

UN WGEPAD sessions open to civil society 27th session

"The Urgency of Now: Systemic Racism and the Lessons of 2020"

Thank you for enabling us to share a statement

PADBelgium Observatory organised the 1st Annual review of the Decade implementation in Belgium here are the findings , recommendation and suggestion found after this annual review

Police brutality and the pandemic

The 2020 context some cases were already shared by Dominique on the opening day
In Belgium this means,

- **Moïse Bangoura**, more commonly known as Lamine by his entourage, died as a result of a strong intervention by the Roeselare police. On May 7th 2018 , The 27-year-old was facing eviction for not paying his rent for several months. On Monday, May 7, a bailiff and three city service trucks are stationed in front of his house to kick him out. As Lamine refused to comply, two police patrols were also present. It is the latter who are singled out by relatives of the deceased who claim that Lamine died due to the senseless violence of these police officers.

This year during the protest of the aftermath of G.Floyd death ,his case surfaced back to let the society know that this young man was still not buried , that the case was still pending and his family members were facing harassment, and most recently

-**Dieumerici Kanda** was found dead after he went to the police to report the theft of his ID , and was arrested under allegation of being drunk and found dead in his cell by suicide.

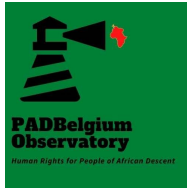
- A Young asylum seeker was molested by police officers and there has been an open case to investigate police actions

-The MEP **Pierrette Herzberger Fofana** ,

- **Michel Zecler** - renown music producers in France has made the headline with is unlawful aggression by police officer in his own studio

Findings are not new, racial, systemic structural injustices are a reality globally for the most vulnerable communities and the african descent community is in the frontline of those who are hit the most.

We have come to the conclusion that to be able to work on the root cause of all these malfunction of human right access for our communities there must be work done on:



RECOGNITION

Recognise and educate on the historicity of all the systemic structural bias leading to the injustices and lack of human rights access faced by african descent communities, As an example (this doesn't mean this is the best) reviewing collectively some Historical key moments like Belgium has finally started to try to do is essential , have african descents historian , scientist , cultural experts involved is key to the success of the road to a more inclusive society

DATA

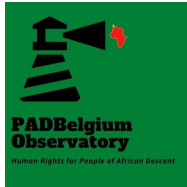
Datacollection and Disaggregated data is a must today , and a matter of political will rather than just keeping people's privacy.

- For the civil society and us as PADBelgium as a human right Observatory we truly believe that this pandemic has shown how bias are enabling policies to be done in the favour of the increased o violation of human rights of African descent people as well as the most vulnerable groups in the population
- The civil society need to be and will be at least this is the aim of our observatory , to pilot data collection , reflect on the indicator that are design to address and collect the most inclusive and accurate information ,

JUSTICE

We have woken to a judiciary system that protects violation by agents holding governmental authority, while their mission protecting the civil society

- Arrest of individuals are too easily made on the base of stereotypical bias and accusation when not false.
- This has shown us recently that the police officers training need an urgent review, a review that should include historical, political and intersectional content. , the DNA of the police need and urgent reprogramming
- Access to lawyers and lawyers that are historically conscious of the bias in their profession is key , we've seen to many among us have access to justice and be provided



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Our resolution and activities for the next year in Belgium, despite the fact that we are underfunded we will engage in doing as much **pilot research** as time will allow us. At this stage thanks to the collective support among african descent communities in Europe and worldwide we will conduct a survey on how the pandemic has affected our communities in Belgium in Education , Health care (physical, mental), Work, entrepreneurship , justice and cultural field. We therefore again would like the WGEPAD to consider giving next 2021 year the theme The year of More Justice for all

DEVELOP

Accountability and remedies

-States are accountable for the peace and security of all citizens and african descent should not be left behind, hence making sure that justice for all is preserved is key

-Lws taken need to protect everyone as we tend to see that they protect the perpetrators of brutality towards african descent citizens, to support this we need to have **relevant disaggregated data** for the design of inclusive laws.

- Remedies need to be inclusively designed together with experts from african descent , with civil society with special attention to upscaling of best practices of communities and their organisations .

- with the economic crisis that has hit the world , when allocating specific budgets , to specific groups and their issues, it is more than urgent that countries **allocate specific budgets for the african descent community** and our better access to health care, justice, education and economic support to recover from the pandemic.

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