

Thank you madam chair: Good afternoon everyone

I want to focus today on a large issue when it comes to the health, well being and inter generational trauma that affects all PAD. This is the lack of legal recognition.

The psychological impact of our continuous lack of recognition has greatly negatively effected our mental health and well being world wide, for how can you be whole if you're not seen?

When members states persist to refuse to legally recognize the PAD in there countries they allow themselves and their citizens to deny our history of enslavement and colonialism, it's link to system anti black racism and the lifelong contributions that we have made to every field of human endeavour. It silences and miseducates!

This lack of recognition continues to relegate us to second class citizenship in the ambiguous category of racial minority.

Our ancestors were forced from our homes, dehumanized, denied our culture, language, religion while forced to pick cotton, grow food, and create generational wealth for others which established universities and other institutions of higher learning as well as banks and other financial institutions (that we were and are still denied yet, we are not recognized or compensated.

Therefore I recommend that all member states legally recognize PAD as a distinct people with all rights and privileges to which we are entitled. Member states should: Acknowledge and apologize for the participation or benefits from enslavement and colonialism. This should only be done through the collective collaboration with civil society.

This I believe is an essential step to addressing our mental health, trauma, and well being.

Acknowledge us, see us, and finally after over 500 years recognize US!

Thank you