

8 April 2023 at 21h15 Central Africa Time

Inputs¹ to inform the 32nd UN WGEPAD Session and its report on Economic Empowerment of People of African Descent to be presented to the 54th UN HRC Session as well as the 78th UNGA Session by LGBTQIA2S+ Human Rights Defenders Portia C. Allen (ADEFHO in Cameroon), Trinh Kakyo (the Kakyo Project in Kenya and Uganda), Gaston Mbangué (ADEFHO in Cameroon), Joel Mordi (Mordi Ibe Foundation in England and Nigeria), and Hamlet Nkwain (WFW in Cameroon).

1. We ([ADEFHO in Cameroon](#), [the Kakyo Project in Kenya and Uganda](#), [Mordi Ibe Foundation in Nigeria](#), and [WFW in Cameroon](#)) extend thanks to WGEPAD for inviting interested stakeholders to share inputs.
2. We provide inputs pertaining to:
 - a. Economic empowerment and the realisation of human rights.
 - b. Recommendations for ensuring the full realisation of economic empowerment of People of African Descent and the protection of their human rights in said context, including recommendations for the draft UN Declaration on the promotion, protection and the full respect of the human rights of People of African Descent.
3. Shared inputs are preliminary; where applicable, we ask to present further inputs into subsequent drafts, reviews and/or critiques.
4. Since 2021 (*and especially based on our prior knowledge about LGBTQIA2S+ rights in Africa and the African Diaspora*), we continue to gather and assess evidence-based information centred on sustaining human rights projects, which, in turn, can contribute to a universal call to end economic poverty and reduce donor dependency.
5. Therein, pertaining to 2a and 2b (above), we welcome consideration of the following methods:
 - a. Illustrate attention to the reduction of stigma and discrimination affecting People of African Descent who identify, for example, as LGBTQIA2S+ People, Youth, Women, and Persons with Disabilities.

¹ Respectively, kindly note the descriptions of acronyms utilised in this document: (1) UN WGEPAD or United Nations Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent; (2) UN HRC or United Nations Human Rights Council; (3) UNGA or United Nations General Assembly; (4) LGTBQIA2S+ or Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and/or Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, Two-Spirit; (5) ADEFHO or Association for Defence of Homosexuality; (6) WFW or Working for Our Wellbeing; (7) UN or United Nations; (8) UN PFPAD or United Nations Permanent Forum on People of African Descent; (9) NGOs or non-governmental organisations; (10) SOGIESC or sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics.

- b. Deliver access to LGBTQIA2S+ communities among others to participate in virtual, in-person, and/or hybrid UN-level forums, conferences, and additional assemblies.
 - c. Foster sustainable strategies about economic livelihoods and inclusion for People of African Descent who identify, for example, as LGBTQIA2S+ People, Youth, Women, and Persons with Disabilities;
 - d. Follow up in terms of asking for and synthesising local level feedback for overall and consistent improvement.
 - e. Specify intersectionality of human rights and how values (*e.g. compassion, peace, kindness, love, respect, dignity and forgiveness*) of African spirituality as well as global religions are in complement to human rights. Refer to paper titled “Disguised as Religious Values: Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance towards LGTBQIA2S+ People in Cameroon, Ghana, South Africa, Tunisia, and the United States of America” by Nkom et al.
 - f. Implement eight funding approaches to mitigate financial constraints related to the promotion, protection and full respect of the human rights of People of African Descent. Refer to paper titled “Funding Approaches toward Increasing Participation, Consultation and Engagement at the UN PFPAD” by Nkom et al.
6. We remain open to contextual, multi-lingual and intellectual competencies to work collaboratively especially from a broad range of causes and geographies to contribute to People of African Descent. For example, we lay emphasis on: (a) healthy spaces for the legitimacy, autonomy and performance of locally-led, African-based civil society organisations / NGOs; as well as (b) addressing intersectional approaches affecting LGBTQIA2S+ who identify as People of African Descent and diverse SOGIESC.