

SUBMISSION - INTENDED SPEECH: 3RD SESSION OF THE PERMANENT FORUM FOR PEOPLE OF AFRIKAN DESCENT, 16 APRIL 2024 TO 19 APRIL 2024

Our congratulations to Dr June Soomer for her skilful execution of the Chair! Grand Rising to Divine Emperors and Emperesses present.

As a young woman in Britain, I left a creative job in the City of London that I loved and which would have taken me places globally, careerwise and economically. I went back to 'school' to train in education and community development. I felt *guilty, living that lifestyle*, whilst things were falling apart around me. Our people were being brutalised in the education and mental health systems as well as society. I was one of many who received the 'calling' and we wanted to give our babies a safe passage based on Ubuntu, . Decades later, little has changed – for us as nations, locally, nationally and internationally.

Our children are still being told (or forced by covert means) to aim for the lowest grade, only to be set up or failed. Afrikan university students born and bred here in the UK are still having to work three times as hard (against) malevolently calculated hurdles - towards cul-de-sacs, leading to nowhere or just excruciating suffering: social and cultural harassment; unemployment whilst they are replaced by overseas workers, contracted by governments that say they are implementing equalities. Charity should begin at home.

How many more of our children are going to lose one/two/three years of their lives, having to resit exams, change courses, being barred from progress because they were (lied to) by individuals who should (never) be allowed near other people's children? How many more attempted or successful suicides? How many have suffered permanent mental damage? How many have lost total self-confidence and gone down a road never to return? How many have 'followed suit' and no longer recognise themselves because they so wanted to be accepted? I am haunted by known cases.

Therefore, is it not responsible to push for accountability when implementing Reparations Protocols within the education industry? Is it good just to have Universal Declarations of Human and Children's Rights? Let us have countries tell us, the People, how and why procedures are being rolled out, with justifications for hard outcomes or not. Ref the Durban Declaration, *penalise* individuals and establishments who behave so dangerously as to cost lives.

Afrika is the deliberate missing piece of the global puzzle, avoiding the complete the wider picture towards the peace, love, truth, justice and freedom of not just Afrikans but humanity itself. Hence, the following should manifest:

1. A conference to dissect the problem at hand down strategically and operationally, towards a concrete global (action) plan with necessary accountabilities.
2. Let us not water down our Afrikan children's identities, cultures, values, religions and spirituality. Allow them to be Afrikan – fascinating hairstyles and all!

3. Let us work collaboratively to put an end to the casualties, using regionally pertinent afrocentric health programmes and coaching. There are some good courses emerging and these need not compete. They need funding.
4. Let us have Afrikan History, Religions and Common Languages (Swahili, Yoruba, etc) plus others on the Curriculum. Our Kweyols, Creoles and Pidgins must be recognised as functioning languages and registered as such. Afrikan Linguists and Historians should be encouraged to participate consistently in the PFPAD.
5. It is important that those on whose behalf we are planning – the younger generation – are an intricate part of this and trained in leadership skills for a smooth transition. Permit the intelligence of our youths to be guided by our acquired and ancient wisdom. Ase.
6. The Universal Declarations of Indigenous Rights should apply to all People of Afrikan Descent and command protection for the Global Afrikan. ('I am because we are!' Ubuntu.)
- 7.

Marie Augustin, Educationalist, Member of GACuk