



**MOUNT ZION
FEMALE UNION BAND SOCIETY
HISTORIC MEMORIAL PARK, INC**

The **Mount Zion - Female Union Band Society Historic Memorial Park** (*Black Georgetown Foundation*) are one of two cemeteries in the world fulfilling the criteria set by the UNESCO *Slave Route Project* in conjunction with the *International Network of Managers of Sites and Itineraries of Memory*. The **UNESCO Slave Route Project** encourages the preservation of sites of memory and the establishment of itineraries that can tell this story and ensure this heritage receives due attention at national, regional, and international levels.

The Memorial Park Foundation is seeking \$9,500 to fund the creation of a **Ghana Memory Stone Monument** displaying a bronze plaque designating the historic cemeteries a UNESCO *The Slave Route: Resistance, Liberty, Heritage Site of Memory*. This informing memorial endeavors to improve the understanding and transmission of this human tragedy by making known its deep-seated causes, its consequences for societies today, and the cultural interactions born of this history.



Sourcing the monument stone from Ghana creates an organic connection between the West African departure point for the ‘middle passage’, and the final resting place of the enslaved buried in these sacred grounds.

The monument and plaque will be a prominent feature of the historic burial grounds. It will create awareness and educate the many visitors who come to reflect and learn about the lives of the enslaved, freed Black people, and their descendants, and the contributions they made to historic Georgetown and Washington DC.

The goal is to acquire, place and dedicate the Ghana Memory Stone monument at the Mount Zion – Female Union Band Society burial grounds on March 25, 2024 to coincide with the *International Day of Remembrance of the 30 Million Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade*



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The Ghana Memory Stone UNESCO Memorial is imagined as an upright roughhewn stone monument (approximately 5 feet tall, 3 feet wide, 10 to 12 inches in depth), set on a 'floating stone foundation' resting on the ground (5 feet wide, 14 inches tall, and a 24-inch depth). The upright stone will have a flat finished surface for mounting the UNESCO designation plaque (24 inches wide by 30 inches tall).

The Foundation needs help to identify a Ghana organization able to source, fabricate and ship the described monument stone elements for display of the **UNESCO International and Inter-regional project "The Slave Route: Resistance, Liberty, Heritage"** cast bronze plaque.

According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), some 30 million Africans were forcibly uprooted from their homeland during the 400-year span of the transatlantic slave trade. The transatlantic slave trade is considered the largest forced displacement of people in history - yet slavery, the transatlantic slave trade, and the lingering impact on persons of African descent have only recently been recognized by the international community.

March 25th is annually observed as the *International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade*. It is a day for all people to pay tribute to the victims of the abhorrent commerce in humans and vow to abolish modern slavery in all its forms.

The day is also an opportunity to reflect on and address the historic legacy of the slave trades which still characterizes modern perception and treatment of descendants of enslaved Africans. A hundred and fifty years after most countries officially abolished slavery, people of African descent, descended from slaves or not, continue to suffer the racial discrimination defined in that era.

The Ghana Memory Stone UNESCO monument, plaque, and associated messages will be featured on the Mount Zion - Female Union Band Society cemeteries web site, social media platforms and in our mobile device self-guided cemeteries tour. The designation of the Mount Zion - Female Union Band Society Historic Park as a UNESCO Slave Route Project site will be identified in UNESCO social media as well.