



DENISE ANITA HILL, LLC
Love. Freedom.
Justice. Flourish.

Statement at Meeting 4 on Recognizing and Addressing Systemic and Structural Racism Data Collection for People of African Descent at The 2nd Session on Peoples of African Descent

I keep going back to the theme inspired by the Reverend Dr Martin Luther King, Jr: realizing the dream. To realize. To see it. I want – we want – to see it so. And in order to see it so, we need to make visible, in literal and metaphorical high definition & robust sound, what the nightmare looks like -- what the mundanity of the everyday horror of the effects of slavery, of apartheid, of genocide, of colonialism, of neocolonialism, of neoliberalism in the lives for folks of African Descent looks like.

It's been mentioned here today, but I want to highlight it again, the deep importance of telling the story, and centering our lived experience as the normative grounds of knowledge in the stories we tell. Data without a prescient, impactful narrative that allows the hearer to enter into empathetic community with the faces, the lives, the laughter, the tears, the smiles, the heartbreaks of the folks in the numbers, is data without life, is data without impact, is data void of justice. We must remember, one thing that made King so impactful, and one of the tactics of movement building that King spoke of is the power of the visual story. It is critical, therefore, that anyone, anyone who encounters data of systemic racism, must be encounters a narrative invitation to locate their humanity within the humanity of the folks who are the lives behind the numbers – a narrative invitation to locate their humanity within the humanity of our people – so that, maybe, just maybe, we can tap into a power, a spirit that will move us to meaningful, impactful, lived-out transformation that's more than words on page.

We must tell the story, our stories, en masse, and we must root them and stand sure on the grounds of our knowing, which is the ground of our being. Thank you.

Denise Anita Hill

Founder