

# Black Unity Family Commemorates King Assassination with Letter to Fellow Americans

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 4 (SEND2PRESS NEWSWIRE) – In commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., The Black Unity Family, a diverse, nonpartisan coalition of groups and individuals co-convened by Dr. Dorothy I. Height, Dr. Joseph E. Lowery, Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner and Melanie L. Campbell, released the following “Letter to Fellow Americans:”

Where Do We Go From Here?

“We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly... Now is the time to make real the promise of democracy...” Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dear Fellow Americans:

On this, the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., we, a diverse, nonpartisan, intergenerational coalition of African-American groups and individuals, have come together so that our voices will be clearly heard.

Our community has a great stake in this presidential election, and issues that we are most concerned about must be addressed.

We share with all Americans a call for the prompt ending of the war in Iraq, universal health care, access to quality education, affordable housing free from predatory lenders, quality jobs and economic stability.

Our particular domestic and global priorities include: re-creating a high-wage economy, transforming underserved schools, increasing funding for historically Black colleges and universities, restoring communities devastated by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, reconstructing a Supreme Court committed to justice for all, sustaining strong enforcement of civil rights laws and rebuilding urban and rural infrastructures.

We also call for expanding HIV/AIDS research, the recognition of workers’ rights to organize, entrepreneurial opportunity, environmental justice, criminal justice reform, the reduction of disproportionately high incarceration rates, and support for the growth and development of Caribbean and African nations. These are critical human rights issues.

Our churches have been our moral foundation and prophetic witness for justice and equality since slavery, holding up a mirror on areas where the nation falls short of these virtues.

We strongly uphold the right to religious freedom of expression as reflected in our churches and other faith institutions.

Our unpaid labor, creativity, blood, sweat and tears helped build America. Today, we seek to work with Americans of all faiths, races and ethnic backgrounds to heal long-standing wounds in our nation.

Let us all join together to realize Dr. King's vision of social, racial and economic justice for all – for the love of our children and for future generations.

**The Black Unity Family** (Partial list. For a full list go to [www.ncbcp.org](http://www.ncbcp.org) )

Maya Angelou  
Barbara Arnwine  
Vanita Banks  
Cora Masters Barry  
Lezli Baskerville  
Julian Bond  
Donna Brazile  
Clayola Brown  
Khephra Burns  
Melanie Campbell  
Rev. Suzan Johnson Cook  
Johnnetta B. Cole  
Prof. Kimberly Crenshaw  
Felicia Davis  
Al Dotson  
Thomas W. Dortch  
Rev. Gerald Durley  
Michael Eric Dyson  
Hazel Edney  
DeAnna Evans  
Ralph Everett  
Isaac Farris  
Danny Glover  
Dennis Hayes  
Hon. Glenda Hatchett  
Dr. Dorothy I. Height  
Gerald Hudson  
Rev. Jesse Jackson  
Benjamin Jealous  
Keith Jennings  
Jeff Johnson  
Oscar Joyner  
Maulana Karenga  
Martin Luther King, III  
Bishop Eddie Long  
Evelyn Lowery  
Rev. Joseph Lowery  
William Lucy

Julianne Malveaux  
Darryl Matthews.  
Bishop E. Earl McCloud, Jr.  
Terry McMillan  
Barbara McKinzie  
Bishop Vashti McKenzie  
Brenda Girton Mitchell  
Rev. Judith C. Moore  
Marc Morial  
Constance Newman  
Charles Ogletree  
Kevin Parker  
Rev. Tyrone S. Pitts  
Steve Phillips  
Kevin Powell  
Lois A. Rice  
Elsie Scott  
Rev. Al Sharpton  
Beverly Guy-Shefthall  
Yvonne Scruggs-Leftwich  
Bev Smith  
Jane E. Smith  
Rev. T. DeWitt Smith, Jr.  
Hon. Calvin Smyre  
Charles Steele  
Beverly Daniel Tatum  
Susan L. Taylor  
Rev. Regena Thomas  
Cicely Tyson  
Iyanla Vanzant  
Rev. C. T. Vivian  
LaKimba DeSadier-Walker  
Ronald Walters  
Shelley Wynter  
Rev. Barbara Williams-Skinner  
Terrie Williams  
Richard Womack  
Hon. Andrew Young

NOTE TO MEDIA: The following BUF representatives are available for interview.  
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Susan L. Taylor  
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Barbara Arnwine, Esq.  
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Kevin Powell

National Coalition on Black Civic Participation / Black Unity Family

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