

# THE GLOBAL BLACK CENTRE

- History
- Heritage
- Education



**Global Black Centre**  
History-Heritage-Education



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## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At the Global Black Centre, we are committed to reclaiming and revitalizing the rich heritage, knowledge, and identity of Black communities worldwide. Our mission is rooted in truth, empowerment, and unity, bridging the past with the future through education, culture, and advocacy. In an era where the voices of the Global diaspora must be amplified, GBC stands as a beacon of restoration and progress.

To realize this ambitious vision, we invite the partnership and support of individuals, organizations, and business entities who share our commitment. Your engagement, whether through collaboration, an/or advocacy, helps us expand our reach and deepen our impact.

Together, we can build a future where Black excellence is celebrated, Black stories are told with integrity, and Black generations rise with pride and purpose.

Thank you for walking this journey with us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. D. ...'.

## ABOUT US

**The Global Black Centre (GBC)** stands as a distinguished organization, uniquely conceived to serve the global Black community with a Pan-African and Pan-Diasporic vision. From the inception of this noble endeavor, the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, extended its full support, providing strategic guidance, diplomatic facilitation, and unwavering commitment. As a result, the GBC was formally established and headquartered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to serve the African continent, the Caribbean nations, and the broader Black diaspora worldwide.

On the 8th of December 2023, the AU jointly with the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, officially proclaimed the establishment and inauguration of the Global Black Centre headquarters, a historic milestone that signifies the birth of an institution of Continental and Global significance.

This monumental achievement represents the realization of a visionary journey spanning over two decades. It is the fruit of tireless efforts by eminent Black intellectuals, scholars, grassroots leaders, and activists from across the globe, united in purpose and determination to give form to this transformative initiative.

The Global Black Centre is entrusted with the critical mandate of reclaiming and correcting the misrepresented history of Black peoples, safeguarding and celebrating the richness of Black heritage, and designing educational frameworks that promote innovation, entrepreneurship, and generational empowerment. Through these endeavors, the Centre aims to inspire and equip Black youth and future generations to lead with knowledge, confidence, and purpose.

At its core, the GBC is committed to the preservation and advancement of the historical, cultural, and intellectual legacy of people of African descent. It shall serve as a hub of research, learning, and policy innovation, developing forward-thinking educational models and pioneering strategies that respond to the evolving global landscape.

With steadfast resolve, the Global Black Centre will remain a beacon of excellence and leadership, championing the aspirations of Black communities worldwide and forging a future grounded in dignity, equity, and transformative knowledge.

The establishment of the GBC marks the realization of a long-held dream pursued by a dedicated black visionary, which ultimately turned to become a movement of black intellectuals and cultural leaders. With pivotal support from the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, this vision became reality. Now headquartered in Addis Ababa, the GBC stands as a global hub for education, heritage, and empowerment—rooted in Africa and reaching across the world.

## Background

Two decades ago, a visionary leader set out to create a transformative global institution dedicated to uniting, empowering, and uplifting people of African descent. This vision gained remarkable traction in 2020, evolving into a high-profile initiative that brought together an esteemed network of Black intellectuals, scholars, activists, authors, professionals, educators, international lawyers, and respected elders—each distinguished in their respective fields.

Between 2020 and 2023, this collective hosted some of the most influential Black community events in Europe. Regularly convened at the Ethiopian Embassy in London, these forums attracted over a hundred participants per session, establishing a precedent for vibrant dialogue, cultural exchange, and collaboration. They became a central platform for forging connections and articulating shared aspirations among Black communities from across African and Caribbean nations, including Nigeria, Ghana, Ethiopia, Uganda, Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Sudan, Trinidad, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, Barbados and Black Diasporas from the UK and Europe.

These dynamic gatherings laid the foundation for the establishment of the Global Black Centre (GBC). Through collective wisdom and action, the platform contributed to critical decision-making, shaped a unifying vision, and developed strategies for preserving and promoting Black heritage.

On November 27, 2021, during a landmark meeting at the Ethiopian Embassy in London, participants unanimously agreed to locate the African Regional Office of the GBHHEC in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. A coordinating committee was formed and tasked with working closely with the Ethiopian government, particularly the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, marking a key milestone in the global movement to reclaim and elevate Black history.

