

# BIRTHMARK OF AFRICA



PRESENTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UN-OHCHR

THE ONGOING LEGACIES OF COLONIALISM AND  
THE TRANS-ATLANTIC AND TRANS-SAHARAN  
TRADES IN ENSLAVED AFRICANS GLOBALLY



HOSTED BY THE EXPERT UN FELLOWS  
WORKING GROUP FOR PEOPLE OF  
AFRICAN DESCENT (EFWGPAD)

SATURDAY 6TH AUGUST 2022  
7PM - 9PM GMT

## SYMPOSIUM PROGRAMME AND GUIDE



BIRTHMARK  
OF AFRICA



UN FELLOWS.ORG





"Colonialism and its attitudes die hard, like the attitudes of slavery, whose hangover still dominates behaviour in certain parts of the Western hemisphere.

Before slavery was practised in the New World, there was no special denigration of Africans. Travellers to this continent described the inhabitants in their records with natural curiosity and examination to be expected of individuals coming from different environments. It was when slave trade and slavery began to develop ghastly proportions that made them the base of that capital accumulation which assisted the rise of Western industrialism, that a new attitude towards Africans emerged. 'Slavery in the Caribbean has been too narrowly identified with the man of colour. A racial twist has thereby been given to what is basically an economic phenomenon. Slavery was not born of racism, rather racism was the consequence of slavery.' With this racial twist was invented the myth of colour inferiority. This myth supported the subsequent rape of our continent with its despoliation and continuing exploitation under the advanced forms of colonialism and imperialism."

- Kwame Nkrumah,  
*Africa Must Unite 1963*



# **WELCOME** UN PAD Fellows, WGEPAD and UN Staff members

Welcome to Birthmark of Africa! We are very excited to have you in attendance with us this year at our 2022 Symposium in partnership with the UN-OHCHR. This year's theme is on the ongoing legacies of colonialism and the Trans-Atlantic and Trans-Saharan trades in enslaved Africans globally. This topic is an extremely important one and the symposium supports such a timely discussion. This Symposium's aim is to put forward and collate effective recommendations to address the continued legacies that affect people of African descent around the globe.

In turn, these recommendations will be presented to the United Nations during our presentation event in partnership with UN-OHCHR on 31st August 2022.

During this Symposium, we will discuss and create tangible, functional and compelling recommendations that will tackle societal, institutional, psychological and economic issues that have evolved from these legacies, which have a detrimental impact on people of African descent. We invite you to put forward your recommendations from the perspective of the country/countries which you represent, as to how the negative impact of these legacies can be minimised and essentially eradicated.

Our hope for this symposium is that it will serve multiple goals including sensitizing member states, creating an effective framework to tackle these legacies, facilitating networking, introducing you to the Expert UN Fellows Working Group for People of African Descent (EFWGPAD) and celebrating the achievements of UN PAD Fellows.

We look forward to seeing you and thank you for supporting this important initiative.

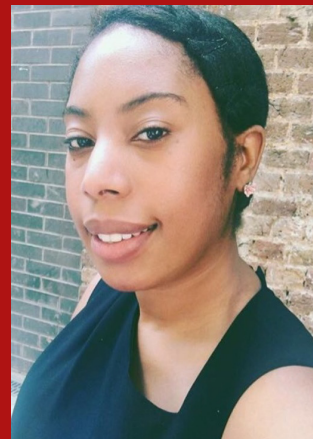
Yours faithfully,

Priscellia Robinson and Amock Alikuleti  
President and 1st Vice President of Birthmark of Africa

## **Priscellia Robinson**

**President & Symposium Chair**

Priscellia Robinson is the President and Director of Birthmark of Africa. She is the head researcher in the disciplines of Law, Criminology and Sociology. Her specialist areas of research are Human Rights, Race Disparities, Reparative Justice, Social Justice, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, the Windrush Generation, the Ongoing Legacy of the Transatlantic Slave Trade and the effects of Colonialism within contemporary times. Priscellia Robinson is also the Chair and a member of The Expert UN Fellows Working Group for People of African Descent (EFWGPAD). She is further a practising UK Barrister and a UN PAD Fellow of 2019.



## **Amock Alikuleti**

**1st Vice President & Symposium Vice Chair**

Amock Alikuleti is 1st Vice President and Head of Climate Change at Birthmark of Africa. He is a human rights and nature rights defender trained in interdisciplinarity, with a vivid interest in political ecology and a passion for advancing equity and the betterment of the ecological and individuated human condition. He has extensive, multilateral experience in the fields of sustainability and climate change, universal human rights, global public health and well-being, food sovereignty and security, rural and community development, and humanitarian action. Amock Alikuleti is also the Vice Chair and a member of The Expert UN Fellows Working Group for People of African Descent (EFWGPAD). He is also a UN PAD Fellow of 2018.



# PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

The Symposium on the ongoing legacies of Colonialism and the Trans-Atlantic and Trans-Saharan trades in enslaved Africans created within the framework of the International Decade for People of African Descent (IDPAD) (2015–2024), will gather United Nations former fellows of people of African descent as participants. Participants will also include OHCHR staff and members of the United Nations Working Group of Experts for People of African Descent (WGEPAD) as observers. The participants will discuss the ongoing legacies of Colonialism and the Trans-Atlantic and Trans-Saharan trades in enslaved Africans. They will highlight, analyse, and take stock of the systemic, multi-sectoral, direct and indirect, intersecting and multi-faceted ways in which the ongoing legacies of Colonialism and the Trans-Atlantic and Trans-Saharan trades in enslaved Africans impact people of African descent (PAD) globally. They will also share their experiences and recommend practical solutions to effectively address the institutional and structural manifestations in inequality and marginalization, mutations and impacts of the regimes of Colonialism and the Trans-Atlantic and Trans-Saharan trades in enslaved Africans.

# SYMPOSIUM FORMAT

The symposium is open to United Nations former fellows of people of African descent as participants. The fellows will be invited to register their participation via the Birthmark of Africa website - <https://www.birthmarkofafrica.org/unevent>

The event will be presided by The Expert UN Fellows Working Group for People of African Descent (EFWGPAD). The following topics of concerns will be addressed:

- 1) Labour Market Access and Equity;
- 2) Education and Investments;
- 3) Climate Change;
- 4) Well-Being and Health;
- 5) Human Rights, Law and Governance.

In reference to the three themes of the IDPAD (Recognition, Justice, Development), all participating UN PAD former fellows are invited to contribute a single recommendation orally (for details see Symposium Guide) for any of the five topics in view of addressing pertinent legacies and their impacts.

