



Black Men Healing Conference
Metropolitan State University
St. Paul, MN



A Mother's Message to Her Son

Verona Mitchell, Host & Producer
Cultural Conversations Radio



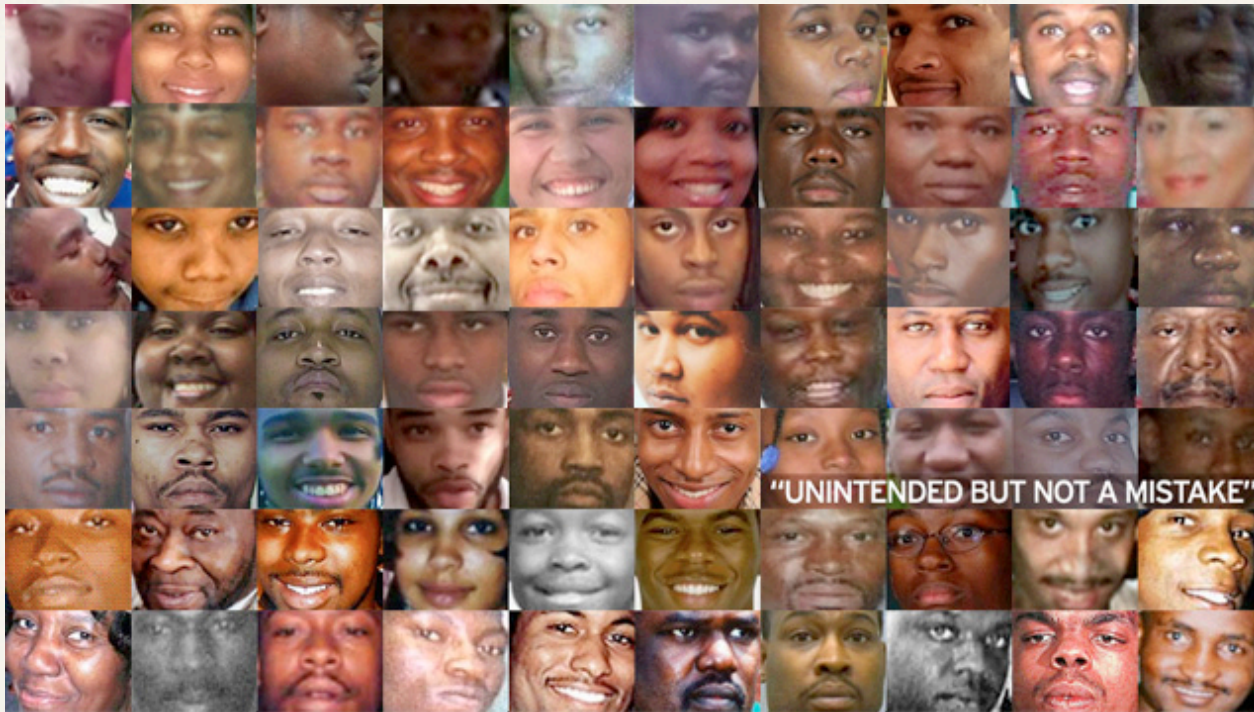
Survival Means Legacy



The End is Their Beginning

Unarmed Victims of 2014

More than 100 unarmed black people were killed by police in 2014.



Your Survival is Paramount

<http://mappingpoliceviolence.org/unarmed/>

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Unarmed Victims of 2014 — Mapping Police Violence <http://mappingpoliceviolence.org/unarmed>

MAPPING POLICE VIOLENCE

NATIONAL POLICE VIOLENCE MAP / UNARMED VICTIMS / REPORTS / COMPARE PLACES / NATIONAL TRENDS / ABOUT US

Unarmed Victims of 2014

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Here are their names and stories.

