

In Defense of Black Male Leaders: Addressing the Legacy of Silence, Sexuality, and Justice

The plight of Black male leaders in the public eye: men who rose to prominence to advocate for justice and equality, only to be targeted, demonized, and, in some cases, destroyed by a system that thrives on their downfall.



Portland, Oregon Nov 11, 2024 ([Issuewire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - E.D. Mondainé, a prominent civil rights advocate and community leader, addresses the persistent challenges facing Black male leaders in the public eye in a compelling commentary titled *In Defense of Black Male Leaders: Addressing the Legacy of*

Silence, Sexuality, and Justice. Drawing from historical examples and personal experiences, Mondainé calls attention to a cycle of targeting and discrediting Black leaders that has spanned generations.

A Familiar Struggle: A Historical and Ongoing Issue

The struggles of influential figures like Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, and others have created a familiar narrative in American history: Black leaders rise to advocate for justice, only to face systematic attempts to undermine their influence. Despite the progress made over decades, the same destructive forces persist today, impacting leaders from Ferguson, Missouri, to Minneapolis, Minnesota, and beyond.

Mondainé likens these modern-day struggles to the damaging portrayal of Black men in the controversial film *Birth of a Nation*, which exploited racial stereotypes to stoke fear. He argues that while the imagery has evolved, the tactic remains the same—using allegations and innuendos about sexuality to question the legitimacy of Black leadership.

Disparities in Justice: A Systemic Issue

"Thousands of average Black men have faced accusations, often without due process," Mondainé notes. "Yet, a former president accused of far more serious crimes remains free and hopeful to reclaim the White House. This stark contrast raises fundamental questions about the society we live in."

Mondainé emphasizes the devastating impact of false accusations on Black leaders, noting how such allegations can unravel years of progress. He recalls his own experience with false accusations, which he believes mirrored those faced by other Black leaders whose voices were targeted for daring to challenge injustice.

Homophobia and Leadership in the Black Community

Mondainé also highlights a deeply ingrained struggle within the Black community: the challenge of homophobia. He cites the example of Bayard Rustin, a key organizer of the March on Washington, whose contributions were overshadowed by his open homosexuality. Rustin's legacy, Mondainé argues, serves as a reminder of how internal prejudices have led to the exclusion of brilliant voices in the fight for equality.

"The very forces that seek to control and dismantle Black men in leadership understand our internal divisions," Mondainé warns. "They exploit them. Today's society uses allegations of sexual misconduct or whispers of non-conforming sexuality to further divide our community."

A Call to Action: Ending the Silence

Mondainé stresses the importance of speaking out against these injustices. He calls on Black men to defend themselves and each other, rejecting the fear of being "canceled" or ostracized. "The time has come for us to recognize the patterns set in motion against us for generations and to stand firm in the face of false accusations and smear campaigns," he declares.

Preserving Legacy and Reclaiming the Narrative

Mondainé urges the Black community to resist allowing false accusations and societal prejudices to define them. He emphasizes that the true battle is for the legacy of Black leaders. "We must not let our

community be further divided by the tactics of those who seek to tear us down," he says. "Just as Bayard Rustin rose above the homophobia of his time to shape the civil rights movement, we too must rise above the false accusations, the whispered scandals, and the attacks on our character."

As Mondainé's powerful message reverberates, he calls on the community to stand together, defend the truth, and ensure that future generations can build upon a legacy of resilience and unity.

E.D. Mondainé is a Pastor, Founder, and Executive Director of [The Unsettling Force](#), as well as a Recording Artist, Community Advocate, Social Activist, NAACP AWOSAC Board Member, Author, Entrepreneur, and Business Owner. A native of St. Louis, he has resided in Portland, Oregon, for over three decades. Mondainé is also the father of twins and the grandfather of five. His Op-Eds have appeared in [The Washington Post](#), *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, [Willamette Week](#), *Portland Skanner*, and [Portland Observer](#).

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Source : The Unsettling Force / Portland OR

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