The views discussed and collected during the symposium will subsequently be collated, reviewed and presented in both oral and written format on 31st August 2022 at a separate public event presided by the WGEPAD and EFWGPAD, in commemoration of the International Day for People of African Descent.

# SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

## OPENING REMARKS

### HOST OPENING OF THE EVENT AND WELCOME

**LEE HALLIDAY-DAVIS**

*Birthmark of Africa, Co-presenter*

7:00 – 7:05pm

### WELCOMING REMARKS

**PROFESSOR KWAME AKUFFO OBE**

*Professor of International and Comparative Law at the School of Law, University of West London, London*

7:05 – 7:15 pm

**PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, MICHELLE BACHELET, A/HRC/47/53 ON “PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS OF AFRICANS AND OF PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT AGAINST EXCESSIVE USE OF FORCE AND OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS”**

**PRESENTATION BY UN-OHCHR**

7:15 - 7:25 pm

**INTRODUCTION OF THE EXPERT UN FELLOWS WORKING GROUP FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT (EFWGPAD)**

**PRISCELLIA ROBINSON**

*Barrister, President of Birthmark of Africa, Chair and Member of the EFWGPAD - UK, East Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa, Caribbean, Asia, and Oceania*

7:25 – 7:30 pm

## 1ST SESSION

**LABOUR MARKET ACCESS AND EQUITY**

7:30 pm

**MARIAAM BHATTI**

*Community Development and Social Policy Practitioner, Migration Expert, Member of the EFWGPAD - Ireland, West Europe, Australia, and South Africa*

**UN FELLOWS CONTRIBUTION**

UN Fellows to have the floor with 3 minutes per recommendation.

## 2ND SESSION

**EDUCATION AND INVESTMENTS**

**LEO JOHNSON**

*Community Builder, EDI Expert & Member of the EFWGPAD - Canada, North America, South America, and North/West Africa*

**UN FELLOWS CONTRIBUTION**

UN Fellows to have the floor with 3 minutes per recommendation.

## 3RD SESSION

### CLIMATE CHANGE

#### AMOCK ALIKULETI

*Political Ecologist, Member of the EFWGPAD – Switzerland, North Europe, Greater Arabia, and Central/East Africa*

#### UN FELLOWS CONTRIBUTION

UN Fellows to have the floor with 3 minutes per recommendation.

## 4TH SESSION

### WELL-BEING AND HEALTH

#### DR. DZIFA DORDUNOO

*Assistant Professor and Member of the EFWGPAD – UK, South Europe, West Africa, Australia and Middle East.*

#### UN FELLOWS CONTRIBUTION

UN Fellows to have the floor with 3 minutes per recommendation.

## 5TH SESSION

### HUMAN RIGHTS, LAW AND GOVERNANCE

#### PRISCELLIA ROBINSON

*Barrister, President of Birthmark of Africa, Chair and Member of the EFWGPAD – UK, East Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa, Caribbean, Asia, and Oceania*

#### UN FELLOWS CONTRIBUTION

UN Fellows to have the floor with 3 minutes per recommendation.

**8:45pm**

## CLOSING REMARKS

#### PROFESSOR MADDIE OHL

*Professor of Child Mental Health and Well-being, University of West London, London.*

**8:45 - 8:55 pm**

#### HOST CLOSING OF THE EVENT AND FAREWELLS

*Nyah Hinds & Anthony Brown of Birthmark of Africa, Co-presenters*

**8:55 - 9:00 pm**



# **SYMPOSIUM GUIDE**

# SYMPOSIUM OBJECTIVES

1. To introduce The Expert UN Fellows Working Group for People of African Descent (EFWGPAD), its purpose and how other UN PAD Fellows may get involved.
2. For all attending UN PAD Fellows to collectively discuss the ongoing legacies of Colonialism and the Trans-Atlantic and Trans-Saharan trades in enslaved Africans that exist globally and its ongoing affects.
3. For all attending UN PAD Fellows to put forward recommendations as to how such legacies may be remedied.
4. For these recommendations to be collated, reviewed and presented by The Expert UN Fellows Working Group for People of African Descent (EFWGPAD) to UN-OHCHR and the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent (WGEPAD) in both a written and oral presentation.

## What does the event hope to achieve?

The symposium will contribute to:

- Sensitizing UN Member States and all other stakeholders to both the challenges and potential solutions to the harmful impacts of the ongoing legacies of Colonialism and the Trans-Atlantic and Trans-Saharan trades in enslaved Africans on people of African descent globally;
- Full and effective implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent (IDPAD) (2015–2024) as well as the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA);
- Compliance with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD);
- Advancing the human rights situation of people of African descent.

## Who can be invited to the Symposium?

- Only UN PAD Fellows of all cohort groups, UN-OHCHR staff members/WGEPAD will be allowed to attend. The symposium will not be accessible to the public and will be by invitation only.

# CONTEXTUAL FRAMEWORK

Recognition of colonialism and the slave trade as major sources of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance constitutes an integral part of both political and legal commitments by Member States in the promotion of equality and the fight against racial discrimination.

The Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA) – adopted in 2001 at the World Conference against Racism as the most comprehensive and authoritative programme to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance – acknowledged the suffering caused by colonialism, and regretted that the effects and persistence of these practices have been among the factors contributing to lasting social and economic inequalities in many parts of the world today. It recognized that slavery and the slave trade are a crime against humanity and should always have been so, especially the transatlantic slave trade. The DDPA recognizes the ongoing legacies of colonialism, slavery and the slave trade by acknowledging that they are among the major sources and manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

In December 2007, General Assembly resolution 62/122 designated 25<sup>th</sup> March as the annual International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

In 2011 during the International Year for People of African Descent and at the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the DDPA, Member States adopted a Political Declaration (United against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance) (A/66/L.2) in which they strengthened their political commitment in fighting racism and racial discrimination.

In December 2013, General Assembly resolution 68/237 designated 2015 to 2024 as the International Decade for People of African Descent (IDPAD) with the theme “People of African descent: recognition, justice and development”. The resolution emphasizes, honors and calls for the recognition of the enormous contributions made by people of African descent in every field and to every society and the development of societies. It also promotes specific measures and activities for the inclusion of people of African Descent and to strengthen national, regional and international legal frameworks to fully and effectively eliminate racial discrimination, injustices and inequalities.

In 2020, the United Nations Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent (WGEPAD) adopted the Operational Guidelines on inclusion of People of African Descent in the 2030 agenda in view of leaving no one behind and reaching the furthest behind first. In this regard, the Guidelines call on all stakeholders to implement the 2030 agenda with a “specific focus on people of African descent”. This call to prioritize people of African descent in the fight to end inequalities and discrimination is on the basis that people of African descent are “one of the population groups who face multiple and compounded forms of discrimination”.

In June 2021, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 43/1, OHCHR released the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/HRC/47/53) on the “promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Africans and of people of African descent against excessive use of force and other human rights violations by law enforcement officers”. The report urged Member States to move, through developing or adopting national



action plans, towards a systemic response to systemic racism, and proposed a “Four-point Agenda towards Transformative Change for Racial Justice and Equality” in which it calls on Member States and the Human Rights Council to, 1) STEP UP: Stop denying and start dismantling; 2) PURSUE JUSTICE: End impunity and build trust; 3) LISTEN UP: People of African descent must be heard; and 4) REDRESS: Confront past legacies, take special measures and deliver reparatory justice. Consequently, in July 2021, the Human Rights Council adopted resolution 47/21 in view of advancing racial justice and equality in all parts of the world, including in the context of law enforcement.

In September 2021 during a High-Level Meeting on “Reparations, racial justice and equality for people of African descent”, in commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the DDPA, Member States convened to mobilize political will for the full and effective implementation of the DDPA and its follow-up processes.

In October 2021, Human Rights Council resolution 48/7 acknowledged the “negative impact of the legacies of colonialism on the enjoyment of human rights”. It further stressed the importance of eradicating colonialism and called on member States to take concrete steps to address the negative impact of the legacies of colonialism on the enjoyment of human rights. Finally, the resolution decided to convene a panel discussion in September 2022 at the fifty-first session of the Human Rights Council and invites all stakeholders to “identify challenges in addressing the negative impact of the legacies of colonialism on human rights, and to discuss ways forward”.

More recently in December 2021, General Assembly resolution 76/226 noted with concern the “disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the existing inequalities within our societies”. It further recognized and affirmed that the global fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and all their abhorrent and contemporary forms and manifestations was a matter of priority for the international community. Finally, in acknowledging the “untold suffering and evils” inflicted as a result of slavery, the slave trade, the transatlantic slave trade, colonialism, apartheid, genocide and past tragedies, resolution 76/226 called on all relevant Member States that had not already done so to “dispense reparatory justice”.

# RESOURCES

- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD)
- Durbn Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA)
- General Assembly resolution 62/122
- Political Declaration (United against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance) (A/66/L.2) adopted at the tenth anniversary of the DDPA
- General Assembly resolution 68/237 (International Decade for People of African Descent)
- General Assembly resolution 69/16 on the Programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent
- Operational Guidelines on inclusion of People of African Descent in the 2030 agenda (adopted by the WGEPAD in 2020)
- Human Rights Council resolutions 43/1
- Report A/HRC/47/53 of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the “promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Africans and of people of African descent against excessive use of force and other human rights violations by law enforcement officers”
- 2021 High-Level Meeting on “Reparations, racial justice and equality for people of African descent”, in commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the DDPA
- Human Rights Council resolution 48/7
- General Assembly resolution 76/226

# RECOMMENDATIONS CRITERIA

All recommendations that address the ongoing legacies of Colonialism and the Trans-Atlantic and Trans-Saharan trades in enslaved Africans globally, must address the following **concerns**:

1. Labour Market Access
2. Equity Education and investments
3. Climate Change
4. Wellbeing and Health
5. Human Rights, Law and Governance

All recommendations must also state how it will work towards advancing the following **themes**:

## IDPAD THEMES

1. Recognition
2. Justice
3. Development

**Oral Presentation Time – Each PAD UN Fellow will have 3 minutes per recommendation.**

Due to time constraints, each PAD UN Fellow during the symposium will only be allowed to present one recommendation orally. This recommendation should only address one concern but can address more than one theme.

Please note, oral presentations are on a first come, first served basis.

If you wish to provide more than one recommendation that addresses the ongoing legacies of Colonialism and the Trans-Atlantic and Trans-Saharan trades in enslaved Africans globally, you may do so in writing by filling in the online form via the Birthmark of Africa's website by 3rd August 2022 <https://www.birthmarkofafrica.org/unevent>



# RECOMMENDATIONS EXAMPLES

## LABOUR MARKET ACCESS AND EQUITY

As employment offers the single biggest way in which individuals can earn incomes, there is a need for special attention to be paid to the manner in which people of African descent access the labour market. There is extensive research which shows across the developing world in particular that PAD lag behind regardless of their level of education and work experience. Lagging behind in accessing decent employment or support for entrepreneurship means that they and their future generations will continue to be faced by poor quality of life. This does not only affect the economic wellbeing but also mental wellbeing.

To address this, inclusion policies should pay special attention to the matter when designing future labour market policies. Governments should pay attention in particular to data produced and act on recommendations by investing in positive measures programmes and initiatives that target all those marginalised in the labour market, including people of African descent. Mentorship programmes to mitigate labour market discrimination should be available from middle secondary school, and continue in the labour market for the groups identified as having difficulties in making a breakthrough. Academics and think tanks should continue to produce such data and human rights groups highlight and monitor progress.

## EDUCATION AND INVESTMENTS

Due to slavery, systemic racism and colonization, there is an intentional exclusion or little mention of the enormous contributions of black people from the educational discourse and curriculums in western countries. This has also led to underfunding of schools and educational institutions serving predominantly Black populations. As such, governments and stakeholders must make intentional meaningful investments for the development of inclusive and representative curriculums as well improved access to resources for institutions serving predominantly Black populations. This includes increased funding and resources for programs and initiatives serving Black populations in non-diverse institutions given the key role played by educational institutions in facilitating slavery.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

People of African descent and their communities are among the Most Affected People and Areas (MAPA) by climate change. These inequalities and inequities are underpinned by the legacies of the systemic amalgamation of the corporate-state in the conceptualization, operationalization, institutionalization and globalization of the regimes of colonialism, the slave trade and racial discrimination. The current free trade and extractivism systems in which transnational corporations (TNCs) operate, which are significant drivers of climate change, have their roots in colonialism and the slave trade. Therefore, climate change response measures should not be limited to adaptation and mitigation, but should incorporate loss and damages suffered by MAPA as a result of climate change, as well as engage system change and a change in power dynamics.

There is a global prevalence of impunity regarding human rights violations committed through business activities by TNCs and other companies, which are damaging and depleting the health of support systems on which all life forms depend, and are consequently driving anthropogenic climate change, environmental degradation and biodiversity loss, climate and environmental racism and injustice; whose impacts adversely and disproportionately affect people of African descent.

