



December 6, 2022

Epsy Campbell Barr
Chairwoman

Permanent Forum on People of African Descent

Catherine S. Namakula
Chairwoman

Working Group of Experts on African Descent

RE: The Federal School Discipline and Climate Coalition's (FedSDC) Written Statement re Systemic Racism & Educational Equity¹

Submitted via pfpad@un.org

Dear Chairwoman Namakula,

The Federal School Discipline and Climate Coalition (FedSDC) supports the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent's (Forum) efforts to address systemic racism and advance educational outcomes for children of African Descent.

FedSDC has long demanded and maintained that schools should not mirror jails and prisons or a criminal legal system that replicates and reinforces patterns of racial and economic oppression. The racist roots of criminal legal systems are well documented: tracing a path from enslavement, Black Codes, colonialism, and Jim Crow laws; to mass incarceration, the war on drugs, and the school-to-prison pipeline.

Awareness of these global historical injustices is not, as some have claimed, for the purpose of arousing white guilt, but rather to avoid repeating past mistakes and to eliminate systemic racism in all forms.

It is critical to recognize the devastating harm to young people's educational outcomes and futures caused by increased police presence in schools and state-sanctioned violence against students, youth, and children of African Descent.

Regardless of the urgency of the moment, we must still act with wisdom, and not allow ourselves to be railroaded into policies devoid of humanity and politics that harm youth and children of African Descent, including those with disabilities!

We can no longer allow these deep and disturbing racialized practices and anti-Black racism to continue. FedSDC is committed to working with the forum and civil society organizations on these issues. However, - and let us be clear - ***we demand the abolishment of ALL ineffective,***

¹ *Oral statement presented by Christopher Scott on behalf of FedSDC before the Forum on December 6, 2022 - general debate on the Fight Against Systemic Racism - Future Policymaking for People of African Descent*

racist, and discriminatory policies and practices that continue to violently brutalize, harm, and traumatize children of African Descent.

FedSDC calls on the forum to take up the following recommendations:

1. Use your position as an advisory body and council to advocate for the extension of the International Decade for People of African Descent.
2. Support the global elimination of corporal punishment, e.g., paddling, whipping, slapping, mechanical and chemical restraint.
3. Support police-free schools and investigate the widespread and systemic use of racist policies and practices that allow and promote violence against children; including state-sanctioned violence against children of African Descent.

Thank you! We look forward to working with you and deepening our collaboration with the forum on these critically important issues.

ABOUT FEDSDC

FedSDC is a diverse group of local community organizers, national organizations, and directly impacted students, youth, families, and community members committed to advocating for legislative and federal action to protect the interests and educational rights of Black and Brown students and youth through a racial and educational equity lens. Establishing police-free schools while implementing effective, non-punitive, and culturally-sustaining practices in schools and alternatives to school discipline, is a core value for our coalition.

Sincerely,

The Federal School Discipline and Climate Coalition (FedSDC)

Our Coalition Partners Present at the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent:

The Daniel Initiative

Tech Equity Council

Economic Equity Roundtable

The Coalition on International Aid

Cc: Members of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent