



UndocuBlack Network™ Points of Unity

What We Believe. UBN Establishes Points of Unity Toward Shared Vision and Understanding.

Our points of unity hold us accountable to our communities and guide our decisions, partnerships, and direction. The following points of unity are here established as guiding principles to support members of the UndocuBlack Network to have a shared vision and understanding.

Guiding Principles

- **On Leadership**

- We are led by former and currently undocumented Black people because we believe that our lived experience, as it reflects our challenges, our joy, and our resilience, is critical. We aim to combine our lived experiences with the experiences of our ancestors to inform all of our work.

- **On (Im)migration**

- We believe that migration is natural, while borders and accompanying laws that control those borders are unnatural forces..
 - We believe that the Black diaspora, and the diasporas of other displaced communities around the world, have the right to freedom of movement, including to migrate, without fear of criminalization or retribution.
 - We believe that there is a historic pattern of colonization, which led to the forced migration of the United States and other parts of the world.
 - We believe that there is a historic pattern of colonization during which brutal theft of land, resources, and people led to the forced migration of the global South. We migrated to recuperate the wealth that was stolen from us only to have it denied again in the form of forced labor, wage theft, detention, state sanctioned murder, xenophobia, and deportation.

- **On Our Oppression**

- The UndocuBlack Network believes that the majority of what troubles our diaspora is a direct result of the state putting profit over people — in other words, capitalism.
 - US systems of oppression continue to exploit our foreignness and our Blackness by creating an enemy in the minds of people in the US and by backing up that negativity with harmful policies and laws.
 - We want to see an end to institutions that criminalize Black bodies for profit through the prison industrial complex and through the forced removal of Black bodies from the places they call home.

- **On Identity**

- We know that Blackness and the Black identity is always changing and that our languages, religions, accents, dialects, foods, and cultures vary because we keep adapting and surviving through the continual theft of our land, people, and resources.
- We also know that the "Undocumented" label is one that can change, too. We can come in and out of this status over time, with different labels applied for varying personal and political purposes. We can be "Dreamers" or "DACAmented," we can be "refugees" or "visitors," and we can be "aliens" or "citizens" and it's all arbitrary as we will still be denied basic rights even as Black citizens.
- We are aware that "colorism" exists within and among our communities. While the implications of colorism vary, it is important to note that colorism doesn't detain us, deport us, mass incarcerate us, miseducate us, kill us, and deny us our freedom. Though our personal social identities intersect with rampant anti-Blackness, it is the political and economic system of white supremacy, with deep, long arms throughout US laws, institutions, and culture, that maintain the exploitation of some and not others.
- For this same reason, some labels in some contexts come with varying access to limited privileges, but none of them — not even citizenship — means freedom.

- **On Liberation**

- UBN aims to create a space where Black people who are LGBTQIA, differently abled, in any age group, of any and all genders, and all marginalized groups within our diaspora can bring their full selves.
- While so much is different, the one common identifier is our oppression and current lack of power to build a world where the oppressed win free education, housing for all, control of their labor, quality healthcare, and access to life's essentials regardless of race or legal status.
- We understand that liberation will not come from a classroom, a political office, a boardroom, a non-profit or anything that requires our oppression in order to continue. For as long as humans are considered "disposable," or "undeserving" and our access to basic rights are based on individual "grit" or "merit" liberation will be distant and neoliberalism will continue to reign. We know our liberation can only come from revolution through confrontation with the power structures and challenging of supremacy, capitalism and imperialism by building people power and autonomy for our people.
- We aim to build a political and social home for the Black diaspora that comes in many shades of brown. This home necessitates that we embrace capital "B" Black to make revolutionary work accessible to our communities. While we see identity and representation as important, we understand that identity is not an answer to liberation. Blackness is neither our ethnicity nor our nationality. It is our global political identity. As the Black diaspora struggles to survive and thrive we know that we can only work towards liberation and power if we band together under the collective identity of the international working class.