

3rd UN Permanent Forum on Persons of African Descent

Final Special Session on Recommendations

I am Tasseli McKay, a reparative policy scholar at Duke University and I am humbled to offer final recommendations on behalf of Solitude and the Aging People in Prison Human Rights Campaign.

The first recommendations are to the Permanent Forum and broader UN, lifting up the ideas already offered for putting Black Afro-descendent women's self-defined needs and genius at the center of UN processes by creating *and fully funding* a special rapporteur and permanent forum on the rights of Black women of African descent and a UN body dedicated to Black maternal health.

The remaining recommendations are addressed to colonizer and settler-colonial nations, and my fellow people of European descent everywhere, whose inaction and neglect have undermined the Durban Declaration and impeded progress during the first decade for people of African descent.

We call on colonizer nations to abolish incarceration and all other apparatuses of state violence used for the political and economic repression of Black people of African descent. These systems cannot be repurposed for ends other than the ones they were built to serve. They must be replaced with institutions capable of keeping all of us safe, and especially of protecting Black women, girls, and gender nonconforming people of African descent whose safety has never been a priority for the colonial apparatus.

And we call on colonizer nations to decisively and proactively initiate reparations to people of African descent, using what we already know about the massive economic value of the harms perpetrated. In the US, mass incarceration alone has stolen \$7.16 trillion from Black communities in under fifty years. The reparations check for mass incarceration, slavery, and other harms is overdue.

But history is long, and movements for reparations, abolition, and Black liberation will succeed with or without us. What will we say when our children ask which side we worked for? Thank you.