



SAMUEL DEWITT PROCTOR CONFERENCE, INC.

*With Vision...By Faith...Through Action
Strengthening Churches...Empowering Leaders...Transforming Communities*



UN FRAMING DOCUMENT

1. **The Fight against Systemic Racism – *Future Policymaking for People of African Descent - Monday 5 December 3pm - 6pm***

- **COVID 19- Health Policy/Emergency Preparedness-** The current crisis and its impact on our communities around the world reconfirms what the PAD movement has been denouncing historically and in the framework of the UN IDPAD - the systematic and systemic denial of our basic and fundamental human rights rooted in the colonial paradigm of structural racism, structural violence, and a global economic system that has historically exploited, abused and put the interests of private profit over the lives of African and Afro-descendant people.

In the USA, available data have shown that while people of African descent represent 45% of the population of Washington DC, they make up 56% of deaths related to COVID-19, 15% of the population of Michigan but 35% of the positive cases and 40% of the deaths, 30% of the population of Chicago and 68% COVID-19 related deaths, 33% of the population of Louisiana but 70% of COVID-related deaths and 81% of deaths in Milwaukee. Data from the UK show that while BME (Black and Minority Ethnic) people represent just 13% of the national population, 35% of COVID-19 positive diagnoses are people of African descent. These data are indicative of the systematic and institutionalized ways in which people of African descent are being inadequately screened, treated, and protected from this deadly virus. Suggesting that even in the face of a global pandemic, our lives are not being valued and protected in the same way as others.

- **EU-** To strengthen the enforcement of the EU's Resolution on the Fundamental Rights of People of African Descent and Black Europeans in Europe, adopted by the European Parliament in March 2019. Human rights breaches against PAD in European Union states highlight the need to enforce the EU resolution that acknowledges historical and contemporary manifestations of Afrophobia/Afriphobia in its rhetoric and adopts this concept in the EU's lexicon to advocate racial, reparatory and social justice.

2. **Inclusion of People of African Descent in the Sustainable Development Agenda – *The Case for Climate Justice - Tuesday 6 December 2022 10am-1pm***

- **SDG-** The UN, regional human rights bodies, and state parties must facilitate our continued participation in the development of anti-racist structures and processes which address the structural roots of Afrophobia/Afriphobia, and are conducive to upholding universal human rights in line with the DDPA, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Decade for Action and Agenda 2063.

- **Climate Reparations-** Climate and environmental justice includes reparations for Black people.
- **Climate Reparations-** Our planet's climate is experiencing human-accelerated change that threatens all life on Earth. It threatens our physical health, mental health, air, quality, water access, food systems, and shelter, and is destroying the land that feeds our communities. Climate change impacts us all, but it affects some of us much more than others. Extreme weather events are the new normal for the world and directly impact Black communities the most.

3. **Inclusion of People of African Descent in the Sustainable Development Agenda – *The Case for Reparatory Justice - Tuesday 6 December 3pm-6pm***

- **Global Justice-** The COVID19 pandemic gives further strength to the global call for reparatory justice and must include material measures such as compensation to address the economic injustice and inequality that PAD have been subjected to throughout the diaspora. Direct funding to Afro-descendant communities and initiatives for social and economic development is essential. But reparation must also take a structural and transformative approach with measures aimed at undoing the relations of power and economic structures that underpin ongoing racial injustice.

It is imperative that reparations be made to communities that have suffered direct or intergenerational racial violence, be it corporal, social, cultural, or economic, and we insist that mechanisms be put in place for meaningful and ongoing reparatory justice going forward. We call for states and institutions to develop working mechanisms for public apologies, reparatory justice, restitutions of various kinds appropriate to wrongs committed, dismantling of the prison industrial complex, ending of police brutality, and reinvention of the penal system, which we realize requires commitment to multimodal and long-term attention to systemic transformations.

- **Institutional Example:** The Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference (SDPC), a African American faith-based NGO with consultative status to the United Nations, and McCormick Theological Seminary, both located in the U.S (Chicago, IL), are pleased to report on the development of an awareness raising institutional research, data and collection center that was formed through a partnership this academic year- The Center for Reparative Justice, Transformation, and Remediation. The Center for Reparative Justice, Transformation, and Remediation (the "Center"), is a historic venture that joins the church and the academy, theology and praxis, to initiate and support truth telling, sacred memory, reparatory justice, restorative justice, liberation theology and reparations. The Center will be located on McCormick's campus in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Chicago. The Center's mission focuses on the following three areas:

1. Public education, academic courses, scholarship, and engagement on issues of reparative and restorative justice, racial remediation, and systemic transformation;
2. Creation of leadership curricula related to the Center's purpose for use in seminaries, churches, and other institutions; and

3. Participation in the creation and implementation of public policy and public theology related to the mission of the Center.

