



My name is Shereen Arthur White. I am the Director of Advocacy & Policy at the U.S. NGO Children's Rights.

No Member of this Forum has named or centered one of the most fundamental crises facing our communities – **the destruction of the Black family.**

In the U.S, under the guise of “child protection.” the U.S. child welfare system continues to propagate white supremacist ideals causing profound trauma and devastating physical, emotional, and physiological consequences for Black children, parents, and communities.

The U.S. governments' actions have made it more urgent than ever for the United Nations and this Forum to fulfill its mandate and fight for and protect the rights of people of African descent by condemning this system of family policing.

This Permanent Forum must recognize the systematic violent and centuries long ongoing destruction of families of African descent and the immediate and intergenerational harms of forced family separation on the health and wellbeing of Black children, parents, and communities (health is defined as “a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity”)

This Forum must commit to protecting the right to family integrity:

- We demand recognition and protection of the sanctity of the Black family
- We demand the right of Black children to their parents and family unit
- We demand the rights of Black families to parent children without fear or precarity
- We demand the right of Black families to live without the effects of racism on their health and well-being, which includes the inter-and transgenerational and **epigenetic effects of trauma caused by forced separation**
- We demand the right to celebrate and experience Black culture and identity

And you **MUST** include the right to family integrity for families of African descent in ANY DECLARATION on, for, or by people of African Descent.

Thank you.