

The Universal Day of Hope Trust  
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The Secretariat  
The Working Group of experts on people of African descent  
Anti-Racial Discrimination Section  
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights,  
United Nations Office  
Geneva

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Submission for the 30<sup>th</sup> Public Session of WDEPAD

Thank you for the information about the 30<sup>th</sup> public session of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent (WGEPAD) for Children of African Descent to be held from May 23 to 27, and for the invitation to submit a written proposal.

I write in my capacity as Founder and Chairman of the Universal Day of Hope Trust (UDOHT) (1990), the Non-State Actors Reparations Commission Inc. (2013), and ADDI Talibah Barbados Inc. (2022), which is the Barbados chapter of the African Diaspora Development Institute (ADDI) an international Pan-Africanist organisation.

This 30<sup>th</sup> public session means a great deal to me personally and to the UDOHT. At the 9<sup>th</sup> session of the WGEPAD held in Geneva in 2010 to plan activities for 2011, which was proclaimed the International Year for People of African Descent (IYPAD) I was in attendance. If my memory serves me correctly the two member NGO team from Barbados representing the UDOHT was the only representatives in attendance from the English Speaking Caribbean.

At the start of the session the Chairperson of the WGEPAD recommended that there be an International Day for People of African Descent (IDPAD), and our team took the opportunity to propose that October 12 be a date for consideration; however, to our surprise there was an objection to our proposal by a member of the WGEPAD who spoke from the floor, and no other date was proposed; as a result, to my knowledge there is not an IDPAD. It should be noted that the date October 12 has a long controversial history; it was on this date that Columbus' expedition made landfall in the Caribbean region/Americas, which laid the foundation for the transatlantic trade in Africans, genocide, chattel enslavement and colonialism. It was promoted by Europeans as both Columbus Day and Discovery Day.

In 1990 I penned an open letter was to over 170 world leaders recommending that October 12 be proclaimed as a Universal Day of Hope for truth, justice, peace, healing and reconciliation; from then the significance of the date October 12 changed. In 2001 a draft resolution for October 12 as a Universal Day for truth, justice, peace, healing and reconciliation was among the resolutions presented to the UN World Conference on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related intolerance held in Durban, South Africa, and the same draft resolution was adopted at the first follow-up to the Durban conference - the Afrikan and Afrikan Descendants World Conference against Racism held in Barbados in 2002.

Today the world is a different place than in 1990, 2001 or 2010 and taking into consideration the agenda for the 30<sup>th</sup> session in 2022 the UDOHT in collaboration with ADDI Talibah Barbados is making another submission to the WGEPAD for October 12. However, this is within the context of an annual programme of activities towards economic and spiritual liberation for Children of African Descent. We will be seeking support for this programme from both the public and private sectors.

### **Annual Programme of Events**

BreakthisBarrier: 'The Beast' (the system); stigmatization of mental illness and the reunification of the Afrikan family: October the month for Truth, Justice, Peace.

We consider that the historic presentation made by Mia Amor Mottley the Prime Minister of Barbados during the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ghana's independence celebrations on 6<sup>th</sup> March along with other events puts into context the importance of this year 2022 that marks the 530<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a world in racial conflict due to genocide, exploitation, chattel enslavement and colonialism following Columbus' arrival in the region on October 12, 1492. In addition, the apology given by the Hon. Theresa May former Prime Minister of England to the Heads of the Commonwealth in April 2018 for the injustices experienced by their citizens - Children of African Descent living in England between 1948 and 1972, considered as the Windrush Generation Scandal. The apology by the former Prime Minister has resulted in the government establishing a Windrush Compensation Scheme.

The present situation in world affairs indicates that the time is right to break this barrier; which an annual cultural programme of activities starting from this October would greatly help. The project is to help focus attention on the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent, with its theme of Recognition, Justice and Development. The activities will also set the scene for the ground breaking event in November by the government of Barbados for the building of the Barbados Museum of Memory of the enslavement experiences of Children of African Descent; to be built at Newton Slave Burial Ground in Christ Church.

### **Proposed Activities**

1 On 30<sup>th</sup> September there shall be an event of blessings, prayers, worship and thanksgiving to break the barrier, commencing from 7:00PM

2 On 1<sup>st</sup> October Barbadians are called upon to pay tribute to the Female energy - mother of the universe - that is rising worldwide with particular reference to the African women of CARICOM. In the process we shall celebrate the birth date of our Prime Minister Mia Mottley as her date of birth is 1<sup>st</sup> October. This cultural event should commence at 7:00PM

3 Less we forget; on 6<sup>th</sup> October we shall launch an annual cultural event to promote the call for justice in all of its forms. This event shall be an extension of, and in support of the annual event that is held on 6<sup>th</sup> October at the Payne Bay Monument in St. James Barbados in honour of those who lost their lives in the first aviation terrorist strategy the Cubana Airline in 1976 for which justice is still being pursued, also commencing at 7:00PM

4 On 10<sup>th</sup> October a cultural event is to be held to recognise mental health for what it is - a fundamental human rights issue - and to de-stigmatise mental illness; in the process freeing our minds from mental slavery. The 10<sup>th</sup> October is acknowledged as 'World Mental Health Day'; the COVID-19 pandemic has put mental health on the global agenda as a major concern. This should be an annual cultural event for all Children of African Descent in countries with high percentage of Children of African Descent, and should commence also at 7:00PM.

5 The 12<sup>th</sup> October was proclaimed by the World Social Forum as the International Day for Reparations (2013) and by CARICOM Reparations Commission as the Caribbean Holocaust Day (2017). The date was first proposed to world leaders and to the people of the world in 1990 as a Universal Day of Hope for truth, justice, peace, healing and reconciliation by a NGO the Universal Day of Hope Trust. Therefore, ADDI Talibah Barbados is proposing that starting from this 12<sup>th</sup> October annually that there is a cultural event to help inform the Children of African Descent of the importance of reparations. It is further proposed that a resolution be tabled to the United Nations that October 12 be designated the international Day for Reparations to promote truth, justice, peace, healing and reconciliation.

6 Less we forget; the 16<sup>th</sup> October is the date when persons who were found guilty of violating the human rights of other persons were executed following the Nuremberg trials of 1946. ADDI Talibah Barbados proposes that on this date the people of Barbados call on the government to designate Bridgetown as a City of Peace, with the objective of encouraging other CARICOM member states to proclaim their capital cities as Cities of Peace to help stem the tide of violence in the region; thereby moving the Caribbean to becoming a Zoon of Peace one city at a time. If CARICOM capital cities become symbols of peace their citizens will gravitate towards a culture of peace. Hopefully, the African Union could also have their capital cities proclaim cities of peace, leading the world towards becoming a global village of peacemakers.

7 This year 2022 also marks the 370<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Barbados Peace Charter of 1652. Taking into consideration that October was allocated to the parish of Christ Church as part of the We Gatherin' 2020 programme with the Sea as its theme; and acknowledging the fact that the Sea is a watery

grave of thousands of African ancestors who perished during the disastrous transatlantic trade in Africans, ADDI Talibah Barbados proposes that starting on Wednesday the 26<sup>th</sup> October annually that there be a cultural event to commemorate the anniversary of the signing of the Barbados Peace Charter event that was the foundation for the Navies of the world. This event can also commence at 7:00PM.

The above project proposal if adopted by the WGEPAD would add to the many other great ideas that the Children of African Descent have toward building a stainable future for the next generation of Children of African Descent.

**Yours sincerely,**



**Elder Rev. Buddy Larrier**

For ADDI Talibah Barbados