There is a need for corporate human rights due diligence by TNCs through full observance of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and for States to support the establishment of an international legally binding instrument on TNCs to regulate their activities in accordance with international human rights law and the advancement of adequate remedy and access to justice in this area for people of African descent as marginalized victims of business-related human rights violations and abuses.

Additionally, States should duly implement the Right to a Healthy Environment. It is recommended that these violations and abuses should account for and encompass the carbon footprint of TNCs in meeting the Paris Agreement's goal of limiting global temperature rise below 2°C and the target of 1.5°C in order to avert catastrophic impacts disproportionately endured by people of African descent. In conjunction with corrective measures, States should take preventive measures by integrating human rights safeguards in the development and implementation of their climate National Action Plans (NAPs), including Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs).

Fundamentally, communities of people of African descent should be meaningfully included, represented and/or consulted in political and institutional decision-making involving environmental policies.

## **WELLBEING AND HEALTH**

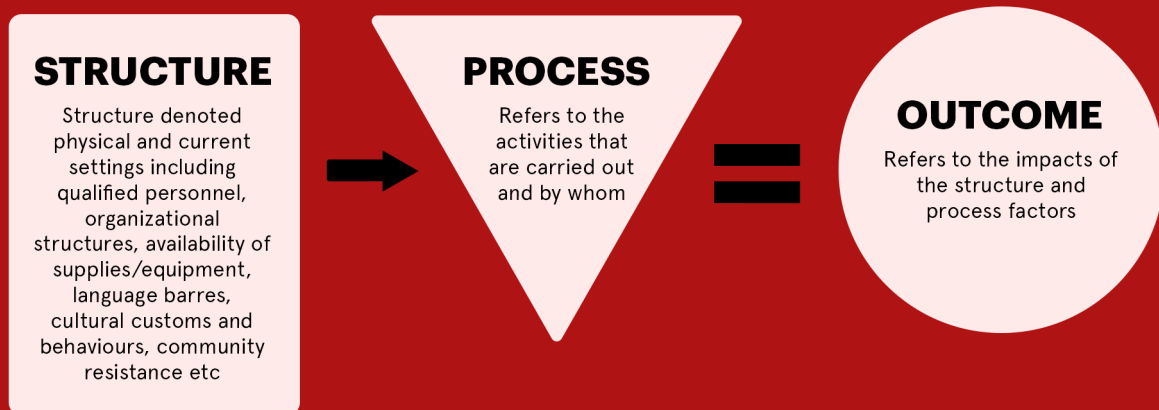
Racism is the living legacy of the transatlantic trade of enslaved Africans. Racism has a multitude of impacts including physical, psychological, and even genomic changes that can adversely affect health and wellness in the short term and long term. However, the health systems in the global north continue to conflate race to be a biological predisposition thus negating the examination of the ways in which racism – the experiences of belonging to a particular racial group, impact health and outcomes. To combat some of the health disparities that are reported, health systems globally need to identify ways in which race continues to be conflated to be biology. For example, the algorithms that calculate kidney function, have race based correction which can minimize the degree and thus severity of kidney disease in a person of African descent. The negative impact of this is a person of African descent with kidney disease may not qualify for advanced therapies such as kidney transplant. Similarly, other laboratory tests are not calibrated to consider the normal variations within the human race. For example, people of African descent tend to have lower hemoglobin levels compared to people of European descent. Although lower, these values are still within the normal range for human beings. However, blood donation eligibility criteria are set as such that the hemoglobin level prevents people of African descent from donating blood. Compounding this issue, is the increasing need for blood supply to meet the demands of an increasing biodiverse society. The result is limited blood supply for everyone including the person of African descent who needs blood transfusion but has a rare blood type and antigens. Overall, there is an urgent need for the health system and health researchers to move away from using race and racial grouping as predictor of health outcomes and find better tools to measure the impacts of racism to inform anti racism health policies and practices.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS, LAW AND GOVERNANCE**

The UK has recently seen an increase in reports of Adultification biases towards Black children. This form of dehumanization, which perceives Black children to be more mature in age, less vulnerable than their white counterparts, and their actions and thoughts measured to the standard of an adult, in turn results in Black children being subjected to harsher treatment, discipline and judgement. Research has shown that this type of psychological evaluation has an entrenched legacy within African Chattel Slavery. Historically, enslaved African children's work ethics were measured to that of an enslaved adult, which resulted in them being further subjected to the same levels of violence. The continuation of this pattern in treatment has demonstrated that Black children are presently associated with stereotypes normally projected upon Black adults and their innocence ultimately removed. This perception has resulted in the barbaric and inhuman treatment of Black children with high reports of Adultification biases within the areas of policing, criminal justice and in the education sector (Case - Child Q). The extremity of cases being reported are so severe that any psychological trauma endured during such cases is feared to be irreversible. A recommendation to tackle Adultification biases and uphold the key tenet of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child within the area of policing would be, for a national safeguarding policy to be implemented. This should contain strict guidelines on handling any stop and search/arrest that involves Black children and ensure that no unnecessary force is used in any circumstances. This would include mandatory ramifications for those who fail to adhere to this national safeguarding policy. This recommendation would in turn assist in advancing the IDPAD themes of recognition, justice and development.



# EXAMPLE FRAMEWORK



Legacies of the Trans-Atlantic and Trans-Saharan trades in enslaved Africans are reflected in many outcome measures. You may use this framework, to decipher the structural and procedural factors that are influencing the outcome. Doing this exercise will help make clearer factors that are at play thus can recommendations be more concrete and targeted.

## Example

Working backwards, the team reviewed the operation of the facility X. It was noted that most women of African descent were scheduled for surgery on days the facility is staffed by non-regular staff (e.g. agency nurses who were unfamiliar with the facility X; a structural factor). Thus, a recommendation was to ensure the facility is always staffed with 75% of its regular staff and clinical educator/leader on site as all shifts.