			
<p>Michael Laray Dozer Bakersfield, CA: Dozer was allegedly acting erratically at a gas station when he walked towards an officer. Finding him to appear "aggressive," the officer shot and killed him. He was 26 years old.</p>	<p>Oliver Jarrod Gregoire Baytown, TX: A woman called 911 to report that Gregoire had kicked in her back door, which may have been his own residence, and attacked her with a pole. He reportedly left and returned again. Deputy Bradley Hasley spotted Gregoire exiting the house and tasered him. Gregoire fell, reportedly removed the probes and then allegedly "charged" Bradley, who then tasered him again. When EMS arrived to treat the woman, Hasley says he noticed Gregoire appeared "unresponsive." He was transported to the hospital where he was pronounced dead. He was 26 years old.</p>	<p>George V. King Baltimore, MD: King spent the night in the hospital for a reaction to dental work medication. After an unknown procedure, and possibly taking Keppra the next day, King allegedly became "agitated and combative" about not being immediately released. Two officers arrived and tasered King once while 5-10 hospital workers tried to secure him to a gurney. He resisted, was drive-stunned four times, and was given a sedative. He suffered a cardiac arrest, went into a coma and died 7-8 days later. He was 19 years old.</p>	<p>Dominique Franklin Jr. Chicago, IL: Police pursued Franklin after suspecting him of robbing a store. They tasered him twice, causing him to fall headfirst into a streetlight. Franklin died several weeks later. He was 23 years old.</p>

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Your Survival is Paramount

<https://vimeo.com/116706870>

David Miller, founder of "The Dare To Be King Project."

1. Be polite; respectful
2. You can file a compliant
3. Do not argue with the police
4. What you say can be used against you
5. Keep your hands in plain sight



Your Survival is Paramount

<https://vimeo.com/116706870>

David Miller, founder of "The Dare To Be King Project."

6. Avoid physical contact with police
7. Do not run, even if afraid
8. Do not resist arrest
9. No comment or discussion until you have a lawyer present
10. Guard your body language, words, reactions and emotions



Your Survival is Paramount

<https://vimeo.com/116706870>

11. Do not bring attention to yourself
12. Do not hang with those who are overtly bringing attention to themselves



Your Survival Paramount

<https://vimeo.com/116706870>



Your Survival Means Legacy

<https://vimeo.com/116706870>



How do we Transmit a Sense of Survival & Legacy?



Our Image... Our Stuff and How
We Lead

Why Is The “Great She- Elephant” Important Today?

- ❖ Serves as a formative source in the African American female’s point of entry into the Western World

- ❖ Who Are the “Great She-
Elephants”
in family, community,
or larger scope of society?



The “Great She-Elephant”



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- ❖ Maternal mythical creature that existed solely to nurture and preserve her communal structure (as cited in Shedlock, 1920)
 - ❖ African female leaders are sometimes referred to as the “Great She-Elephant.”
 - ❖ She is the maternal keeper of the tribe embodying
 - ❖ Strength, power, and gumption
 - ❖ Ability to operate under an abscess of societal dysfunction, and rapid social change

How We See African American, Black Women?

- ✦ [You Told Harpo to Beat Me?](#)



How Do They See Me?

- ❖ What's your perception of the African American female?
- ❖ Why that perception?
- ❖ How was your perception formed?
- ❖ How do you clarify who you are... MOTHER

Putting Her Leadership Into Context

- ❖ **Factors that contribute to leadership are:**
 - ❖ **social positioning**
 - ❖ **leadership development**
 - ❖ **communication**
 - ❖ **defiance**
 - ❖ **historical elements that influenced her expressive style of leadership**

5 Key Leadership Qualities

- ❖ **In spite** of the brutality of slavery, racism, sexism the following key leadership qualities emerged:
 - ❖ Self-defined
 - ❖ Self-determined
 - ❖ Development and usage of voice
 - ❖ Connecting to and building community,
 - ❖ Seeking spirituality and regeneration

Messages of Devaluation & Misrepresentation

- ❖ African-American females are viewed as “Black matriarchs”
 - ❖ dominant
 - ❖ pathological
 - ❖ deviant
 - ❖ and destructive to the African-American family
- ❖ Devaluation and misunderstanding; often in comparison with Anglo (White) females
- ❖ Results in attempting to “fit” African American female’s culturally distinct leadership and communication style into the framework of leadership exhibited by Anglo (White) females.



Our Message

1. We love you
 2. I am Mother
 3. Your mission is to have the courage to Live
 4. We are a team
 5. I am not your playmate – I am mother
 6. I am not your girlfriend/boyfriend – I am mother
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Our Message

6. I am not your father, I am mother
 7. I lead with love
 8. We have a rich history in Africa and in the Americas
 9. My legacy is passed on through your survival
 10. My legacy is within the quality of life
 11. In life there is hope; in hope there is legacy
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