

# SUBMISSION TO THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (OHCHR) – FOR 2020 REPORT ON SYSTEMIC RACISM

Submitted by the United African Organization and The US Human Rights Network (USHRN)  
People of African Descent Working Group

1. **TOPIC:** *Targeting and Oppression of African and Caribbean Immigrants in the U.S.*  
via Deportations, Detention, and Family Separations of African Descendants by the United States
2. **ISSUE:**  
The cruel, inhumane, and criminal policies separating families as the U.S.' southern border have raised awareness of the recent horrific human rights violations with regard to many immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers from Mexico and South America<sup>1</sup>. We stand in solidarity with all those working to end these tragic practices immediately. What is not yet widely known, is that African nationals, Caribbean Islanders, and other African descendant immigrants are also suffering terrifying and escalating deportations, arbitrary detention, and family separations at the hands of I.C.E. and cooperating U.S. policing systems with devastating consequences for African descendant community, which suffers additionally from the lethal anti-Black racist targeting of individuals and families, with little apparent hope for justice.
3. **RELEVANT HISTORY**  
Human Rights defenders including organizations, individuals, and directly impacted peoples continue to sound the alarm over the wide-ranging anti-immigration policies of the U.S. which are decimating families and communities with no apparent recourse. The blatantly racist practices include stepping up efforts to expand the Muslim ban to include additional countries earlier this year<sup>2</sup>.  
  
The #Right2Family Campaign, #IWantMiGreenCard, and United African Organization (UAO) stood in solidarity to present testimony last week from yet another group of families and individuals facing deportation, who draw hope from a recent bill HR 8585, The American Right to Family Act, presented by U. S. Congressman Bobby Rush (D-III)<sup>3</sup>. “Immigrants are a vital part of communities across the United States, and the families that come here, often fleeing violence or persecution, must have the certainty that they will not be broken up because of the Trump Administration’s inhumane policies” said Rep. Rush. “Breaking up families that have become crucial to the fabric of their communities is immoral, economically nonsensical, and contrary to our values.” Under The American Right to Family Act, the temporary lawful status granted to eligible individuals would be valid for three years, and there would be no limit on how many times an applicant could file to renew their status. An individual’s application would be automatically extended while pending review.
4. **ACTION NOT TAKEN ON RELEVANT HISTORY**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ushrnetwork.org/news/2/77/USHRN-Statement-on-the-Removal-of-Immigrant-Children-from-Parents-at-the-Border>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.afsc.org/blogs/news-and-commentary/5-things-to-know-about-muslim-ban>

<sup>3</sup> <https://rush.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/rush-introduces-legislation-to-stop-family-separations>

The United States has continually failed to respect the rights of African descendant immigrants and has not acted on relevant recommendations of the UPR, CAT, CERD, and ICCPR and various Working Groups (UNWGEPAD, UNWGAD) in violation of the rights guaranteed under UDHR Articles 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, and 14. We appeal to the UN delegates to raise the genocidal plight of African and African descendant immigrants who are callously targeted and often separated from families by U.S. actions which deport, detain, and dehumanize without access to representation or remedy for harms caused these men, women, and children by the racially discriminatory policies. We respectfully urge that you support the following recommendations:

5. REQUESTED RECOMMENDATIONS:

**The U. S. Government must:**

- i. In this, the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024), with its themes of Recognition, Justice, and Development, we call on the U.S. government to end its discrimination against persons of African descent, and to immediately cease targeting African nationals and other immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers with sweeps and other activities;
- ii. Place a moratorium on deportations of African and African descendants and other immigrants of color;
- iii. Restore global standards of human rights to address the harm it has caused which requires all possible efforts be pursued to reunite families separated by U.S. harsh immigration policies and to provide full redress to the adults and children scarred by these inhumane practices.
- iv. Enact [H.R. 8585, the American Right to Family Act](#), which directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to grant lawful temporary residence to the parents of citizens, provided they have lived in the United States for 10 years. The parents of children who were brought to the U.S. when they were under 16 will also be eligible, under the same parameters.

6. CONTACT INFORMATION:

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