



Global Afrikan Congress uk (GACuk)

**26th Session of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent
Statement for Western Europe Regional Meeting with Civil Society, 23rd November 2020**

Global Afrikan Congress (GAC) is an international network of organisations formed after the work by Afrikans at the UN World Conference Against Racism 2001 who successfully encouraged nation states to recognise our enslavement as a crime against humanity. Our key objective is to achieve Reparations for these crimes which still continue today, including neo-colonialism, genocide and racism.

GAC organises from the grassroots offering local, regional and international community solidarity, co-operation and empowerment. It offers organisations and Afrikans across the world the opportunity to work together in a unified fashion to demand Reparations. We aim to mobilise the human, economic, political, spiritual and cultural resources of Afrika and the Afrikan Diaspora in the interest and to the benefit of Afrika and her people. GACuk is the UK Chapter of GAC.

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The term 'Afrikan' in this document refers to the indigenous people of Afrika and their descendants throughout the Diaspora in all corners of the world. We spell Afrika with a 'k' based on the following insights:

- it is a Pan-Afrikan spelling which relates both to the Afrikan continent and the Diaspora;
- it reflects the spelling of 'Afrika' in Afrikan languages and
- it includes the concept of 'ka', the vital energy which both sustains and creates life, as expressed in ancient Kemetic (Egyptian) teachings



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A. What has been happening? What are the key human rights concerns of people of African descent in your country/region today? Have these concerns become more apparent in the last 9 months and, if so, how? In the last 5 years? In the last 20 years?

We believe disproportionate deaths from COVID-19; teaching only part of uk history in schools and society; sloth in compensation payments to 'Windrush scandal' victims (or their descendants where they have died) and continued targeting by police and other state agencies are key concerns, exacerbated by government failure to repair the damage caused by enslavement and colonialism. Instead, Afrikans who came to the uk as babies, and fall foul of the criminal justice system as adults, are forcibly repatriated to countries they have no links to, destroying family life for the children and elders they care for. BLM made socio economic inequalities more visible, increasing calls for Reparations.

B. What works?

1. What have been the key achievements in realizing the three objectives of the International Decade (Recognition, Justice, and Development) for people of African descent?

Afrikan people have not accepted the uk government refusing to utilise the Decade but established our own civil society IDPAD Coalition.

Working with Afrika Centre Ireland we consulted on the definition and use of the term Afriphobia as a specific form of racism ('the prejudice, discrimination, fear, hatred or bigotry towards people of Afrikan heritage and things Afrikan'). George Floyd's murder means communities are questioning such issues, eg supporting teachers to look at the school curriculum while getting more Afrikan history books into schools. Our Green Party and, increasingly, local authorities support Reparations.

There is wider agreement on the need to return Afrikan artefacts (including body parts) and remove the names of those who fought against enslavement from criminal records.

Our civil society Reparations Commission builds upon University research showing who profited from enslavement. Social media is increasingly used to educate on Afriphobia, Afrikan history and Reparations.

2. In the last five years, what examples exist of relevant legislative measures, implementation of national actions plans or policies, establishment of monitoring

and complaint mechanisms, awareness raising and institutional strengthening activities, research, data collection, community engagement, or other measures or activities undertaken by Member States, national human rights institutions and equality bodies, civil society, and UN agencies, funds and programmes?

The government published a Race Disparity Audit; McGregor-Smith race and employment; Parker uk Boards' diversity; Lammy criminal justice review; Angiolini deaths in police custody and have a Black consultation stream in the Mental Health Act review. Most of these come from civil society using the UN ICERD.

On the same day Parliament's Human Rights Committee condemned our National Human Rights Institution as "under-resourced and ineffective", we're told a new Commissioner decries the findings of the above reports and supports the hostile environment that led to the 'Windrush scandal'. There are no permanent Afrikan Commissioners and many appointees to equality bodies deny racism exists.

With no government funding GACuk holds an annual Reparations Lobby of Parliament and promotes UN and AU engagement.

C. What do you want to see prioritized in the next 5 years?

We support:

- the Permanent Afrikan Forum, as described in the Information Note presented at the IEE Consultation May 2019, properly funded by nation states.
- National Race Equality Action Plans with full civil society engagement.
- No Going Back To Normal in rebuilding our societies in the aftermath of COVID-19.

We look forward to the DDPA 20th anniversary as an impetus for full implementation, including special measures cited in Declaration 108. That means returning Afrikan people and Afrika to the position we would have been in had it not been for enslavement. That means Reparations.