



VALUING BLACK LIVES: THE GLOBAL EMOTIONAL EMANCIPATION SUMMIT

WHAT: The Global Emotional Emancipation Summit, a solutions-focused, action-oriented forum presented by Community Healing Network and the Association of Black Psychologists, will bring together leaders of African ancestry from around the world to develop and carry out plans of action to free ourselves, our children, and the world from the lie of Black inferiority: the root cause of the devaluing of the lives of Black people.

WHY: For nearly 400 years, the world has been fed toxic lies about the history, worth, and value of people of African ancestry. These lies are all rooted in one big lie: *the lie of Black inferiority*. That lie was devised to justify the enslavement and subjugation of African people around the world. That lie has led to the dehumanization of Black people and the devaluing of Black lives. It contributes to Black-White mental and physical health disparities, the criminalization, mass incarceration, and wanton killing of Black people, and many of the other problems facing Black communities. It also undermines our ability as a people to solve these problems.

HOW: In order to address the many challenges facing Black communities across the world, we, Black people, must free ourselves from the lie of Black inferiority. To do this, Community Healing Network (CHN) is spearheading, in collaboration with the Association of Black Psychologists (ABPsi), the global grassroots movement to overcome and overturn the lie. The Global Emotional Emancipation Summit is part of a multi-faceted set of strategies developed by CHN to build the movement. The first Summit meeting, which we hope to hold as part of the 45th Annual Legislative Conference of the Congressional Black Caucus, will focus on launching an international conversation about: 1) the lie and its origins; 2) the continuing effects of the lie; and 3) concrete strategies for extinguishing it--once and for all.

WHO: CHN is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that has been working since 2006 to build the global grassroots movement for emotional emancipation. (www.CommunityHealingNet.org). ABPsi is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that seeks to promote and advance the profession of African psychology, influence and effect social change, and develop programs that address and work to alleviate problems of Black communities and other ethnic groups. (www.abpsi.org)

In 2010, CHN reached out to ABPsi to request its professional expertise and technical assistance in refining another CHN movement-building strategy, Emotional Emancipation (EE) CirclesSM. EE Circles are self-help support groups designed to help Black people work together toward emotional healing and empowerment. CHN and ABPsi have been collaborating for four years to refine the EE Circles process, and, together, have planted seeds for EE Circles in cities across the country, including New Haven, CT; Tuskegee, AL; Los Angeles, CA; and Ferguson, MO; and countries around the world, including the United Kingdom, Cuba, Brazil, and Ghana.