



COUNCIL MEETING – 9 JULY 2020

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO MOTIONS

Proposed Amendment to Motion 1: Atonement and Reparations for the United Kingdom's Transatlantic Traffic in Enslaved Africans

Proposed amendment to be moved by Cllr Gulcin Ozdemir

This Council notes that –

- the United Kingdom played a major role in the Transatlantic Traffic in Enslaved Africans (TTEA) which saw at least 15 million Africans forcibly trafficked to the Western Hemisphere with many thousands losing their lives during the crossing from Africa to the Americas on British Ships;
- a great deal of the wealth of the United Kingdom was founded on this vile crime against humanity, and the legacies of chattel, colonial and neocolonial forms of enslavement are still prevalent in our society today;
- the beneficiaries of the genocide and ecocide of African people and their environments, including many institutions and families in the UK, continue to benefit but have not made reparations, while the descendants of the victims continue to suffer racism, discrimination and inequality;
- one of the most visible and enduring legacies of African enslavement, colonisation and neocolonialism is systematic racism that exists within Western societies, which the Pan-African Liberation Movement, the Black Lives Matter Movement, the International Decade for People of African Descent Coalition UK and other organisations within Black communities are campaigning to eliminate. The systematic racism that is ingrained in our society manifests itself in inequality in education, housing, health, employment and the criminal justice system;
- the legacy of slavery is responsible for ingraining racial inequality within Western society, that manifests itself both in overt acts of violent racism, such as the death of George Floyd at the hands of American police, Black deaths in police custody, prison, psychiatric custody and immigration detention in the UK, or in institutional failings to provide sufficient support and care for Black communities, such as the disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on Black people in the UK;
- whilst the United Kingdom abolished slavery in 1833, it did so only after 200 years of profiting from it. When abolishing slavery it paid £20 million, the equivalent of £17 billion today, to 'compensate' enslavers, whilst those which were enslaved were not compensated at all. Further that this was not paid off until 2015;

- the United Nations 'Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to A Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law' provides a framework for a comprehensive reparatory justice process;
- the International Decade for People of African Descent, proclaimed by General Assembly resolution 68/237 and to be observed from 2015 to 2024, provides an opportunity for the United Nations, Member States, civil society and all other relevant actors to join together with people of African descent and take effective measures for the implementation of the programme of activities in the spirit of recognition, justice and development;
- the work of Dr Nicola Frith, Professor Joyce-Hope-Scott, the Pan-African Reparations Coalition in Europe (PARCOE), the International Network of Scholars & Activists For African Reparations (INOSAAR) and their Principles of Participation which have been endorsed by the International Social Movement for African Reparations (ISMAR) and a global process of engagement in the UK, the US, Africa and the Caribbean;
- the CARICOM Reparation Commission has worked on a path to reconciliation, truth, and justice for the victims of slavery and their descendants. Further to this, it campaigns on the moral, ethical and legal case for the payment of reparations by the Governments of all former colonial powers and relevant institutions of those countries to the nations and people of the Caribbean Community for the Crimes against Humanity of Native Genocide, the TTEA and a racialised system of chattel Slavery;
- in 1993, [Labour MP](#) Bernie Grant, ~~MP~~ tabled Early Day Motion (EDM) #1987 in the House of Commons welcoming the Abuja Proclamation after the first Pan-African Conference on Reparations sponsored by the Organisation of African Unity urging all countries who were enriched by enslavement and colonisation to review the case for reparations for "Africa and to Africans in the Diaspora";
- since 2015, the Stop the Maangamizi Campaign (The Maangamizi is the African Holocaust of chattel, colonial and neocolonial forms of enslavement) in association with the African Emancipation Day Reparations March Committee have been organising the annual African Emancipation Day Reparations March. The campaign presented the Stop the Maangamizi Petition to the Office of the UK Prime Minister calling for the establishment an All-Party Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry for Truth and Reparatory Justice;
- it is institutions such as the Black Cultural Archives and the International Museum of Slavery which effectively teach people about the history of the TTEA and its legacy, not statues of enslavers like Edward Colston or Robert Clayton;
- the national curriculum fails to educate our nation's children and young people about the history of slavery and its repercussions.

This Council welcomes –

- [the recent audit by the Council which found no statues or monuments to slavers in Islington;](#)
- ~~the announcement that Islington is conducting an audit of all Islington's public landmarks, statues roads names and works of art in the borough for any links with slavery;~~

- the celebration of Windrush Day 2020 on 22nd June, and the contribution of our Mayor Rakhia Ismail as well as the events organised by the council;
- calls from the National Education Union to 'review the curriculum to ensure it embraces the fact that Britain is rooted in Black and global history, achievement and culture and includes the achievements of Black Britons; as recommended by the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry.'
- that, in 2015, Islington Council passed a motion which recognised the importance of fully integrating Black history into the school curriculum, all year round, as a step towards educating more children and young people on Black history and oppression and help celebrate the contributions of our diverse communities in Islington;
- that London Metropolitan University has taken the decision to remove the name of Sir John Cass from the Art, Architecture and Design School;
- that City University is launching a review of its historic sources of funding to determine if there are links with slavery, and has decided to remove the name of Sir John Cass from its Business School; ~~reviewing it's ties to Sir John Cass and the appropriateness of having links with a major figure of the slave trade;~~
- motion 3 this evening, supporting the Black Lives Matter movement, noting the structural racial inequalities in the UK and resolving to take real action to address the inequalities and racism experienced by communities in Islington;
- similar motions that are being brought to Bristol City Council and Lambeth Borough Council that represent the hard work of community campaigners, Black activists and elected representatives.

