

Non-State Actors Reparations Commission Inc.

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The Permanent Forum for People of African Descent
United Nations

Re: Statement that October 12 be the international Day for Reparations; towards truth, justice, peace, healing and reconciliation.

We write to place on record the subject statement. The Non-State Actors Reparations Commission (NsARC) is in full support of the above subject matter, and believes that until it is adopted by the UN General Assembly that all other measures towards people of African descent will fall short of their objectives.

The fact is this year 2022 marks the 530th anniversary of the arrival of Columbus in the Americas/Caribbean on October 12, 1492. We know that the legacy of that historic event has plunged the world into its present state of affairs in which the ideology of black inferiority is being practice by almost every nation on earth. History would have informed us that the worst aspects of man's inhumanity to man resulted from the untruths associated with that 1492 event. The genocide, chattel enslavement and colonialism of the past 500 plus years are unprecedented in human history.

Over the years there have been many genuine attempts of finding solutions to help humankind to live in harmonious relationship, and with other inhabitants of planet earth, and also with the environment that provide life for all. In January 1990 the proposal for October 12 as a Universal Day of Hope was one such attempt; it was first penned as an open letter to 178 world leaders by a Barbadian and repeated in June that year in the form of a booklet entitle; A Proposal for a Universal Day of Hope, to the people of the world.

In May 1995 the October 12 proposal was presented to the Government of Barbados in the form of a draft resolution for consideration and possible submission to the UN General Assembly. In 1999 the government held the first of its kind; a national consultation of racism, and in the report of 2000 from the consultation entitled; 'A shared vision for the 21st century' it was concluded that Reparations should be one of government's main objectives. In September 2001 at the UN World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance held in Durban, South Africa the same draft resolution presented to the Barbados Government in 1995 was among other resolutions presented to the Durban conference. In October 2002 the first follow-up to the Durban conference was the Afrikan and Afrikan Descendants World Conference against Racism, and again the same draft resolution for October 12 was presented and endorsed at that Barbados conference.

Barbados is central to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and to the proposal for October 12 as the International Day for Reparations; towards truth, justice, peace, healing and reconciliation, because it was the government of Barbados that enacted the Barbados Slave Code Act of 1661, which made the ideology of black inferiority legal and the negative treatment of black people globally practiced.

Seeking redress

On October 12, 2012 the government of Barbados established the Barbados Taskforce on Reparations, pursuant to which, in September 2013 the Heads of Government of CARICOM established the CARICOM Reparations Commission and the World Social Forum proclaimed October 12 as the International Day for Reparations. Also, in 2013 the Non-State Actors Reparations Commission (NsARC) was established.

In 2017 the CARICOM Reparations Commission proclaimed October 12 as 'Caribbean Holocaust Day' in support of the claim for reparations to people of African descent. In 2019 the British Government established the 'Windrush Compensation Scheme' for payment of reparations to persons of the Commonwealth who suffered violation of their human rights while resident in England between the 1950s and 1970s. On June 24 Prince Charles as Head of the Commonwealth made a public statement that the time has come for discussions to be held on Reparations.

It can be said that at no other time in history has the demand for a global black identity been more apparent. Identifying how slavery, colonialism, and racism intersect and impact the lives of black people across the world is therefore critical to demanding reparations, fostering healing, and restoring dignity. It is against this backdrop that a global summit on International Reparations & Healing was held in Accra, Ghana from August 1 to 4. The African Union (AU) for instance, has become more vocal in its demand for restitution for stolen African religious symbols and cultural relics, as well as a recognition of the African diaspora community in the advocacy for reparations. Through its various organs the AU has undertaken a series of initiatives to reach a common position on Reparations for Africa, and an advocacy campaign on reparations from former slave holders and colonial powers. Also, from August 4 to 6 the Global Afrikan Congress (GAC) that was formed at the first follow-up to the Durban 2001 conference, which was the Barbados conference in 2002 held an International Reparations conference in collaboration the University of the West Indies to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the 2002 Barbados conference.

The NsARC is seeking the support of the Permanent Forum and all those advocating for truth, justice, peace, healing and reconciliation to join in the call for October 12 to be designated by the UN as the International Day for Reparations.

Sincerely yours in the struggle

Rev. Buddy A. Larrier

For NsARC