our freedom was not granted by law.

It was carried through generations,
guarded in prayer,
secured through the sacrifice of labor,
and spoken boldly by those who dreamed beyond what they were given.

We name it now, not to claim it for the first time, but to preserve it—fully, formally, and without apology.

#### This is not the origin of our freedom.

This is our liberation.

#### We are not here because space was made for us.

We are here because our ancestors refused to give up.

They endured without promise.

They fought without praise.

They hoped without proof—

so that we could live without bondage.



We rise in their name.

We walk in their footsteps.

We build what they made possible.

#### We affirm:

- That joy is part of our heritage.
- That rest is part of our inheritance.
- That our children deserve provision.
- That healing is our accountability.
- That our history is significant.
- · That our culture is influential.
- That our rights are requirements.
- That our lives are meaningful.

#### We reject:

- The belief that pain makes us authentic.
- The silence that reinforces injustice.
- The illusion of inclusion without power.
- The lie that our worth must be proven.
- Systems that divide us and deny our humanity.

#### We commit:

- To honoring our collective past and presence.
- To physical, spiritual, and structural restoration.
- To teaching our children the truth with discernment.
- To speaking thoughtfully and listening with patience.
- To leading with integrity without acknowledgement.
- To building institutions that reflect our sovereignty.
- To aligning with fellow Black Americans in unity.

#### Freedom is foundational.

It is sacred.



It is not symbolic.
It is structural.
It is not given.
It is secured.
We carry it.
We protect it.
We extend it.

For those who came before us. For those who stood with us. For those still to come.

### We are free.

## And our freedom will be sustained

generation to generation, system to system, with truth, honor, and dignity.

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