

**STATEMENT TO THE UNITED NATIONS -OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

As the founder and Manager of a charitable grassroots organization operational for the last 8 years in northern England , I express my gratitude to the OHCHR for organising this regional meeting on the International Decade for People of African Descent and enabling my participation.

My name is Chawapiwa Faith Muverengwi, Tapepuka (Rewoken) , is previously African Women Support Project (AWSP). Tapepuka is a member of ENAR and IDPAD Coalition UK. I am an expert on Afriphobia and I use Afri/Afro interchangeably acknowledging concerns raised earlier. I am member of ENAR Steering Committee on Afriphobia.

TAPEPUKA was the first to organize and hold an Inaugural planning and training IDPAD UK North Event on 25th March, 2017 which was opened by Councillor Jacqui Speight.

Since then Tapepuka has held several one to one conversations with African led initiatives and faith leaders as well as holding a ‘Market Place of Ideas and Community Assets” with groups of women in a bid to not leave anyone behind- while also demonstrating that there is no deficit within our communities as often portrayed in the mainstream.

IDPAD is proving to be a very useful and timely framework for small non governmental organisations with frontline experiences of systemic, structural and institutional Afri-phobic racism, discrimination and exclusion among other forms of intolerance. First, as organisations that are not expected to define the problems as they experience them, for being expected to volunteer their time, operating without financial and material resources and often frustrated by the divisive legacies of the transatlantic slave trade and colonialism.

Secondly, as trusted ports of call by affected people, grassroots organisations such as TAPEPUKA and others have access to heart wrenching evidence of poor practices and poor outcomes due to rising Afri-phobia/Afrophobia (anti-African racism which seems to be condoned explicitly and implicitly in immigration laws and policies . Often, this is leading to a wide range of agencies either ignoring or targeting Africans for persecution. These newer manifestations of Afri-phobic racism which grassroots organisations are confronted with on a daily basis are not covered in mainstream media thereby absolving governments of their responsibilities for upholding equality in dignity and rights for all people.

Whilst our evidence is considered anecdotal, we ask whether it needs rigorous **research** to establish that three toilets are not sufficient for 300 to 400 people

– poor conditions in Initial Accommodation for people seeking asylum, poor diets consisting of boiled rice and over-boiled vegetables and the resultant physical and mental ill being of adults and children who pass through these centres; inadequate or total lack of care plans for people at risk, unreported subsequent deaths and poor quality of life for those who survive.

\_ Do we need more people to be chased by Police hospitalized in intensive care units for over two years before spending life in care homes maimed for life then get blamed for overburdening the NHS.

-Do we need research to ascertain that what is termed ‘knife crime’ in communities pitted against each other masks a culture of depriving specific communities of livelihoods/resources as the underlying cause . These problems need clear definitions so that appropriate and effective solutions are designed with the meaningful participation of affected people.

TAPEPUKA implores the UN OHCHR to put resources to civil society organisations, in particular frontline grassroots NGOs with evidence of newer forms and manifestations of racism and racial discrimination, to ensure their continued existence and secure their much needed effective role feeding into well resourced mainstream anti-racism and populating effective UN platforms.

TAPEPUKA also trying to work constructively and productively encourages statutory bodies in the northern region of England and the rest of UK to adopt and to integrate the provisions of the IDPAD framework –specifically the Programs of Activities in their policies, programs and strategies tailored for people of African descent. Your august office has the muscle us small organisations do not have and will be grateful if this was encouraged from your end. Thank you.