

WGEPAD 27th session
“The Urgency of Now: Systemic racism and the lessons of 2020”

Written (Mission) Statement- Africans in America for Restitution and Repatriation/Kna-Nu
National Community-USA

Who are we?

A Nation(al)/Community of Descendants of Enslaved Africans in the United States (DEAUS) with an NGO, Africans in America for Restitution and Repatriation/Kha-Nu National Community, in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council. The Community is in pursuit of a United Nations General Assembly resolution for the Return and Resettlement of the Nation/Community to Africa. Since its inception, our NGO has participated in [the United States of America Summary Submission to the UN Universal Periodic Review, September 2014](#) to the [Regional Meeting for Europe, Central Asia and North America on the International Decade for People of African Descent, November 2017](#), United Nations events and much more. [KNC program of activities has been received by the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights](#) and Director of the New York bureau of the United Nations Agency for Human Rights.

The Urgency is now – The Remedy for Systemic Racism against DEAUS.

In June 2020, the United Nations Human Rights Council surveyed racial discrimination and police brutality in the United States. H.E. Michelle Bachelet, the Council’s high commissioner, stated that police brutality “has come to symbolize the systemic racism causing pervasive, daily, lifelong, generational, and too often lethal harm.”

The OHCHR summarize DEAUS status in the USA. DEAUS or African-Americans in the USA have such a “well-founded fear of persecution” that we are eligible for asylum in other countries, especially our own. That is the international legal standard that refugees use when fleeing nations where, because of their race, they are targeted for violence and incarceration.

The 1951 Refugee Convention defines a refugee as someone who has left their country due to a well-founded fear of persecution on the basis of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group, and due to that fear is unable or unwilling to seek protection from their country.

We are advocating for DEAUS in our Community leave the United States with international support, and seek refuge/asylum in a land of our own in Africa. The social and political unrest in the USA is evidence to support any claims of “well-founded fear” of DEAUS’s safety and wellbeing in the USA.

After collectively witnessing the murder of George Floyd, the subsequent numerous acts of police brutality in the ensuing protests and systematic state treatment of DEAUS qualify as a legitimate basis for asylum claims. The stories I have read from refugees who were racially or ethnically profiled, subjugated to systems of targeted oppression, who feared imprisonment and were jailed, sometimes repeatedly, facing mistreatment by police and prison guards are quite similar to the stories of so many DEAUS.

The fact that DEAUS are victims of crime disproportionately more than other groups is usually overlooked by the WGEPAD and OHCHR.

The US is party to the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and yet it lags behind in implementation and its long-overdue periodic report to the UN on its obligations to uphold those commitments is perhaps emblematic of the problem. Our Community's return and resettlement plan guarantees 100% total elimination of racial discrimination.

As a proclaim Nation of DEAUS, we have the right of return.

Article 12 of the ICCPR states:

2. Everyone shall be free to leave any country, including his own; 4. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of the right to enter his own country.

Like all rights, the right to return binds governments. No government can violate this right. The right is formulated in several modern treaties and conventions, most notably in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the 1948 Fourth Geneva Convention. The right of return is often invoked by representatives of refugee groups to assert that they have a right to return to the country from which they were displaced. It should be clear that leaving one's country is one of many requirements that must be met by anyone seeking refugee status, and I am, advocating for our Community return and resettle in our own land in Africa.

What do we expect from the OHCHR?

The obligation of the United Nations to uphold the rule of law and to ensure the immediate and full implementation of the right of return is even greater due to the role that the OHCHR.

Recalling "The Durban Declaration and Programme of Action", Section IV. Provision of *effective remedies, recourse, redress, and other measures at the national, regional and international levels.*

158. The Conference recognizes the need to develop programmes for the social and economic development of these societies and the Diaspora, within the framework of a new partnership based on the spirit of solidarity and mutual respect, in the following areas:

- Building or strengthening democratic institutions;
- Infrastructure development;
- Human resource development, including capacity-building;
- Education, training and cultural development;
- **Facilitation of welcomed return and resettlement of the descendants of enslaved Africans;**

Our Communities program of activity is for the international community to ASSIST in facilitating our return and resettlement into our claim/ceded land in Africa by following your mandate.

What we expect from the WGPAD: Follow your Mandate and UNGA Resolution 43/1

As defined by the Human Rights Council Resolution 9/14 from 2008, the mandate of the WGEPAD is:

(e) To address all the issues concerning the well-being of Africans and people of African descent contained in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

(f) ... promote the human rights of people of African descent through, inter alia, the following activities:

- i. Improving the human rights situation of people of African descent *by devoting special attention to their needs* through, inter alia, the preparation of specific programmes of action;
- ii. *Designing special projects, in collaboration with people of African descent, to support their initiatives* at the community level and to facilitate the exchange of information and technical know-how between these populations and experts in these areas;

Again, your MANDATE STATES **“DESIGNING SPECIAL PROJECTS, IN COLLABORATION WITH PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT, TO SUPPORT THEIR INITIATIVES AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL.”** **We are a community of enslaved Africans in the USA for restitution and repatriation.**

For the Record, I met with Ahmed Reid, member of the Working Group in 2017, its 2021. Where is the support of our initiative as DE AUS under international law, IDPAD, and the Durban? As a West Indian, I know you have given much support to the Caribbean Community.

What are we asking from the OHCHR – Follow your mandate and UNGA Resolution 43/1. In conclusion, as a Nation(al) Community, we are not requesting the OHCHR or the WEGPAD to create program for our community, we need the OHCHR and the WEGPAD to support our program of activities. As DE AUS we know what is best for our community:

- 1) Return and Resettlement of the Community into our claim or ceded land in Africa.
- 2) Refugee/Asylum Status.
- 3) Migration plan for DE AUS (IOM)
- 4) Develop local, national, regional and international networks, campaigns and other activities for the full implementation of the Durban Declaration and the International Decade for People of African Descent.

Regards,

Leslie Sapp
President, AA4RR/KNC
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