

# *African Women of Excellence*



## *Ms. Claudette Perry*

Claudette Perry is the Executive Director for the Diaspora African Forum Foundation. The Foundation is the U.S. arm of the (AU) Diaspora African Forum mission headquartered in Accra, Ghana, where she serves as a member of the Board. Residing in Washington, DC, Ms. Perry also consults for various D.C.-based civil rights non-profit organizations.

Ms. Perry knew at an early age, after her family was unjustly forced from their Virginia estate property that she wanted to impact lives of African descendants. Much of her life has been dedicated to social justice and participating in national and international marches, conferences & meetings that address human rights issues.

Claudette was a member of the first African Diaspora delegation invited by the AU to participate in an Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Accra in 2007, and was very instrumental in conveying information that helped to organize the Diaspora in the U.S. and parts of Europe.

As a participant in the five-year review conference in Geneva for the Durban World Conference on Racism, Ms. Perry testified before the U.N.'s High Commissioner concerning the U.S. attempt to re-enslave African American men through the U.S. prison system, and about how Africans and African Americans, in particular, were targeted for sub-prime loans that caused many to lose their homes during the U.S. housing crisis.

For years Ms. Perry would spend the entire month of December and part of January in South Africa. Through her involvement with the Teboho Trust in Soweto, Ms. Perry was drawn to three girls who she eventually adopted and supported through high school and college. She found herself having to file a non-compliance claim against Stellenbosch University in Cape Town where the girls attended school, which initiated an investigation of the university's practices and behavior toward Black South African students. Ms. Perry also spends time in Ghana where she participates in distributing clothing and books to orphans and school children. She has mentored several children in the Diaspora and volunteers for youth programs for which she has received accolades. Claudette currently mentors a young lady from Tema, Ghana who is attending university in Philadelphia.

Ms. Perry consistently works to promote better communications between Afro descendants and their continental family by hosting workshops, lectures, film screenings and open discussions in Washington, DC. She has been lauded for bringing people together through these events.

Journalism is one of Ms. Perry's hobbies. Her news articles on civil and human rights issues have been published in several African American newspapers. Ms. Perry also loves photography, hearing lectures and watching documentaries. She was presented with an award for photography at the AIMS summit in Durban, South Africa in 2010. Claudette Perry has a degree in the Behavioral and Social Sciences and is certified to provide management and technical coaching.