



# 4th-Dimension Leaders Turns 7

**A MESSAGE FROM 4DL'S FOUNDER  
& EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ANGELA BALOGUN**



## The Significance of 7

**Did you know that the number 7 carries global significance across cultures, religions, and spiritual traditions?**

The number 7 has a long history of being considered lucky. This prime number appears everywhere. There are 7 colors in the rainbow. There are 7 days of the week. There are 7 deadly sins. There are 7 chakras. There are 7 continents. There are 7 wonders of the world. Irrespective of place or time, the number 7 carries weight. Most religions and spiritual practices deem 7 to signify wisdom, change, rebirth, opportunity, and completion. Phew; what a number!

**Today, 4DL turns 7.** Born out of the realization that authentic and sustainable systems change requires whole person transformation, this tiny but mighty little organization has never backed off of its mission to develop dynamic leaders who'll change the world. We share a birthday with the esteemed Malcolm X because like he, we are unapologetic that change isn't optional. We know we're on the right side of history and we'll never mute ourselves, change our language, nor lower our gaze to appease those who can't be appeased. **Our work matters.**

**On March 25, 2026, the United Nations General Assembly passed a historic resolution formally decrying slavery as "the greatest crime against humanity." Endeavoring to move "beyond symbolic acknowledgement and toward institutional accountability", it passed with 123 votes, though the United States, Israel, and Argentina voted no. 52 states abstained, including the United Kingdom, Canada, and all European member states, including Spain. \***

**This is where we are in 2026.** A resolution decrying the harms of slavery doesn't obtain unanimous agreement. This is the reason we do the work we do. Our global home is only as safe and successful as it is full of people who are educated and mission-driven. We've spent the last 7 years focused on enhancing the education of teachers, leaders, decision-makers, preparing them to build within an ever-changing demography. We've argued for the right-sizing of education dollars, the shifting of expectations, the reduction of an adult-focused landscape. We build the momentum around the need for and achievability of structural change. We build capacity for organizations to enact and sustain structural change. We build wide and diverse coalitions of change makers. We hope we get to do it for **another 7 years** and beyond.



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**Thank you to each and every one of you who've bet on us over the past 7 years. Thank you for your participation in our programs. Thank you for attending our events. Thank you for donating your dollars to us. Thank you for trusting us with your time and attention.**

**For our partners and funders including Brandywine School District, Cape Henlopen School District, Christina School District, Colonial School District, Delaware Department of Education, Laffey McHugh Foundation, Longwood Foundation, New Schools Venture Fund, Red Clay Consolidated School District, Redding Consortium for Educational Equity, and Rencourt Foundation:**

Thank you for opting into partnership, believing in our work, and supporting our ability to continue doing so.

**For our program participants, past and present: (There are nearly 400 of you!)**

Thank you for spending countless hours reading, annotating, planning, designing, discussing, supporting each other. You are the most phenomenal aspect of our work. We don't take lightly that you gave us your Saturdays and weeknights even when you had other things to do. We won't soon forget the long flights to go and serve schools in other countries. We can't wait to continue showing up at your events and presentations. Thank you for believing in your work so hard that you joined us on this structural change journey.

**For our silent supporters and prospective partners:**

Thank you for your willingness to engage with us, to say kind words about our work, to give us critical feedback when we needed it. We look forward to all we'll do together.

**We have work yet to do. Here's to another 7 years of 4DL!**

All our best,

