

STATEMENTS Sheila Brown, JD
ICSWG PFPAD
June 1, 2023

Statement 1:

On May 31, 2023, I facilitated an interactive worship titled, The 9 PILLARS OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EVERY PERSON OF AFRICAN DESCENT SHOULD KNOW ABOUT. The topics were designed around issues and obstacles that serve to prevent people from being adequately prepared for the many natural and manmade disasters that occur periodically throughout our lives.

With a focus of 'GETTING READY & STAYING READY' and laying out a step by step plan to show participants 'HOW TO PREPARE SELF AND FAMILY MENTALLY, PHYSICALLY & SPIRITUALLY FOR THE UNEXPECTED'.

3 of the 9 main Course Objectives included:

1. Understanding certain terminology is needed during a crisis event. Attendee will learn the meaning of the terms “emergency,” “disaster,” and “crisis,” and how to distinguish between each.

2. Having the capacity to think critically in a crisis is vital. Attendees will learn about the type of mindset shifts required to thrive during times of drastic, lasting change stemming from emergency situations.

3. Knowing how to prepare for periods of hardship in a strategic way is important.

My recommendation is for the working group to be proactive about placing the educational tools, resources and funds into the hands of grassroots movements and organizations operating on behalf of People of African Descent to help them embrace emergency preparedness as a part of an ordinary lifestyle. We need skilled facilitators that will be equipped to explore the volatility of the systems that replaced the need for growing food, purifying water, and self-sufficiency with managing life’s natural and man-made disasters.

By examining

historical data, recent events, and analyzing future predictions, the working group will be instrumental in ensuring that every day people within communities of African Descent become familiar with key players in the field of environmental, economic, and social disciplines.

In addition it is important for us to ensure that all people of African Descent will be able to effectively assess their own readiness and make strategic decisions about how to begin developing a plan to fill in the gaps.

Statement 2:

BEFORE The Universal Declaration of Human Rights EXISTED, AFRICAN PEOPLE CONVENED AT THE MADISON GARDEN on August 13, 1920 under the leadership of THE HONORABLE Marcus Garvey TO ADOPT The Declaration of Rights of the Negro Peoples of the World.

ITS 54 ARTICLES NOT ONLY EMPHATICALLY EXPRESSED OUR GRIEVANCES, UNIQUE TO

OUR EXPERIENCES, BUT IT ALSO STATED WITH SPECIFICITY OUR RESOLUTIONS AND DEMANDS AS PEOPLE PURPOSED for self-determination.

NOTABLY IT RESOLVED:

"The colors, Red, Black and Green, be the colors of the race."

BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, ARTICLE 45 resolved...

'that we as a race of people declare the League of Nations null and void as far as the Negro is concerned, in that it seeks to deprive Negroes of their liberty."

AND ARTICLE 52 WHICH STATES:

52. "We demand that our duly accredited representatives be given proper recognition in all leagues, conferences, conventions or courts of international arbitration wherever human rights are discussed."

IN THE SPIRIT OF SANKOFA, I RECOMMEND THAT WE AS A WORKING GROUP SHOULD STUDY THE AUTHENTIC VOICE OF OUR ANCESTORS. THEIR CLEARLY STATED DECLARATION SHOULD BE A GUIDEPPOST AND MORE IMPORTANTLY CAN BE INSTRUCTIVE TO US AS WE MOVE FORWARD AS A UNIFIED AFRICAN BODY POLITIC.

It is hard to imagine that in 1947 the drafters OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS,, who working under the direction of Eleanor Roosevelt (and which we have referenced several times over the course of this forum) were ignorant of its more specific, NUANCED, and robust predecessor DRAFTED, ADOPTED AND PRONOUNCED BY OUR ANCESTORS.

Statement 3:

The Honorable Marcus Mosiah Garvey once stated that "Intelligence rules the world, ignorance carries the burden."

In his vision, he foresaw the issue that we now face as Africans on the continent and throughout the diaspora. These included Debt slavery - whether induced by predatory lending and education loans at the micro level or infrastructure loans, and aide at the macro level.

These coupled with subversive financial rules, advancement in technology, African people as a whole would be left behind. This, he knew was inevitable as it would be undergirded by racism in the employment sectors and discriminatory behaviors against black small business owners and other innovative thought leaders.

When the Honorable Marcus Mosiah Garvey set out to address this issue he created the Black Star Line and established a spirit of industry and commerce among the global African community by inculcating within them the idea and reality that black men and women could own, operate and proliferate at running ship, building warehouses, handling produce, and traveling from America to Africa and the West Indies to negotiate for cargoes and consignment of manufactured goods.

He was abruptly met with opposition from global world powers who considered the very idea of black men owning ships and more defining their own economic destiny to be a threat and thus joined forces with members of the blue vein society or an elite group of blacks to perniciously undermine their development using governmental resources.

The US government owes African people the historical value of the assets they disrupted, the documentation they stole that will help PAD determine the losses and potential for profits then and now had those industrious business operations not been interrupted.

This is important to us and to the world and I recommend that all discussions include this important gains lost wrongfully in the evaluation of what is owed and how it can be incorporated into our reparation demands. In addition, I recommend that the Working Group be adamant that US government turn over it's files, records, and communications concerning, belonging to, and related to the Universal Negro Improvement Association from it's inception to now.

Thank you on behalf of the ancestors Amy Jacques Garvey and the Honorable Marcus Mosiah Garvey who have led us to this powerful, needed discussion of reparations and justice.