August 22, 2022

To the Permanent Forum of People of African Descent (Permanent Forum)

Submitted by Criola[[1]](#footnote-1), Bahá’í Community of Brazil[[2]](#footnote-2), and Geledés.[[3]](#footnote-3)

**Ref:** United Nations Declaration on the promotion, protection and full respect of the human rights of people of African descent: Call for inputs

The above mentioned Brazilian civil society organizations respectfully present the following recommendations to the Permanent Forum of People of African Descent, as previously requested in its letter dated August 9th, 2022:

***Legal provisions and policies for the elimination of racial discrimination***

* + - 1. We urge States to include racism as a crime in their internal legal framework and to prohibit the spread of eugenicist ideas and of racial superiority in their territories;
      2. We urge States to establish prevention, accountability and reparation tools towards racism in all of its forms, including institutional, in its administrative, environmental, tax policies, consumerist and civil legislation;
      3. We urge States to develop programs and public policies that consider the situation of vulnerability to which cis and trans People of African descent women are exposed due to gender and race discrimination. In this sense, these policies must consider the promotion of socio-affirmative actions that facilitate access to education, job opportunities, health care, especially sexual and reproductive health, participation in society and decision-making spaces.
      4. We urge States to ratify: the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; ILO Convention 143 on Migrant Workers, 1975; International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and their Families, 1990; Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief;
      5. We urge States to create ways to protect the sacred spaces for the practice of religions of African origin, as well as their liturgies and practices, to ensure the protection of the right to religious freedom. As well as creating special mechanisms for receiving complaints, and to conduct the necessary investigations and punishment of acts based on religious racism and religious intolerance.
      6. We urge States to train their officials to respect human rights of different racial minorities;
      7. We urge States to collect, disseminate and monitor both quantitative and qualitative data, as well as information regarding the people of African descent in the full range of economic, social, cultural, environmental, political, sexual and reproductive human rights, to create institutional spaces for democratic participation and policies that maximize the well-being of this population;
      8. We urge States to allocate part of their budgets to policies to combat racism, racial discrimination, racial inequality and promote racial equity, considering the intersectionality with other forms of oppression, such as sexism, lgbtqiap+phobia, ableism, territorial segregation, inter alia;
      9. We urge States to fight institutional, structural and environmental racism, especially in face of police brutality, mass incarceration and in the functioning of the justice system;
      10. We urge States to implement policies and programs for the prevention and accountability of racially motivated discriminatory police conduct, eliminating the practice of racial profiling as a reason to subject people to interrogation and legal process or to determine whether an individual is involved in criminal activity;
      11. We urge States to implement monitoring and training services in human rights with an anti-racist, anti-sexist approach for public servants, including justice administration personnel, in particular criminal justice, security, prison and police services, pursuant to article 133 of the Durban Program of Action;
      12. We urge States to implement national programs to encourage hiring, retention and career progression for people of African descent in all spheres of power in the public and private sector;
      13. We urge States to implement the Sustainable Development Goals by establishing targets , sub-targets and special indicators to positively impact the living conditions of people of African descent based on the Durban Program of Action.

**Socio spatial Segregation**

1. We urge States to guarantee to the entire population, and especially to people of African descent, water, sewage, transportation, lighting, housing, as well as access to other public services for the realization of social, economic, cultural, environmental, sexual and reproductive rights, universally, free of charge or with affordable prices, with quality and in a continuous, territorialized way, assuring the democratic participation of users in the services
2. We urge States to institute programs aimed at the people of African descent that seek to combat hunger, child and maternal morbidity and mortality, infectious diseases, and other psychophysical health problems that especially affect these populations, as well as racial, social, and gender disparities, among others.

**Access to Justice**

1. We urge States to create means to promote access to justice for the people of African descent, especially for those in the lower social classes;
2. We urge States to establish control over the police action in order to eradicate the brutality and violence against people of African descent;
3. We urge States to create programs for receiving complaints of racism, as well as programs for victim support and other related forms of violence;
4. We urge States to establish multidisciplinary reference centers for the assistance of people who are victims of institutional racism, giving priority to mothers and orphans, guaranteeing legal, psychological and social support;
5. We urge States to strengthen the state investigative structure in this area to provide for the investigation and punishment of those responsible for hate speech uttered in person and online.
6. We urge States to create free legal assistance for the entire African descent population in their territory;
7. We urge States to implement and monitor a plan to reduce police lethality, with broad participation of civil society and public institutions committed to promoting human rights;

**Education, health, culture and information**

1. We urge States to create opportunities for a broad access of people of African descendent to health, education and justice
2. We urge States to create educational programs on racial equality, respect for differences and tolerance for the entire population
3. We urge States to create a structure within the government that is responsible for the promotion of racial equality
4. We urge States to create programs to increase the years of study of the people of African descent in order to equalize the average of the African descent population with that of the white population
5. We urge States to ensure access to education and new technologies for people of African descent, ensuring free internet and electronic equipment such as computers and routers to low income populations
6. We urge States to implement democratic communication policies, guaranteeing the representativeness and racial diversity of their societies
7. We urge States to implement policies aimed to sexual and reproductive health and to confront reproductive oppressions and hierarchies that impact the lives of cis and trans women, trans men and non-binary people, especially those of African descent.

**National Programs for the Eradication of Poverty and Establishment of Reparatory Measures**

1. We urge States to establish public policies for the eradication of poverty that have as a framework the recognition of the historical injustices committed against people of African descent, holding the State responsible for their losses, as well as using the overcoming of such injustices as a reference for measuring the development of these populations, such as increased access to education, to the labor market, to housing, inter alia.
2. We urge States to establish a fund to guarantee additional investments in health care facilities and services, sexual and reproductive health, education, public health, electric power, drinking water and environmental control, political and democratic participation for the people of African descent.
3. We urge States to direct public investment in policies for the preservation, land entitlement and protection of the lands of traditional populations of African descent, respecting their culture, historical ties and decision-making practices.

1. CRIOLA, feminist, anti-racist, non-profit civil association, founded and conducted by black women since 1992. Site: [www.criola.org.br](http://www.criola.org.br/) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. 2COMUNIDADE BAHÁ’Í DO BRASIL, Bahá’í Community of Brazil, independent monotheistic religion. Bahá’ís believe that humanity's current and urgent need is to find a unifying vision of the future of humanity, and of the nature and purpose of life. Site: http://www.bahai.org.br [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. GELEDÉS Instituto da Mulher Negra, a civil society black women’s organization that takes a stand in defense of women and African descendants as it understands that these two social segments are affected by discrimination and disadvantages in the access to social opportunities due to racism and sexism in Brazilian society. Site: https://www.geledes.org.br/ [↑](#footnote-ref-3)