## MILESTONES MARKING GBC'S PATH TO SUCCESS

1. From 12 to 20 April 2023, the Global Black Centre's first-ever delegation visited Ethiopia, met H.E. Demeke Mekonnen, and formally submitted its proposal to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
2. The delegation was warmly welcomed and received encouraging support from key national stakeholders, including the Ministry of Tourism, the Mayor of Addis Ababa, and former Prime Minister H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn.
3. With crucial support from the Authority for Civil Society Organizations, the GBC gained legal status on 31 July 2023 as a continental institution under Ethiopian law, headquartered in Addis Ababa with a global mandate.
4. On 8 December 2023, at the AU Conference Hall in Addis Ababa, in collaboration with the Ethiopian Government and the African Union, the GBC celebrated the official inauguration of the opening of its headquarters.
5. On 24<sup>th</sup> February 2024, the Global Council convened at Ras Mekonnen Hall, Addis Ababa University, adopted the Centre's Constitution, established Global Governance, assigned responsibilities and resources, and appointed the key leadership team: His Honorable Dr Julius Garvey, Patron; H.E. Mr. Demeke Mekonnen, the President of the Council, H. E. Professor David Francis, Board Chairman; Mr Tsegaye Chama, Secretary General.
6. Despite limited publicity, the GBC has successfully attracted both financial and in-kind support from private sector actors, entrepreneurs, continental organizations, and government agencies within and around Addis Ababa.
7. On 11 February 2025, the Annual Council Conference convened successfully at the Adwa Victory Memorial Museum, adopting two key initiatives: Black Heritage and Solidarity Month, and the Adwa Pan-African Award.
8. The GBC has also initiated strategic partnership engagements with local embassies, as well as bilateral and multilateral development partners.
9. Active negotiations and mobilization efforts are underway to secure essential resources and long-term commitments from these key stakeholders.
10. In November 2024, GBC secured a Liaison Office at the Bistrate Gebriel and continued its operations; and in January 2025, the Secretariat secured permanent office space at the Adwa Victory Memorial Museum, with the unbounded support from Mayor Adanech Abiebie.

# MISSION & VISION

## MISSION

The core purpose of the Global Black Centre is to restore, reclaim, preserve, conserve, rediscover, and accurately document Africa's true history and heritage. This includes manuscripts, artifacts, ruins, achievements, inventions, and ideologies that have significantly shaped the world. GBC is devoted to bridging cultural gaps among African nations and the broader African Diaspora, ensuring that Africans everywhere are educated about the truth of their history and heritage. Our values emphasize integrity, inclusivity, and respect for the diverse narratives that shape the black experience. By fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of black history, GBC aims to contribute to the creation of a more just and equitable society.

## VISION

The long-term vision of the Global Black Centre is to be the leading center for Black History, Heritage, and Education in Africa, for Africa, and the Black World. We envision a future where the history of all nations is celebrated equally, without prejudice, and where the contributions of black people are fully recognized and valued. GBC aspires to create a world where every individual can confidently walk tall, inspired by the history of their forefathers and ancestors. This vision encompasses the creation of a global network of individuals and institutions dedicated to the preservation and promotion of black heritage. By achieving this vision, we aim to foster a sense of unity, understanding, and appreciation across cultures and communities. Our ultimate goal is to leave a lasting legacy that empowers future generations to cherish and uphold their heritage, ensuring that the lessons of the past continue to inspire and guide us towards a brighter and more inclusive future.

## CORE VALUES

The core values of GBC reflect our commitment to integrity, inclusivity, and respect for the diverse narratives that shape the black experience. We believe in the power of education to transform societies and are dedicated to fostering unity and understanding among people of African descent. Our values guide our mission to restore and reclaim the narratives that have been marginalized over centuries. By upholding these principles, we aim to create a more just and equitable world where the contributions of black people to global history are celebrated and acknowledged.