# INTRODUCTION TO THE EXPERT UN FELLOWS WORKING GROUP FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT (EFWG PAD)

The Expert UN Fellows Working Group for People of African Descent (EFWG PAD) was established in 2021 and comprise of five independent UN PAD Fellows with expertise in various research areas. Each member has geographic representation responsibilities and collectively will do the following:

1. To research human rights, well-being and climate change issues that effect people of African descent living in the diaspora and, to encourage UN PAD Fellows to gather all relevant information pertaining to such issues from governments, non-governmental organizations and other relevant sources and to submit this to the EFWG PAD, so that it may be highlighted via UNFellows.org.
2. To hold an annual symposium to discuss issues which effect people of African descent globally and initiate networking opportunities.
3. To encourage the participation of all UN PAD Fellows in joining UNFellows.org, a digital platform that unites former UN fellows, on a rolling basis, as experts and members, where, through the platform's interactive tools, they can individually consult, engage and exchange with each other and easily, dynamically, collectively and synergistically interact and communicate with international human rights mechanisms on behalf of, and in the interest of, their constituent groups.
4. To design special projects, in collaboration with the UN, UN PAD Fellows and civil society and to facilitate the exchange of information and expertise in these areas.
5. To encourage the participation of UN PAD Fellows in proposing measures which will ensure full and effective access to the justice system by people of African descent.
6. To submit and assist UN PAD Fellows to submit recommendations to OHCHR and other UN entities on the design, implementation and enforcement of effective measures to eliminate racial profiling, racial discrimination and other human violations against people of African descent.
7. To support and create visibility for UN PAD Fellows who are researching and addressing the problems of racial discrimination, racial profiling and other human rights issues faced by people of African descent living in the diaspora.
8. To contribute to the recognition, justice and development for people of African descent and create affirmative measures and strategies within the human rights framework.

## **PRISCELLIA ROBINSON**

Priscellia Robinson is the President and Director of Birthmark of Africa. She is the head researcher in the disciplines of Law, Criminology and Sociology. Her specialist areas of research are Human Rights, Race Disparities, Reparative Justice, Social Justice, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, the Windrush Generation, the Ongoing Legacy of the Transatlantic Slave Trade and the effects of Colonialism within contemporary times. Priscellia Robinson is a qualified Barrister of England and Wales and she can also be instructed upon amicus curiae briefs at International Courts and Tribunals. She is one of twelve selected Equality, Diversity and Inclusion panel trainers on the Bar Race Working Group of the Bar Council of England and Wales. Priscellia Robinson is also the Chair and a member of The Expert UN Fellows Working Group for People of African Descent (EFWGPAD). She is also a UN PAD Fellow of 2019 and is undertaking her Ph.D. at the University of West London on the ongoing legacy of the transatlantic slave trade, the Windrush generation and reparative justice.



## **AMOCK ALIKULETI**

Amock Alikuleti is 1st Vice President and Head of Climate Change at Birthmark of Africa. He is a political ecologist, poet, human rights and Nature rights defender trained in interdisciplinarity (MA in Governance: political science, public administration, international relations), with a vivid interest and affinity for creative and contemplative culture and practice, and a passion for advancing interrelational and pedagogical consciousness and the betterment of the individuated, socio-ecological condition. He has extensive, multilateral experience working with various UN specialized agencies and mechanisms, including as United Nations Senior Fellow at the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); with CSOs; and with groups in situations of vulnerability. He is dedicated to employing arts and culture in stakeholder engagement and empowering individual, collective, systemic, and transdisciplinary capacities in shaping transformative and effective change for holistic sustainability and well-being as the underpinning principles of intra- and intergenerational equity and peaceful coexistence. Amock Alikuleti is also the Vice Chair and a member of The Expert UN Fellows Working Group for People of African Descent (EFWGPAD).



## MARIAAM BHATTI

Mariaam is a qualified community development and social policy practitioner with extensive experience of advocacy and organising in the community, working in the areas of social justice and human rights. For the past decade she has worked on various national and global campaigns for policy change and provided direct support to marginalised groups in Ireland, predominantly migrants. She also has facilitated groups and workshops in Ireland and at a European level. Mariaam holds an BA (Honours) in Community and Youth Work and a Masters in Social Science (Rights and Social Policy) both from Maynooth University, Ireland; a Postgrad in European Union Policy-Making from Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium and a Professional Diploma in Education (FET) from Marino Institute of Education, Ireland. She is also the co-founder of The Great Care Coop, Ireland's first worker-owned, worker-led and worker-managed care social enterprise; a 2019 UN Fellow ( Programme for People of African Descent) and was named one of the Most Influential People of African Descent Under 40 Worldwide 2020. Mariaam is a Member of the European Commission's Expert Group on Migration, Asylum and Integration and the ODIHR's International Survivor of Trafficking Advisory Council. The right to development, in particular access to education and decent employment; fighting poverty and policies that contribute to it and promoting inclusive practices in all spheres of society are some of Mariaam's passions. Mariaam is also a member of The Expert UN Fellows Working Group for People of African Descent (EFWGPAD).



## LEO NUPOLO JOHNSON

Leo spent eight years in refugee camps in Ivory Coast and Ghana, having fled from civil war in his native Liberia. In 2006, he resettled in Canada as a government-assisted refugee. In 2007, Leo founded Empowerment Squared, a charitable organization committed to building a world where everyone is empowered with the tools and opportunities to thrive and contribute to society through mentorship and access to education. Under Leo's leadership, the organization has assisted over 10,000 newcomer youth and families with settling in Canada. The organization recently completed the groundbreaking ceremony for Liberian Learning Center which will house the only public library in the West African Nation of Liberia.

Leo's work has been recognized for its impact all over the world. He has received the J.C. Holland Award for Youth Leadership and Excellence and the YMCA Peace Medal, been named one of the Hamilton Spectator's Top Forty Under 40 and one of the top 75 immigrants in Canada,

he also served as guest lecturer in the University of Toronto's Global Health course and is an instructor currently at the Degroote ASchool of Business – McMaster University. He was recently awarded the World Citizenship Award by the City of Hamilton, Gandhi Peace Award, McMaster University Global Community Impact Award and the Afroglobal TV 2018 Visionary Award. In 2019, Leo was one of 14 people selected globally as a Fellow for the International Decade for People of African Descent by the United Nations. He currently serves as the President of the Liberian Association of Canada – the umbrella association for Liberians in Canada. Leo is also a member of The Expert UN Fellows Working Group for People of African Descent (EFWGPAD).

