

THIRD SESSION OF THE PERMANENT FORUM ON PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

My name is Dr June Francis, I am a descendant of formerly enslaved people on the Island Jamaica. I am the Chair of the Hogans Alley Society an organization that works to redress the displacement of people of African Descent in Vancouver Canada . I'm also Chair of the Chair of the Anti-racism data committee that work with the British Columbia governments for data justice and to address racial equity, gap, and the director of the Institute for the Black and African Diaspora Institute that works to highlight Black intellectual contributions, history and know how.

Colonization, and the enslavement were prosecuted by dispossession and displacement. Displacement from land, institutions, domestic, international, private and public spheres including museums etc and the construction of white spaces of exclusion.

Many communities of People of African descent in the Americas, Europe and the continent of Africa have lost their land, communities, wealth and livelihoods by the direct action of governments and other parties. This was the case in Vancouver Canada, Africville, Nova Scotia and other communities across Canada. This pattern was seen in the US and communities in South America among other places This has led to economic, cultural, political and social losses and social fragmentation.

We call on governments in settler societies, European governments and elites who have benefited from these lands including across the world and all levels to ensure all displacement of people of African descent from lands are redressed as part of program of reparations.

In light of the displacement of people of African descent from research, knowledge creation and dissemination and knowledge retention people of African descent we support efforts to fund and support Afrocentric research, education and data collection and data justice by and for people of African descent. This includes support for the development of an Academic network.

We also call for People of African descent to be centered in decision making and leadership of all stages in all phases of this work including ensuring this perspective is embedded in all international conventions and organizations.