This Council resolves –

- to support the innovative work which has been carried out by the Runnymede Trust, the Black Curriculum and others to engage young people and teachers with more expansive, representative and inclusive histories of Britain, to overhaul the curriculum to better educate about the United Kingdom's role in slavery, and to support calls from the National Education Union to 'review the curriculum to ensure it embraces the fact that Britain is rooted in Black and global history, achievement and culture and includes the achievements of Black Britons; as recommended by the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry.'
- continue to use the Council's fantastic libraries and heritage services to further educate local people on key issues of Black history, slavery and systemic racial injustice;
- to call on the UK government to urgently establish a commission to study the impact of the United Kingdom's Transatlantic Traffic in Enslaved Africans on social, political and economic life within the UK and the rest of the world in order to begin understanding the legacy of slavery on the society we live in and to start conversations on how to address it, ~~which go further than a symbolic apology;~~ and within twelve months enact changes to learn the lessons of the commission and combat the impact of slavery on our society, including committing to holistic reparations taking into consideration various proposals in accordance with the United Nations Framework on Reparations;
- ~~write to the Speaker of Parliament, Chair of the Women and Equalities Committee and Chair of the Home Affairs Committee to request that they establish, and seek UK Government support for, an All-Party Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry for Truth and Reparatory Justice and call on the~~

~~Government to commit to holistic reparations taking into consideration various proposals for reparations in accordance with the United Nations Framework on Reparations;~~

- ~~• to support the innovative work which has been carried out by the Runnymede Trust, the Black Curriculum and others to engage young people and teachers with more expansive, representative and inclusive histories of Britain, and to overhaul the curriculum to better educate about the United Kingdom's role in slavery;~~
- to support City University's review of ties to figures in the slave trade and to support a change to the name of Cass Business School.

The amended motion would read as follows:

This Council notes that –

- the United Kingdom played a major role in the Transatlantic Traffic in Enslaved Africans (TTEA) which saw at least 15 million Africans forcibly trafficked to the Western Hemisphere with many thousands losing their lives during the crossing from Africa to the Americas on British Ships;
- a great deal of the wealth of the United Kingdom was founded on this vile crime against humanity, and the legacies of chattel, colonial and neocolonial forms of enslavement are still prevalent in our society today;
- the beneficiaries of the genocide and ecocide of African people and their environments, including many institutions and families in the UK, continue to benefit but have not made reparations, while the descendants of the victims continue to suffer racism, discrimination and inequality;
- one of the most visible and enduring legacies of African enslavement, colonisation and neocolonialism is systematic racism that exists within Western societies, which the Pan-African Liberation Movement, the Black Lives Matter Movement, the International Decade for People of African Descent Coalition UK and other organisations within Black communities are campaigning to eliminate. The systematic racism that is ingrained in our society manifests itself in inequality in education, housing, health, employment and the criminal justice system;
- the legacy of slavery is responsible for ingraining racial inequality within Western society, that manifests itself both in overt acts of violent racism, such as the death of George Floyd at the hands of American police, Black deaths in police custody, prison, psychiatric custody and immigration detention in the UK, or in institutional failings to provide sufficient support and care for Black communities, such as the disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on Black people in the UK;
- whilst the United Kingdom abolished slavery in 1833, it did so only after 200 years of profiting from it. When abolishing slavery it paid £20 million, the equivalent of £17 billion today, to 'compensate' enslavers, whilst those which were enslaved were not compensated at all. Further that this was not paid off until 2015;

