

“One of the grand love warriors and freedom fighters of her generation.”
—Cornel West

RAHIEL

TESFAMARIAM

*Activist, Theologian,
Author, Global
Visionary*



MEDIA KIT

RAHIEL TESFAMARIAM IS AN AWARD-WINNING ACTIVIST, JOURNALIST, THEOLOGIAN, AND SPEAKER

A former *Washington Post* columnist, she is the founder of *Urban Cusp*, a cutting-edge online community highlighting faith, social change, culture, and global awareness.

Rahiel is a graduate of Stanford University and Yale Divinity School, where she was the inaugural William Sloane Coffin, Jr. Scholar for Peace and Justice. At age 23, she served as the youngest editor-in-chief in the history of the *Washington Informer* newspaper. She has over two decades of organizing experience with national and international social justice organizations. Amidst the Ferguson Uprising, Rahiel led #NotOneDime, a national economic boycott. For years, she worked in Africa, organizing with Pan-African movements across the continent.

Rahiel has traveled the world on various delegations and humanitarian projects. She has spoken at prestigious universities and historic churches throughout the nation. As a generational voice, she has been featured in the *New York Times*, *Forbes*, *Ebony*, *Elle*, and on BET and Revolt TV. *Essence* magazine named Rahiel one of the nation's "New Civil Rights Leaders." Her debut book, *Imagine Freedom: Transforming Pain into Political and Spiritual Power*, is now available wherever books are sold.



“A testament of faith from the voice of a generation.” —Eddie S. Glaude Jr.



IMAGINE FREEDOM

TRANSFORMING PAIN INTO POLITICAL AND SPIRITUAL POWER

A powerful and brilliant voice of her generation offers a bold path to liberation and healing for people of African descent.

Weaving storytelling, socioeconomic analysis, and cultural criticism with the spiritual and political threads of liberation theology and Pan Africanism, *Imagine Freedom* empowers us to begin the difficult but necessary work of decolonizing our minds and overcoming the lies we have been told about ourselves for centuries. Sobering and inspiring, filled with despair and hope, Rahiel Tesfamariam dares us to see the world through a larger historical and global lens— to understand how our quests for freedom and healing are intrinsically connected to our past, present, and future. By widening our vision, we discover new ways of imagining self, community, nation, and world, and most importantly, a new way to achieve the freedom that has been too long denied.

PRAISE FOR IMAGINE FREEDOM

“Tesfamariam’s prose blends rigorous research befitting her academic background, the emotional punch of autobiography, and the raw impact of preaching. This has the power to move readers.”

— Publishers Weekly

“We feel, think, and create from a place of catastrophe—the same place from which we heal, build, and dream. Imagine Freedom illuminates the path to liberation.”

—Robin D. G. Kelley, author of *Freedom Dreams*

“What the world needs is in the pages of *Imagine Freedom*. Delivered in the unique, soul-stirring way that only Rahiel can share. What she has gifted the movement fills me with hope and excitement.”

— Ayo Tometi, cocreator of #BlackLivesMatter

“Tesfamariam has devoted her life to global liberation struggles and spiritual awakening. With her characteristic grace, soul, and fire, she invites us to dream our world anew.”

— Imani Perry, National Book Award winner

“Part spiritual reflection, part memoir and Baldwin-esque essay, this thoughtful and beautiful publication will be quoted, studied, and referenced by future generations.”

— Otis Moss III, Trinity United Church of Christ

“A book that demands unapologetic truth-telling as we excavate our histories and durable hope, as we expand our collective imagination for healing. On the journey to liberation, Tesfamariam is a dauntless and honest guide.”

— Cole Arthur Riley, *Black Liturgies*

APOLLO

NOTES FROM AM

entKing

@ApolloTheater #ApolloUptownHall

@noteswithkai

LABORATION WITH MARCH ON WASHINGTON FILM FESTIVAL



Photo Credit: Andrew Seng













International Speaker

DIALOGUE THAT INSPIRES AND EMPOWERS

As a poet and preacher, Rahiel weaves a rich mosaic of cultures and experiences into every word she shares. Her background encompasses a vibrant African heritage, the resonating influences of hip-hop, and the enduring strength of working-class communities. Her mission is to boldly and prophetically inspire and challenge us to envision and build a better world. Whether through the written or spoken word, Rahiel brings a multitude of voices and perspectives into every space, bridging gaps and fostering greater understanding. Her words take audiences on a transformative journey, inviting collective dreaming. Book Rahiel for your next event to ignite powerful, soul-stirring conversations.

SIGNATURE TALKS

-  Freedom: An Afrofuturistic Healing Journey
-  Reclaiming what White Supremacy Has Stolen
-  Media as an Arm of White Supremacy
-  Capitalism: Awakening from the American Dream
-  Hip-Hop, Materialism and the War on Women
-  Black Millennial Activism
-  Pan-Africanism: Diasporic Solidarity
-  Self-Determination: The Real Black Excellence
-  Love: The Forgotten Revolution
-  Faith: Decolonizing God

“A searing sage and a sublime griot who inspires us to imagine a noble present and a beautiful future. Tesfamariam shines ancestral wisdom in the deep shadows of contemporary struggle to light our embrace of revolutionary change. She blesses us as she breathes new hope into spiritual warfare against social injustice and political despair. Behold a millennial prophet who speaks truth in love to our age and who blazes a path for the millennium to come!”

—Michael Eric Dyson, Vanderbilt University



RAHIEL'S FAR-REACHING IMPACT



MOVEMENT STRATEGIST

From Ferguson to Johannesburg, Rahiel has organized with dozens of social justice organizations and trained thousands worldwide as a movement strategist. Her work bridges global struggles with cross-cultural insight.



MINISTER & THEOLOGIAN

















Blending seminary training in liberation theology with global humanitarian experiences, Rahiel uniquely integrates culture with Christianity to resonate with today's generation.



MEDIA STRATEGIST

With two decades in print and digital media, spanning from mainstream to grassroots, Rahiel founded and grew Urban Cusp using guerrilla marketing strategies — while serving as a Washington Post columnist.

FEATURED AWARDS AND HONORS

-  Selma Bridge Crossing Freedom Flame Award
-  The Root 100
-  NNPA National Leadership Award
-  “The New Faces of Civil Rights” by EBONY
-  “Leaders of the New School” by Revolt TV
-  “New Civil Rights Leaders” by ESSENCE
-  NABJ Salute to Excellence Digital Media Award
-  GIVE1 Project Global Leadership Fellow
-  Bold and Fearless 30 Most Notable Africans
-  Institute for the Future “Future for Good Fellow”
-  National Action Network “Who’s Got Next” Award
-  Black Girls Rock!
-  Beatitudes Society Fellow
-  IMPACT Leader of the Year
-  EnVest Foundation “Top 40 Under 40”
-  William Sloane Coffin, Jr. Scholar for Peace & Justice

FEATURED PRESS





CONTACT



@RAHIELT

RAHIEL.COM/SPEAKING

INQUIRIES: BOOKING@RAHIEL.COM

Elevate your event with Rahiel Tesfamariam, a captivating author and speaker who bridges cultures and inspires transformation. Her bold and prophetic words resonate with diverse communities. Don't miss the chance to bring Rahiel's impactful voice to your audience.

WWW.RAHIEL.COM