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PANEL: Recognizing and addressing systemic and structural racism: A data driven and evidence based approach.

TO: Permanent Forum on People of African Descent Email: pfpad@un.org

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Co-Conveners Caribbean Civil Society 5/23/23 Caribbean Conference

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Presenter at the 5/23/23 **Caribbean Civil Society Preparatory Conference** for the 2nd Session of the UN Permanent Forum on People on African Descent. **Significance of Caribbean Led Data collection on Caribbean People of African Ancestry**

RE: TESTIMONY/RECOMMENDATION Significance of Data collection on People of African Ancestry

I am a Jamaican Afro-Descendant who has lived in the USA since 1978. My work as a Human Rights Defender focuses on achieving Self Determination for the Afro-descendants in the USA, the Americas and Africa. I do this through research and comprehensive data presentations on the state of Black America in order to substantiate what I feel is the Crime of Genocide against the African Descendant population there.

Many times African descendant get lost in a countries data. The US has a human development index of 0.92 /10 and the world doesn't bother to look at the US poverty index. However this does nothing to tell us about the true state of the African Descendant in America beyond the many reports of injustice, police brutality and state sanctioned violence one hears in the news. **How are the people really doing?**

Data collection is needed using **The Human Development Index (HDI)** which is tied to the **Right to Development. It covers Life expectancy, Education and Income. Through the lens of geography, gender and race/ethnicity.** This must then be expanded to include other indicators which are prevalent to the populations outcomes, for example in the USA, the black population though only 13% experiences **74,402 (2018) excess deaths each year**, in cities like Chicago that accounts for 3800 extra black deaths each year and in New York, 3500 black deaths. These are termed "excess death" because their rates are disproportionate to their population. The community must now ask why?

A closer look at the data shows inequities in HIV/AIDS, infant and maternal mortality, homicides, abortions, suicide, obesity, etc. Our educational outcomes show Black children perform the lowest of all races in their 4th and 8th grade reading and math scores, and have high school graduates scoring 16/36 on the ACT when a 22 is needed to attend and do well in post-secondary education. This data show how unprepared and miseducated our children are, yet they have a 80% graduation rate. How is this?

These outcome leads to low paying jobs and economic failure. Leading to the high crime rates of these communities.

Black unemployment has consistently been twice that of whites for decades. Mass incarceration is 5 times the white rate and 4 times the Latino rate. And Blacks experience poverty at 2 times the rate of whites and Asians. **Leading to white wealth being 7.8 times that of Black wealth in America.** Looking at these other factors begin to give a more accurate view of the crisis facing the African descendant population in the USA and shows that **the Black population is experiencing all 5 elements of the crime of genocide, with a main focus on “genocide by deliberately inflicting conditions of life calculated to bring about physical destruction.” We see this in the 44.6% Homicide and 9.4% suicide rate seen in the Black death ages 15-19 years old.** We should all be asking what is causing this outcome?

As it relates to the Caribbean which has a very diverse population, a comprehensive data analysis is needed looking closely at each country, its unique history, gathering data by race and using the HDI indicators paying close attention to geography and social status because in many countries class and social status are still quite prevalent in the outcomes of who gets access to what in that society even as the country may be labeled a “Black country.” A country profile is needed and flexibility to include anything that affects the life of the African descendant in a negative way including the deconstruction of the impact of a colonized education system in the perpetuation of the injustice.

I have included my presentation at the Caribbean Conference as a small sample of what is needed.

Thank you

Cecile Johnson