

Statement from Shabaka Kambon of the Caribbean Freedom Project, Emancipation Support Committee TT and the Caribbean Pan African Network

I recommend that the Permanent forum encourage the nations of the Caribbean Community to audit the people and values celebrated in its public spaces, particularly those inherited from the colonial period, with a view to ending the open glorification of colonial violence and white supremacy. The immoral and specious rationales used to maintain the status quo undermines all efforts to advance CARICOM efforts to transcend the legacy of colonialism and give substance to our collective commitment to universal human rights and equality.

This petition is in accord with both established best practice across the world and a 2017 resolution of the CARICOM Reparations Commission which called for a coordinated regional renaming and removal project targeting monuments, streets, symbols and public spaces that bear names linked to the protagonists of colonial crimes such as genocide, enslavement and apartheid.