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I am

Itiyopiya Ewart, M.A.T.

I am Itiyopiya.

Veronica and Habte's daughter. Granddaughter of Birdie and Tom, and Elnora and James. Black, woman, she, cis-gendered, hetero and BK all day.

I hear the voices of my ancestors.

They comfort and guide me. They encourage me to live my dreams. They support me in fighting for my freedom.

I embody resilience + resistance + radiance.

I grew up on the edges of where academia met with street life, where Rastafari met with Black Power and where incessant pain was met with unrelenting hope. My parents and family schooled me on Black liberation and its deep-rooted connection to Black love. My life's journey has guided me in dismantling beliefs I may hold that are harmful to my well-being and my quality of life.

I am a lover of family, language, arts, and culture.

I have the great honor of being Mom to the dynamic duo, Tatek and Trelawney. I come from proud people who taught me to adore African American Vernacular English and Patois. Forged from my upbringing, I hold a love and curiosity about people and their personal stories. I have the privilege of formal education and globe trekking.

I dream of a world where my children and their children experience safety in being who they are.

A world free of anti-Blackness, where they can see diverse positive images of themselves. Where their hair, as it grows out of their scalp, is treasured. A world where they can just be themselves. Where they experience joy, opportunity, access, and a high quality of life.

I understand that the foundation of white supremacy is anti-Blackness and that these systems of injustice do not want to change.

And, with my ancestors behind me and my family and community beside me, I trod on for justice.