



## ***What it Means to be an African-American***

African-Americans are a very special people, with a remarkable range of skin tones. We are far more than just American citizens, we are a distinct nationality of African People in the United States.

The term African-American has a significance that goes well beyond simply being the latest label given to people who were once called Blacks, Negroes and Colored people.

We are on a mission to completely change the nature of our presence in this country. It is a mission that includes securing international recognition of our status as a distinct ethnic nationality that is an integral part of the global African family. An African family that includes all people of African origin in North and South America, the Caribbean, Europe and elsewhere.

Like other ethnic nationalities around the world, we openly embrace our own unique ethnic national identity. We celebrate the exceptional history and culture of our own people and we put our own national interests first, above all others.

As African-Americans we treat each other with respect. We love and cherish our children, we value education and we strive to serve as examples of personal integrity and self-discipline.

African-Americans manifest confidence and a sense of purpose. We are comfortable in the knowledge of who we truly are and do not need to hide insecurities by trashing other ethnic groups.

As African-Americans we welcome and encourage all who share our common African heritage to become part of our mission and embrace our unique history, culture, values and national identity.