## **DR DZIFA DORDUNOO**

Dzifa Dordunoo PhD, RN, a native of Dzodze, Ghana, is assistant professor at the University of Victoria, school of nursing. As a clinician, Dzifa has 20 years of varied clinical practice experience working in general medicine and coronary care units as well as outpatient clinics (Heart failure and Sick Cell) at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. As an educator, she has been involved in educating entry level nursing students for over decade formerly at the Johns Hopkins University and University

of Maryland Baltimore. She previously worked with the Johns Hopkins Austere Anesthesia Outcomes Group on a critical care education project in Ghana. She has mentored Clinical Nurse leaders and Doctor of Nursing Practice students on issues affecting patient outcomes. As a scholar and researcher, Dzifa worked on several investigator-initiated studies and phase III/IV FDA clinical trials at the Johns Hopkins University. She has strong research interests in the acute care management of patients and the care processes that govern the hospitalization. Her recent research focuses on metal hypersensitivity and racism as predictors of patient outcomes. Dzifa has also co-authored book chapter, published several articles in peer-reviewed journals as well as in turn, serving as a reviewer for several journals. Dr Dordunoo earned her bachelor's degree (with distinction) from University of Victoria (Canada) and holds a master's degree from Duke University (USA) with post-master's certificate in clinical research management and teaching. She completed her doctoral education at the University of Maryland Baltimore (USA). She is currently the president of the Coalition of African, Caribbean and Black Nurses in British Columbia. Dzifa is also a member of The Expert UN Fellows Working Group for People of African Descent (EFWGPAD).



# INTRODUCTION TO BIRTHMARK OF AFRICA

## MISSION & HISTORY.

Birthmark of Africa® is a UK human rights and climate change research institute. As a group of researchers, campaigners and scholars, each dedicated to exploring disparities and human rights violations faced by people of African descent, we formed Birthmark of Africa® in 2018. Our research disciplines range from Human and Social Sciences, Humanities and Film Studies. Birthmark of Africa® has identified that people of African descent who can be physically, culturally and verbally identified as such, are treated unfairly and discriminated against simply because of the colour of their skin.

Our mission is to develop existing research and knowledge surrounding current disparities and human rights violations faced by people of African descent and, with this knowledge, influence change.

At Birthmark of Africa® we firmly believe that each of us, no matter our race, is originally African by descent and therefore bear the 'Birthmark of Africa'.

Our aim is to ensure that this great 'Birthmark of Africa' is universally recognised, honoured and appreciated.

## HUMAN RIGHTS & CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGES.

Our research at Birthmark of Africa® has found that people of African descent face several human rights and climate change challenges these include

Contemporary forms of racism and the legacy of the transatlantic slave trade and colonialism all contribute to human right and climate change challenges.

### Human Rights Challenges

- Police Brutality
- Institutional and Systemic Racism
- Discrimination
- Unlawful Deportations
- Gender Inequality
- Human trafficking
- Unemployment
- LGBTQ+ rights
- Disappearances
- Unlawful use of Data Privacy
- Extremism

### Climate Change Challenges

- Exploitation of Resources
- Displacement
- Impacts on Species and Ecosystems
- Drought
- Wild Fires
- Famine
- Land Slides
- Inland Water
- Ocean Acidification
- Poverty
- Socio-Economic Consequences

# BIRTHMARK OF AFRICA TEAM

## **ANTHONY BROWN**

2nd VICE-PRESIDENT & Hon. CHAIRMAN

Anthony Brown is 2nd Vice President & Honorary Chairman at Birthmark of Africa. Anthony Brown researches in the disciplines of Law, Criminology and History. His specialist areas of research is Human Rights, Race Disparities, Social Justice, Education, Sustainable Socio-economic Development, the Windrush Generation, the Ongoing Legacy of the Transatlantic Slave Trade and the effects of Colonialism within contemporary times. Anthony Brown is the co-founder of Windrush Pioneers, Windrush Defenders Legal C.I.C. (WD Legal), Chairman of Preston Windrush Generation and Descendants UK. He is also a member of the Home Office's Windrush Stakeholder Advisory Group and a member of Windrush National Organisation.

## **EBONY BENNETT**

HEAD OF FUNDING

Ebony Bennett is the Head of Funding. She is responsible for raising and managing funds from a diversified mix of private and public sources including mass engagement, grant making private foundations, sponsorships, donations and bilateral /multilateral donors to Birthmark of Africa. She works in conjunction with the Honorary Treasurer of Birthmark of Africa. Ebony Bennett has extensive experience as an International Funding Coordinator and Fiscal Manager with a degree in Business Administration.

## **LEE HALLIDAY-DAVIS**

HEAD OF PROJECTS AND PUBLICATIONS

Lee Halliday-Davis is Head of Projects and Publications at Birthmark of Africa. She is the head researcher in the disciplines of Clinical Nutrition and Nutrition Physiology. Her specialist areas of research are nutritional sciences, nutritional biology, chemical and physiological activities, ecology and climate change. Lee Halliday-Davis has extensive experience in Clinical Nutrition as a qualified Nutritionist with a large international client following. Lee Halliday-Davis is an experienced Climate Change researcher and is also a qualified Barrister of England, Wales and the Caymans Islands.

## **PAULINE HOUSLIN**

Hon. TREASURER & HEAD OF OUT-REACH

Pauline Houslin is the Honorary Treasurer of Birthmark of Africa. She provides advice, guidance and administration on the management, compliance and governance of Birthmark of Africa financial affairs. Pauline Houslin is further an assistant researcher within the discipline of Human and Social Sciences. Her specialist areas of research are Gangs and Knife Crime Prevention, Social Justice, COVID-19 Racial and Ethnic Health disparities and Diversity and Inclusion. Pauline Houslin also works for the NHS and has extensive experience within the field of Accounting and Health and Social Care.



## **NYAH HINDS**

Hon. SECRETARY & HEAD OF ARTICLES

Nyah Hinds is the Honorary Secretary of Birthmark of Africa. She supports the Honorary Chairman in ensuring the smooth functioning of the Management Committee and handles all general administration and organisations of Birthmark of Africa. Nyah Hinds is further an assistant researcher within the discipline of Law. Her specialist areas of research are Human Rights and Social Justice. Nyah Hinds is an aspiring Barrister with a 2:1 degree from Aston University and completing the Bar Course at the University of Law.

## **GEORGE BROWN**

HEAD OF MARKETING & EVENTS

George Brown is Head of Marketing & Events. His specialist areas are social impact media, content creation, design, and technology. He currently produces international social impact campaigns platforming young change makers from around the world bringing digestible information and call-to-actions to millennial and Gen-Z audiences. George Brown utilises a wide creative skillset to serve global media, start-ups and grassroots organisations alike, as well as working with renowned music and entertainment talent. George Brown holds a degree in Design from Goldsmiths, University of London is also an experienced researcher on racial injustices.

