



Mission Statement- International Decade for People of African¹ Descent Coalition UK (IDPAD Coalition UK)

Who are we?

A Coalition of African people and African-led organisations who have come together to mark and raise awareness about the UN International Decade for People of African Descent (IDPAD) 2015-2024, which is under the theme Recognition, Justice and Development.

The objectives of the UN Decade are to:

- Promote respect, protection and fulfilment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by people of African Descent, as recognised in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- Promote a greater knowledge of and respect for the diverse heritage, culture and contribution of people of African descent to the development of Britain and other societies around the world;
- Adopt and strengthen national, regional and international legal frameworks according to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and to ensure their full and effective implementation.

What is the aim of IDPAD Coalition UK?

- 1) To ensure that 2015-2024 is meaningfully marked as the International Decade for people of African descent and that the UK, a member of the UN, lives up to its obligations under UN Resolution 69/16², and begins to take tangible steps including legislation to address the myriad of socio-political inequalities faced across the UK by people of African heritage.
- 2) To support African people and African-led organisations working to raise awareness of the Decade and mark it in meaningful ways around the theme Recognition, Justice and Development.
- 3) To develop local, national, regional and international networks, campaigns and other activities for the full implementation of the UN International Decade for People of African Descent.

Who can be members?

African people and African led organisations

Non Africans or organisations that are not African-led can be supporters, but not members

¹ People of African descent refers to Africans from the continent of Africa and/or its Diaspora

² Resolution 69/16 of 18th November 2014 is preceded by 11 resolutions 68/237 of 23rd December 2013, 64/169 of 18th December 2009, 66/144 of 19th December 2011, 52/111 of 12th December 1997, 56/266 of 27th March 2002, 57/195 of 18th December 2002, 58/160 of 22nd December 2003, 59/177 of 20th December 2004, 60/144 of 16th December 2005, 62/122 of 17th December 2007. 62/122 designated 25th March the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade



Role of Members and Supporters

The Board, which is made up of Members shape the direction of the Coalition and are the decision-makers. The authority of the Board comes from Members as expressed in the Coalition Meeting. Supporters may make suggestions and offer support in various ways, but only Members through the Board decide on direction and strategy.

Resolution 69/16 suggests that Recognition could include actions to:

- Collect, compile, analyse, disseminate and publish reliable statistical data at the national and local levels and take all other related measures necessary to assess regularly the situation of people of African descent who are victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.
- Remove all obstacles that prevent the equal enjoyment of all human rights of people of African descent, including economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights.
- Promote greater knowledge and recognition of and respect for the culture, history and heritage of people of African descent, including through research, education and in educational curricula. With respect to this, support research and educational initiatives and ensure that textbooks and other educational materials reflect historical facts accurately as they relate to past tragedies and atrocities, in particular the transatlantic enslavement of Africans and colonialism.

IDPAD Coalition UK has identified the following actions under Recognition (non exhaustive list)

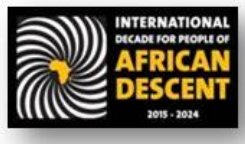
Recognition:

- Formal acknowledgment of African as the terminology for ethnically 'black' people of African heritage.
- Usage of language such as *Afriphobia* to address anti-African racism.
- Correction and Reversal of the revisionist history³ that distorts the true role of Africa and its people in world civilisation, and addressing the negative depiction and stereotyping of Africans and African History.
- Respecting the right of Africans to tell their story

Resolution 69/16 suggests that Justice could include actions to:

- Introduce measures to ensure equality before the law in all aspects of the criminal justice system.

³ Teaching on Abolition for example should focus on African freedom fighters and abolitionists, they should not be a footnote. Teaching should recognise that African History did not begin with enslavement. Encouraging organisers of publicly funded African History Month or Season programmes to ensure that talks or presentations are led by informed Africans, with events open to all to attend.



- Implement effective measures to eliminate racial profiling by the police and other law enforcement officials.
- That Britain takes appropriate measures to halt and reverse the lasting consequences of its involvement in the transatlantic enslavement of Africans and colonialism, bearing in mind its moral obligations.
- The adoption of special measures, such as affirmative action, where appropriate to remedy disparities in the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms affecting people of African descent, protecting them from discrimination and overcoming persistent or structural disparities and de facto inequalities resulting from historical circumstances.

IDPAD Coalition UK has identified the following actions under Justice (non exhaustive list)

Justice

- Meaningfully addressing racism, especially in Education, the Police, Prisons, and Health Service, particularly maternal and mental health
- Supporting the Reparations movement and demanding an end to the Maangamizi and Ecocide

Resolution 69/16 suggests that Development could include actions to:

- Adopt or strengthen national programmes for eradicating poverty and reducing social exclusion that take account of the specific needs and experiences of people of African descent.
- Take all necessary measures to give effect to the right of people of African descent, free and equal access to all levels and forms of quality public education without discrimination, and ensure that public as well as private education systems in the UK do not discriminate against or exclude people of African descent, and that they are protected from direct or indirect discrimination, negative stereotyping and stigmatisation from teachers or peers.
- Take measures to improve access to quality health services such as mental health care and maternity care for African people.

IDPAD Coalition UK has identified the following actions under Development (non exhaustive list)

Development

- We acknowledge that Development must be based on Justice and that Justice needs to be established wherever it is absent. We therefore seek to bring our community organisations together in order to further Recognise the practical problems and solutions that will further enable Justice to determine the goals of Development pursued by our communities in the UK.
- Encouraging Africans to engage with the democratic process so that they are able to influence positive change which reflects the interests of Africans and to become agents of positive change by active participation and engagement in their own interests.