

## Taalib Saber-EDFU Foundation

I GIVE THANKS TO EDFU FOUNDATION AND MY INTERNS KHEPRA AND ZURI.

People can't afford to be here.

People can't afford to be at the UN.

People can't afford to be in the United States.

People can't afford to be in their homes.

People can't afford to be homeless.

When was the last time you were uncomfortable?

We are all here with our professional attire, impressive achievements with future aspirations of continued success. I'm a lawyer based out of DC/MD. I have my own business. My own office and I'm a mentor. I mentored young brothers ages 18-25, some of which have admitted to me that they've never met a black attorney. You have young people out here who have NEVER met a black CPA, a black Engineer, a Black Dentists. At LEAST when we had segregation they would see us consistently. I've sat in jails with young brothers and sisters whose eyes have rained tears of abandonment and their lives littered with absences, who are faced with disproportionate drug incarceration rates that prevent access to financial aid, disproportionate unemployment rates, and disproportionate enforcement of discipline.

What are we doing to be present in our community's daily life. When was the last time you were uncomfortable?

We are most lethal against these anti-black systemic and institutional structures when we have:  
Rites of Passages,

When WE HAVE black businesses invested in our communities through employment and development

When WE HAVE strong educational institutions that affirm our youth and not just assimilate them

When WE HAVE medical institutions that can treat our people like humans and not like science projects

When we have systems in place that nationally practice food sovereignty and not food apartheid

WHEN WE Increase funding for scholarships to ensure a much broader civil society participation in the mechanism - particularly participation of youth and elders