## **DIANA MURIITHI**

HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

Diana Muriithi is the Head of Development & Sustainability at Birthmark of Africa. Diana Muriithi advises Birthmark of Africa on organisational growth, financial sustainability, strategy development and implementation. She has extensive experience in national and international commercial relations, alongside a Business Law educational background. She manages, consults and delivers on contracts, programmes and projects across Information Technology, Energy and Educational services. Diana Muriithi is passionate about the empowerment of women.

## **KATE HOLGATE**

HEAD OF EDUCATION

Kate Holgate is the Head of Education and Neurodiversity at Birthmark of Africa. Kate Holgate researches in the disciplines of Education and Social Sciences. Her specialist areas of research is Human Rights, Education, Race Disparities, Employment, Neurodiversity and performance practice in Education and the workplace. She has extensive experience in the private and public sectors in the field of Human Resource Management, specialising in Business Development, Strategic Planning, Diversity and Inclusion and Reasonable Adjustment. She coaches and consults with organisations Leads in making Education Institutions and the workplace inclusive. She is passionate about empowering Black Neurodivergent Women and holds a first class degree in Human Resources.

## **MALICHI ROBINSON**

ASSISTANT RESEARCHER

Malichi Robinson is an Assistant Researcher at Birthmark of Africa. Malichi Robinson researches in the disciplines of Engineering and Social Sciences. His specialist areas are Environmental Engineering, Climate Change, Sustainability, Environmental Justice, Human Rights, Social Justice and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG). He is currently researching the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and its framework for improving the lives of populations around the world and mitigating the hazardous man-made effects of climate change. Malichi Robinson is an aspiring Environmental Engineer with a First Class degree in Environmental Engineering (BEng hon) from University of Nottingham.

## **HANNAH EDWARDS**

ASSISTANT RESEARCHER

Hannah Edwards is an Assistant Researcher at Birthmark of Africa. Hannah Edwards researches in the disciplines of Technology and Social Sciences. Her specialist areas of research are Sustainability, Information Management, Marketing, Human Rights, Social Justice and the impact of Climate Change in Technology and Innovation. She is currently researching how technology can help to combat climate change. With a 2:1 degree in Computer Science (BSc hon) from the De Montfort University, Hannah Edwards also works as an IT Developer and Europe Digital Marketing Coordinator within an established sustainability firm.

## SYMPOSIUM PANEL

### **MARIAAM BHATTI**

Community Development and Social Policy Practitioner, Migration Expert, Member of the EFWGPAD – Ireland, West Europe, and South Africa.

### **PRISCELLIA ROBINSON**

Barrister, Chair and Member of the EFWGPAD – UK, East Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa, Caribbean, Asia, and Oceania.

### **AMOCK ALIKULETI**

Political Ecologist, Member of the EFWGPAD – Switzerland, North Europe, Greater Arabia, and Central/East Africa.

### **LEO JOHNSON**

Community Builder, EDI Expert & Member of the EFWGPAD – Canada, North America, South America, and North/West Africa.

### **DR. DZIFA DORDUNOO**

Assistant Professor and Member of the EFWGPAD – UK, South Europe West Africa, Australia and Middle East.

## TICKETS

Free tickets are available for both events (6th August & 31st August 2022) however are limited. To reserve your free ticket, please click here <https://www.birthmarkofafrica.org/unevent>

## SYMPOSIUM ORGANIZERS

Birthmark of Africa in partnership with by The United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commission (UN-OHCHR) and supported by The Expert UN Fellows Working Group for People of African Descent (EFWGPAD)

## SYMPOSIUM SECRETARIES

Priscellia Robinson of Birthmark of Africa – Human Rights and Climate Change Research Institute. Email: [research@birthmarkofafrica.org](mailto:research@birthmarkofafrica.org)

Amock Alikuleti of The Expert UN Fellows Working Group for People of African Descent (EFWGPAD). Email: [info@unfellows.org](mailto:info@unfellows.org)

## SYMPOSIUM EXPERT GUESTS

Professor Kwame Akuffo OBE, Professor of International and Comparative Law at the School of Law, University of West London, London

Professor Maddie Ohl, Professor of Child Mental Health and Well-being, University of West London, London

# CONTACT

Birthmark of Africa, Silverstream House, 45 Fitzroy Street, London, England, W1T 6EB

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Twitter: @birthmarkafrica

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## Symposium Secretaries

### **Priscellia Robinson**

Birthmark of Africa – Human Rights and Climate Change Research Institute.

[research@birthmarkofafrica.org](mailto:research@birthmarkofafrica.org)

### **Amock Alikuleti**

The Expert UN Fellows Working Group for People of African Descent (EFWGPAD).

[info@unfellows.org](mailto:info@unfellows.org)



# THANK YOU

I wish to thank the following persons and organisations:

Thank you to team Birthmark of Africa for facilitating, administrating and designing this event.

Thank you to Mariaam Bhatti, Leo Johnson, Amock Alikuleti and Dr. Dzifa Dordunoo, The Expert UN Fellows Working Group for People of African Descent (EFWGPAD) for hosting this event and contributing to its overall organisation.

A special thank you to Claudie Fioroni, Human Rights Officer of Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for being a great supporter of this event, being ever so patient with us and for mentoring all UN PAD Fellows.

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Thank you to George Brown for designing our flyer and symposium programme/guide.

A special thank you to Professor Kwame Akuffo OBE and Professor Maddie Ohl for accepting our invitation and being amazing expert guests.

Lastly, a big thank you to all UN PAD Fellows of all cohort groups for attending this event, contributing and working towards the advancement of people of African descent.