- **Case Study: Evanston, IL-** In the past year, over 250 municipal and state reparations legislative bills have been passed. They include major cities, small municipalities and the state of California. The SDPC is engaged in monitoring, providing resources and counsel to Evanston, several other initiatives, including Elaine, AK. Affirming the International Decade of People of African Descent, the SDPC is amplifying and appropriating the moral agency of the faith community to engage in education, advocacy and actions to implement reparatory justice and healing initiatives in alignment with the UN IDPAD goals and objectives.

Further, the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference is pleased to report on the development of a reparations program being implemented by the Evanston city council (a northern suburb of Chicago, IL). This reparations initiative represents a legislative commitment and funding to address the historical injustices that continue to impact the lives of People of African descent living in Evanston, IL. Specifically, this initiative includes acknowledgement of the harm, designated taxes for a reparations fund, and stakeholder independent authority to grant individual and communal claims of reparations, initially related to housing injustice and related consequences.

Program components include:

- 100% of the sales tax revenue from recreational marijuana in the city going to the city's reparations initiative
- Provide training for jobs and other benefits
- A committee of residents committed to researching how to spend the money and how to best support the black community through housing, education and economic incentives
- The initial fund is appropriated at 10 million dollars

4. Connecting the Past and Future – *A United Nations Declaration on the Rights of People of African Descent - Wednesday 7 December 10am-1pm*

- **Reparations-** It is imperative that the forthcoming UN Declaration names reparations as a priority area for action, and that the Declaration supports an understanding that reparations is expanded solely beyond economic terms. As defined by Dr. Carruthers, "Acts of reparatory justice oppression, dehumanization and trauma suffered by a group of people at the hands and institutions of other peoples. Most effectively, the process is never just about money but includes the requisite steps of atonement, reckoning and transformation which affirms the untold histories, mutual healing and humanity of all parties involved."
- The UN Declaration must highlight board support for member states taking the necessary steps towards reparatory justice which includes harm done around land, cultural arts, language, sacred rituals environmental and health disparities. Atonement, reckoning, and transformation is a part of the process.

- Historical injustice done during the transatlantic slave trade throughout the African Diaspora and in regions such as the Caribbean where Haiti was forced to pay reparations to French slaveholders following the Haitian Revolution must be confronted. A Declaration that names this and makes way for action-oriented mandates, protocols and treaties that support reparatory justice is our collective hope as PAD. Declarations must stand in alignment with interventions based on the ethical and moral principles of Human Rights and real remedies for transformation. PAD across the globe are deserving of a Declaration that undergirds the formation of new international mechanisms and protocols that provide oversight, accountability and follow through in the areas of protection, promotion and full respect-- in a real sense, our lives and our futures depend on it.
- **Full Participation-** In the forthcoming Declaration, it will be imperative to include the pillar of representation upheld within the UN Decade of PAD as a matter of priority for the international community. For full participation and representation of civil society representing PAD in the formation of this Declaration, transparency and a generous lead-time related to sharing guidelines, notification about deadlines, creation of meeting opportunities and provisions for regional in- person stakeholder consultations will be vital.

5. Connecting the Past and the Future – *Equality for All People of African Descent - Wednesday 7 December 3pm- 6pm*

- **Education-** We insist that Member states take steps to educate their populations (including youth) about the histories of race-based plagues with the goal of creating antiracist, equitable, and just societies for current and future generations.

6. The future work of the Permanent Forum: *Feedback from participants Thursday 8 December 10am-1pm*

- **Special Session- Escalating Human Rights Abuses-** The Permanent forum should work to convene a special session of the HRC in order to respond appropriately to this situation of escalating human right abuses with the aim of mandating an independent inquiry into:

- the recent history of racist policing in cities across the country that continues with seeming impunity from the killing of Michael Brown and the repression of protests in Ferguson, Missouri, to the murder of George Floyd.

- allegations of excessive use of force against peaceful protesters and journalists in the demonstrations in U.S. cities since the murder of George Floyd.

The inquiry should report its findings to the Human Rights Council and should include recommendations on how to ensure that the United States upholds its human rights obligations, including in the context of policing, protests and assemblies. Further, the report should address the responsibility of the United States to end impunity for police violence and other serious human rights violations through appropriate disciplinary actions, prosecutions and fair trials.

The Council should call on the United States to give those conducting this inquiry, as well as other U.N. officials (including special procedures mandate holders), full and unrestricted access to interview witnesses, including members of the police, to inspect places of detention, and to monitor trials related to the protests and their aftermath.