- the United Nations 'Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to A Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law' provides a framework for a comprehensive reparatory justice process;
- the International Decade for People of African Descent, proclaimed by General Assembly resolution 68/237 and to be observed from 2015 to 2024, provides an opportunity for the United Nations, Member States, civil society and all other relevant actors to join together with people of African descent and take effective measures for the implementation of the programme of activities in the spirit of recognition, justice and development;
- the work of Dr Nicola Frith, Professor Joyce-Hope-Scott, the Pan-Afrikan Reparations Coalition in Europe (PARCOE), the International Network of Scholars & Activists For Afrikan Reparations (INOSAAR) and their Principles of Participation which have been endorsed by the International Social Movement for Afrikan Reparations (ISMAR) and a global process of engagement in the UK, the US, Africa and the Caribbean;
- the CARICOM Reparation Commission has worked on a path to reconciliation, truth, and justice for the victims of slavery and their descendants. Further to this, it campaigns on the moral, ethical and legal case for the payment of reparations by the Governments of all former colonial powers and relevant institutions of those countries to the nations and people of the Caribbean Community for the Crimes against Humanity of Native Genocide, the TTEA and a racialised system of chattel Slavery;
- in 1993, Labour MP Bernie Grant tabled Early Day Motion (EDM) #1987 in the House of Commons welcoming the Abuja Proclamation after the first Pan-African Conference on Reparations sponsored by the Organisation of African Unity urging all countries who were enriched by enslavement and colonisation to review the case for reparations for "Africa and to Africans in the Diaspora";
- since 2015, the Stop the Maangamizi Campaign (The Maangamizi is the African Holocaust of chattel, colonial and neocolonial forms of enslavement) in association with the Afrikan Emancipation Day Reparations March Committee have been organising the annual Afrikan Emancipation Day Reparations March. The campaign presented the Stop the Maangamizi Petition to the Office of the UK Prime Minister calling for the establishment an All-Party Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry for Truth and Reparatory Justice;
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- the recent audit by the Council which found no statues or monuments to slavers in Islington;
- the celebration of Windrush Day 2020 on 22nd June, and the contribution of our Mayor Rakhia Ismail as well as the events organised by the council;
- calls from the National Education Union to 'review the curriculum to ensure it embraces the fact that Britain is rooted in Black and global history,

- achievement and culture and includes the achievements of Black Britons; as recommended by the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry.'
- that, in 2015, Islington Council adopted the 'All World History, All Year Round' approach to teaching history within schools, ensuring Black history isn't just for one month of the year, including activities focused on critical thinking and issues of fairness and equality, and resources such as reading lists; that London Metropolitan University has taken the decision to remove the name of Sir John Cass from the Art, Architecture and Design School;
 - that City University is launching a review of its historic sources of funding to determine if there are links with slavery, and has decided to remove the name of Sir John Cass from its Business School;
 - motion 3 this evening, supporting the Black Lives Matter movement, noting the structural racial inequalities in the UK and resolving to take real action to address the inequalities and racism experienced by communities in Islington;
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- continue to use the Council's fantastic libraries and heritage services to further educate local people on key issues of Black history, slavery and systemic racial injustice;
- to call on the UK government to urgently establish a commission to study the impact of the United Kingdom's Transatlantic Traffic in Enslaved Africans on social, political and economic life within the UK and the rest of the world in order to begin understanding the legacy of slavery on the society we live in and to start conversations on how to address it, and within twelve months enact changes to learn the lessons of the commission and combat the impact of slavery on our society, including committing to holistic reparations taking into consideration various proposals in accordance with the United Nations Framework on Reparations;
- to support City University's review of ties to figures in the slave trade and to support a change to the name of Cass Business School.

Proposed Amendment to Motion 2: Motion on ceasing spraying glyphosate in Islington

Proposed amendment to be moved by Cllr Rowena Champion

This Council notes –

- the ~~growing body of various~~ scientific ~~evidence showing a~~ studies carried out into potential links between exposure to herbicides such as glyphosate and an increased risk of cancer;
- the 2017 study by the European Chemical Agency which concluded that the available scientific evidence did not meet the criteria to classify glyphosate as a carcinogen, which led to the European Commission renewing the licence for glyphosate in December 2017 for a further five years;
- the spraying of herbicides in Islington is causing concern among residents ~~and elected representatives~~ about its potential harmful effects on children, animals and wildlife on our streets, housing estates and parks;
- that Street Environment Services continue to receive numerous complaints from residents during the spring and summer months regarding the high growth of weeds, often obstructing pedestrian highways;
- the fantastic work of Islington Council's dedicated and hard-working teams who keep the borough looking good all year round;
- the need to continue protect ~~contracting~~ staff who carry out herbicide spraying from harm;
- the work London wide of Transport for London (TfL) with suppliers and contractors to explore safer alternatives to herbicides such as hot foam, for essential vegetation management and weed control;
- the use of the 'Weed-IT' nozzle spray technology in Islington since April 2019, which results in a 60 per cent reduction in the amount of glyphosate being used on public highways;
- that Islington Council has been forced to make almost £250million of cuts to its budget since 2010 due to Government austerity and is facing further financial gaps due to the Government's failure to fund the Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic;
- that, currently, alternatives to glyphosate are significantly more expensive. It is estimated that using alternatives to glyphosate in our parks and on estates could cost an additional £100,000 to £130,000 per year, and would require an extra £325,000 to buy vehicles and equipment, and increased costs for weed management in our streets;
- the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham was the first council in London to cease the use of glyphosate, to support biodiversity and protect habitat against any long-term chemical effect;
- other London Boroughs such as Hackney and Croydon are trialling non-chemical weed removal and reductions in areas treated and exploring alternatives;
- in June 2019 the German state-owned rail operator Deutsche Bahn announced it would stop using glyphosate on its tracks and is looking for substitutes to replace the widely used glyphosate herbicide; and
- that residents in Islington streets are able to opt their street out of being sprayed with glyphosate or other herbicides.