Yours sincerely,

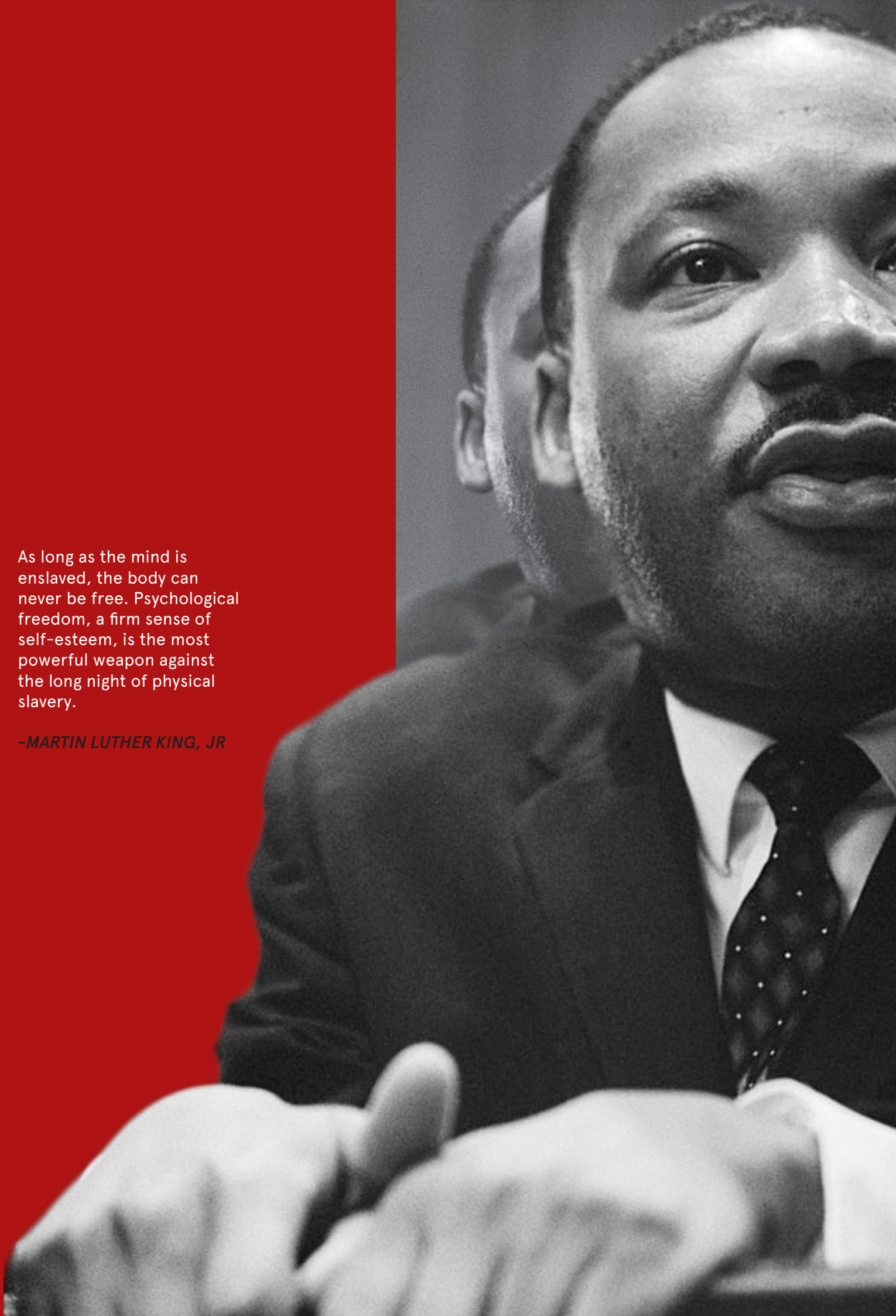
Priscellia Robinson, President of Birthmark of Africa, Symposium Chair & member of EFWGPAD

# IN PARTNERSHIP & SUPPORTED BY



As long as the mind is enslaved, the body can never be free. Psychological freedom, a firm sense of self-esteem, is the most powerful weapon against the long night of physical slavery.

*-MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR*

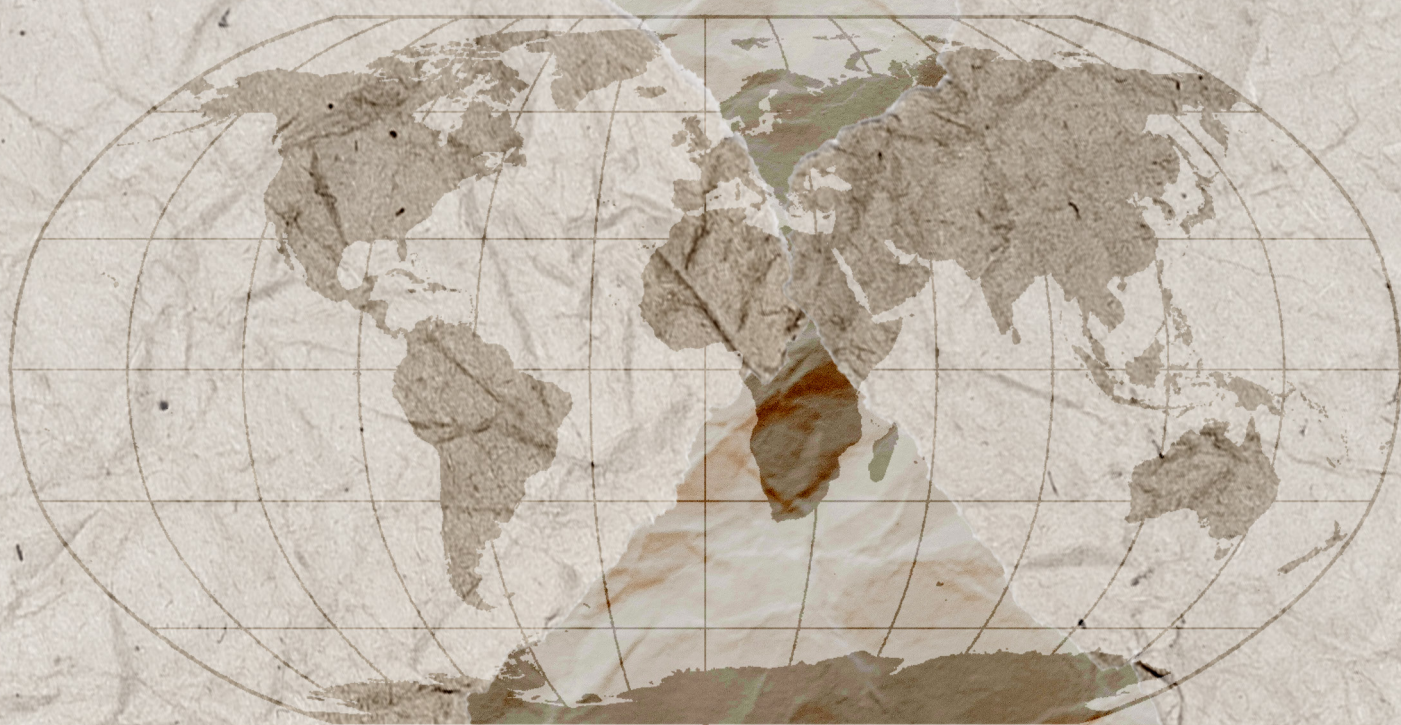


# **SUPPORT BIRTHMARK OF AFRICA'S RESEARCH & PROJECTS**

Funding is extremely important and it is the only way we as researchers can continue to do what it is we do. Your help can keep our research and projects going. Donate by giving what you can, whenever you can!

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