## GOALS & OBJECTIVES

GBC strives to achieve several specific aims through its programs and initiatives:

- 1. Conservation and Preservation:** To conserve and preserve African manuscripts, artifacts, and ruins that are at risk of being damaged or lost.
- 2. Restoration and Documentation:** To assist all African nations and the African Diaspora in restoring, reclaiming, preserving, conserving, rediscovering, accurately documenting, and promoting their true history and heritage.
- 3. Education and Curriculum Development:** To employ innovative ideas and curricula to educate African youth and the African Diaspora about their true history and heritage.
- 4. Pan-African Unity:** To uplift Pan-Africanism, foster brotherhood, and build global black unity for the common cause of preserving and conserving artifacts and heritage.
- 5. Site Development:** To build and acquire a purpose-built site in Addis Ababa, serving as the headquarters for conferences, training, education, research centers, museums, and libraries.
- 6. Financial Sustainability:** To engage in income-generating activities necessary to ensure the financial sustainability and strength of the organization.

By pursuing these goals and objectives, GBC aims to create a lasting impact on the global understanding and appreciation of black history and heritage. Our efforts are focused on empowering individuals and communities to embrace and celebrate their historical and cultural identities, promoting a deeper sense of pride and belonging. Through strategic initiatives in conservation, education, research, and community building, GBC seeks to foster a more inclusive and equitable society where the rich histories of African nations and the African diaspora are recognized and valued.

## STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

The Global Black Centre (GBC) is dedicated to fulfilling its mission and vision through a series of strategic, impactful initiatives. Central to its mandate is the conservation and preservation of endangered African manuscripts, artifacts, and historical sites, which are at risk of irreversible loss or damage.

GBC is unwavering in its commitment to supporting all African nations and the global African Diaspora in efforts to restore, reclaim, conserve, accurately document, and promote their authentic history and cultural heritage. Through the development and implementation of innovative curricula and educational methodologies, GBC empowers African youth and diaspora communities with a profound understanding of their heritage, instilling a deep sense of identity, pride, and purpose.

In pursuit of Pan-African unity, solidarity, and global Black cohesion, GBC prioritizes shared efforts in cultural preservation, recognizing this as a unifying foundation for collective progress.

A cornerstone objective is the establishment of a purpose-built headquarters in Addis Ababa, envisioned as a multifunctional hub that will host conferences, training programs, research institutions, museums, and libraries, serving as a premier centre for the celebration and study of Black history and heritage.

To ensure long-term sustainability, GBC actively engages in income-generating ventures, diversifies funding streams, and forges robust partnerships. These efforts aim to establish a resilient institutional foundation capable of advancing its mission for generations to come.

Through this comprehensive and forward-looking approach, GBC ensures not only the preservation of the past but also the empowerment of future generations to shape and carry forward the legacy of global Black excellence.

## GOVERNANCE

The governance structure of GBC is designed to support our mission and vision effectively. The Council, as the supreme decision-making and legislative body, is composed of up to 35 regular members who decide on overall policies, review and approve strategic plans, and supervise financial policies. The Executive Board, elected by the Council, is responsible for implementing the executive aspects of GBC, including appointing and supervising the Secretary General and Vice Secretary Generals.

The Secretary General administers and manages the overall operations and daily activities of GBC, representing the organization to governments, donors, the public, and media. Vice Secretary Generals assist the Secretary General in leading daily activities and perform duties in the absence, ensuring continuity and stability in our operations. Thematic Advisory Committees, composed of renowned professionals and experts in black heritage, history, education, and research, provide valuable guidance and recommendations to the Executive Board and Council.

In addition to our internal governance, GBC may establish Regional Chapter Offices to facilitate liaising, resource mobilization, and partnership development. These offices coordinate ongoing work and initiatives in their respective regions and countries, expanding the reach and impact of GBC's mission.

About

# The Global Patron



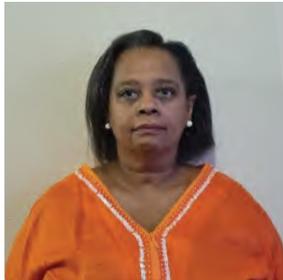
**Dr. Julius Garvey**, the sole surviving son of the Honorable Marcus Mosiah Garvey, is indeed the Global Patron of the Global Black Centre (GBC). As the Global Patron, Dr. Garvey plays a significant role in guiding the organization and ensuring the successful implementation of its mission and objectives. His involvement brings a deep connection to the legacy of Marcus Garvey and reinforces GBC's commitment to promoting black history, heritage, and education globally.

