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The Family is the fundamental site of health and wellbeing for children and communities of African descent. However, the U.S. child welfare system, in its laws, policies, and practices advances an insidious tradition of global Afrophobia and intergenerational trauma that is implementing a Slow Genocide against Black people in America. This iteration of anti-Black racism finds its origin in the brutalities of the transatlantic slave trade and thrives on the destruction of the Black family and the erasure of autonomy and self-governance with regards to child rearing practices within communities of African descent. Through constant and discriminatory surveillance, investigations, and family separations, the United States has created a child welfare system that is iniquitous in its demeaning treatment of Black families.

Moreover, as our colleague and member of the United Nations Working Group on People of African Descent, Dominique Day has stressed, the U.S. model of “child protection” or child welfare, along with its carceral logics and anti-Black racism, has been adopted around the world with similarly devastating impact on communities of African descent globally. In its August 2022 Report on Children of African Descent, the UN Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent stated that:

“Foundational ideologies of racism toward people of African descent, white supremacy and devalued family bonds have structured legal and social systems around the world. In this regard, a critical aspect of the experience of people of African descent in the global diaspora is supervision and the disruption of family relationships by the white political elite. Families of African descent have been torn apart by legalized separation ever since the global trade in enslaved people and the international agreement that people of African descent, including children, were legally property to be trafficked and sold.” (Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, 2022, para. 61).

I echo the demands made by my colleague, Shereen A. White at Children’s Rights, **YOU MUST INCLUDE THE RIGHT TO FAMILY INTEGRITY FOR FAMILIES OF AFRICAN DESCENT IN ANY DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT**, in the work of this Permanent Forum, in the work of the United Nations system, by Member States, including the United States, and in local communities worldwide.