



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

**Opening Statement**  
**at The 2nd Session on Peoples of African Descent**

When I think about my people, I am filled with emotions in juxtaposition. Just look around this room, look at how beautiful we are, how brilliant we are, look at what it looks like when we gather together, for each other. Close your eyes and think of all your kin and cousins an' dem back home, their smiles, their laughs. How could one not help but to feel joy at the thought of our people. And when I look around again, I know, in all our beauty, in all our splendor, in all our majesty, I know that we are gathered here, in person and virtually, to make broad the way to name & recover, to name & make right, to name & make whole all the multifaceted anti-black oppressions, subjugations, and violences -- physical, emotional, psychological, ecological, communal, familial, economic, and spiritual -- that our people have endured for 500+ years now.

We are here today, to right a wrong. We are here today, in the spirit of John the Baptist, collective voices crying out in the wilderness of oppression across the African diaspora: repent, repair, reparations -- bc now is the time to lose the bonds of those held captive, bc now is the time of recovery, bc now is the time to bring good news to those who are impoverished, now is the time to set those who are oppressed free. We are here today, in the spirit of John of Patmos, proclaiming the vision we see, of a new heaven & a new earth, a new social order where African peoples have the justice, the dignity, the freedom, the flourishing, the peace that is our birthright. We are here today, in the spirit of Rev Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. & the spirit of Coretta Scott King, to declare in harmony, that we will not be satisfied 'til justice roll down like waters for our peoples.

We are here, because the time is now, and the moment is today. Thank you.

Denise Anita Hill  
Founder