# THE LEADERSHIP



**Mr. Demeke Mekonnen**  
**President of the Global Council**

He's Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia



**Dr Sylvia Nkanyuza**

**Vice President of the Global Council and  
Head to the Continent Africa Division**

She is a renowned professor of psychology  
and Law in Walter Sisulu University,  
South Africa



**Mr. Robin Walker**

**Vice President of the Global Council and  
Head to the Black Diaspora Division**

Nicknamed Black History Man, he is rampantly  
known and prolific author of more than 23 books on  
black history of which three books are on Ethiopia.



**Professor David J Francis**  
**Executive Board Chairperson**

He is former Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sierra Leone and  
Professor Emeritus and Prolific Lecturer in many European Universities.



**Mr. Tsegaye Chama**  
**Secretary General**

He is the Pioneer and Initiator who envisioned and led the Initiative  
ever since, Secretary General of GBC.

## STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

GBC's staff and volunteers are the backbone of the organization, playing crucial roles in implementing programs and projects, and ensuring smooth operations across various departments.

**Department Directors:** Department Directors oversee specific areas such as research, education, conservation, and community engagement. They are responsible for the strategic planning and execution of programs within their departments, working closely with the Secretary General and Vice Secretary Generals to align activities with GBC's mission.

**Program Coordinators:** Program Coordinators manage the day-to-day operations of specific programs, ensuring that objectives are met and projects are executed efficiently. They liaise with external partners, stakeholders, and community members to facilitate the successful implementation of GBC initiatives.

## **SUPPORT AND DONATIONS**

### **How to Support:**

You can support the Global Black Centre by donating, volunteering your time, or participating in fundraising events. Donations can be made through the GBC website or by contacting them directly via email or phone. Volunteers are always welcome to assist with various projects and initiatives.

### **Fundraising Campaigns:**

GBC regularly organizes fundraising campaigns to support its programs and projects. These campaigns include online donation drives, charity events, and partnerships with other organizations. Keep an eye on their website and social media channels for updates on upcoming fundraising efforts.

## **LEGAL AND COMPLIANCE**

### **Legal Status:**

The Global Black Centre is registered in Ethiopia as a civic organization and complies with all relevant legal and regulatory requirements. The organization is governed by a constitution that outlines its mission, vision, and operational guidelines.

### **Documents:**

Access to governance documents, including the constitution, bylaws, and policies, can be found on the GBC website. These documents provide detailed information on the organization's structure, governance, and compliance with legal standards.

# LOGO: INTERPRETATIONS OF ELEMENTS AND

## COLORS:



### **Globe:**

Represents the global reach and inclusivity of the Global Black Centre, emphasizing its commitment to connecting and uniting people of African descent worldwide.

### **African Map:**

Highlights the Centre's roots and focus on African heritage, culture, and issues, serving as a reminder of the rich history and diversity of the African continent.

### **Open Book:**

Symbolizes knowledge, education, and the sharing of information. It reflects the Centre's dedication to learning, empowerment, and the dissemination of ideas and stories.

## **Colours:**

### **Black:**

Symbolizes strength, resilience, and unity. It represents the rich cultural heritage and the enduring spirit of the African diaspora. Black is also a color of sophistication and elegance, reflecting the Centre's commitment to excellence and leadership.

### **Golden:**

Represents prosperity, wisdom, and enlightenment. It signifies the value of knowledge and the bright future that the Centre aims to create through education and empowerment. Gold also conveys a sense of prestige and honor, highlighting the importance of the Centre's mission.



# Global Black Centre

## History-Heritage-Education

### Contact Information

#### Office Address:

Adwa Victory Memorial Museum, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

#### Contact details:

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#### Social Media:

**Facebook:** facebook.com/GlobalBlackCentre

**Twitter:** @GlobalBlackCentre

**Instagram:** @globalblackcentre

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