

RASTAFARI GLOBAL SECRETARIAT

VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT

"We must become bigger than we have been: more courageous, greater in spirit, larger in outlook. We must become members of a new race, overcoming petty prejudice, owing our ultimate allegiance not to nations, but to our fellow men within the human community."

Emperor Haile Selassie I.

The Context

IN the 1970's the Rastafari movement spread beyond the borders of the Caribbean and slowly transitioned into a new international phase. The landmark 1983 RITA Conference in Jamaica took this globalization into account. This was reflected in resolutions framed within a broader context. The idea of a Global Secretariat was ambitiously put forward. It was viewed as a means of organizing the movement in its secular and economic aspects so as to ensure programmed development worldwide. To date the black-print has not materialized in the form in which it was envisioned.

The international spread has continued apace without the administrative structures that would fulfil the vision of '83. However, organizational changes have reflected the point of arrival of the movement across a range of geographical regions and Mansions. The codification of Rastafari guidelines, the Millennium Council, the Caribbean Rastafari Organization, TRON, NNCUK and RMMUK are just a few examples of attempts to harmonize the workings of the movement and provide center-points of balance and authority within the Nation. The Global Secretariat is meant to coalesce the best of these options in a singular 'office'.

The Vision

Today, 85 years since its inception, the movement has established a vibrant presence in every country on the face of this earth. This is all the more inspiring in view of the ostracism and persecution the movement suffered in its earliest

days when it was viewed as a cult of outcasts plotting the destruction of western society (Babylon). Rastafari has entered the mainstream of society. Adherents of the movement are to be found in all professions, emerging as doctors, lawyers, architects, politicians, cultural activists – and not merely as stereotyped singers and players of instruments. But that growing credibility has not been reflected in any formal authority or institution that represents the global community. Rastafari is ‘tolerated’ - rather than respected for the unique contribution Iml have made to a new world order based on equal rights and justice.

Expectations of repatriation to Africa remain largely unfulfilled. Claims for reparation for the manifold injustices inflicted on the movement are still outstanding. Despite the manifest maturity of the movement a lot more needs to be achieved before Rastafari takes its rightful place as a ‘Nation among nations’ with identifiable mores, traditions, customs, practices, lifestyle and belief system.

The Rastafari Global Secretariat will aim to fill this gap in representation of the international community in the modern world.

MISSION STATEMENT

Empowerment of Rastafari collective, through sustainable development, integrity, collective security, international morality and trustworthiness.

- To provide transparency and competence in all areas, to demonstrate accountability in all actions, to display skill, expertise and teamwork in all endeavors; to provide a functional administration that will serve the global movement with guidance and authority.**

There are many challenges that we face as individuals and as an international community. To manage the many situations that have developed within Rastafari Houses and Mansions as well as within the broader Rastafari collective, good administrative methods must be employed.

- **To harness the best available skills and expertise within the movement for the goals of recognition, justice and development.**

Rastafari today have gained tremendous academic excellence and technical knowledge in all fields. These skills must be utilized - not merely for the betterment of self - but also for overall growth and empowerment of the movement.

- **To build on the foundation the elders have set by their example.**

We will continue to salute the patriarchs and matriarchs of the faith. Some have now become ancestors; others are still with us today and their life work is immensely valued. InI need to acknowledge their accomplishments and extend their legacy for future generations.

- **To organize and centralize the global Rastafari community as a unified and coherent collective under the headship of His Imperial Majesty Emperor Haile Selassie I and Empress Menen: one Jah, one Aim, one Destiny.**

For too long the Rastafari movement has been mired in squabbles, conflicts and petty prejudice, and has not grasped the benefit of collective governance. This has limited our progress as a movement, our ability to self-assert and to stamp our imprint on global affairs as the present moves inexorably towards the future.

We know there are differences among us. Africans enjoy different cultures, distinctive values, special attributes. But we also know that unity can be and has been attained among men of the most disparate origins, that differences of race, religion, culture and tradition are no insuperable obstacles to the coming together of peoples. History teaches us that unity is strength and cautions us to submerge and overcome our differences in the quest for common goals, to strive, with all our combined strength for the path to true African brotherhood and unity. Emperor Haile Selassie I.