



Ilyasah Shabazz

Daughter of Malcolm X, Professor & Author

"When you educate a girl, you raise a nation," says Ilyasah Shabazz. She is an inspirational role model and advocate for "youth" and "women and girl" empowerment. Her lifework is devoted to helping others find inner strength and purpose. While she is frequently asked to speak about the Legacy of Malcolm X, she shares that it is her mother, Dr. Betty Shabazz's wisdom, courage and compassion that guide her.

Ms. Shabazz is a Professor, Speaker, and Author of four award-winning novels: (1) *Growing Up X*, a coming-of-age memoir; (2) *Malcolm Little: The Boy Who Grew Up to Become Malcolm X*, an illustration book that promotes self-love, literacy, and leadership ideals for children; (3). *X: A Novel*, a historical fiction that addresses social challenges confronted by young adults, and her newest, (4). *Betty Before X*, a middle school historical fiction that addresses self-acceptance and advocacy work for others. She has earned an NAACP Image Award, a Walter Dean Myers Honor, a Library of Congress Inaugural Award, an American Library Association Coretta Scott King Honor, a *New York Times* list of New & Noteworthy Mention, and she was long-listed for the National Book Award.

Professor Shabazz promotes higher education for at-risk youth, interfaith dialogue to build bridges between cultures for young leaders of the world, and she participates on international humanitarian delegations. She served as a member of the U.S. Delegation that accompanied President Bill Clinton to South Africa to commemorate election of President Nelson Mandela and the Education & Economic Development initiatives. She was a member of the U.S. Interfaith Leadership Delegation to Mali, West Africa with Malaria No More, and she received a personal letter of acknowledgement for preserving her father's work from President Barack Obama.

She holds a Master of Science in Education & Human Resource Development from Fordham University; a Bachelors of Science in Biology from New Paltz College; and she is currently an adjunct professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City.

Topics:

- Malcolm X Shabazz: The Man and Father Away from the Podium
- Positively You!
- Celebrating Culture: Around the World and Back
- Heritage: Embracing Your Legacy: "Everyone Has One"
- Melting Pot: Multi Cultural Diplomacy / Multi-National Patriotism