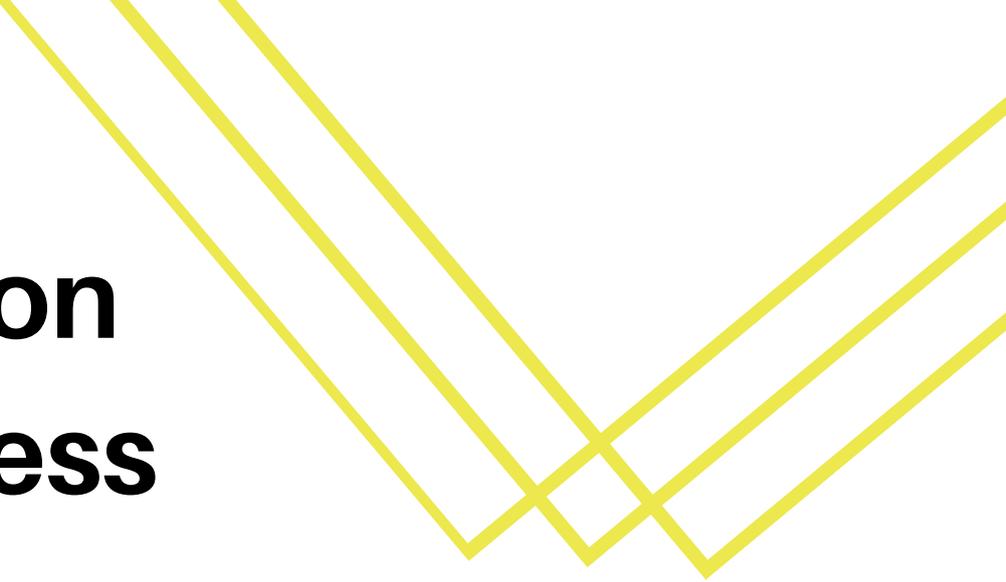


July 2020

# ANNUAL PAN-AFRIKAN INTERNATIONALIST SOLIDARITY

## ONLINE MINI SERIES





# Afrikan Liberation Awareness Month

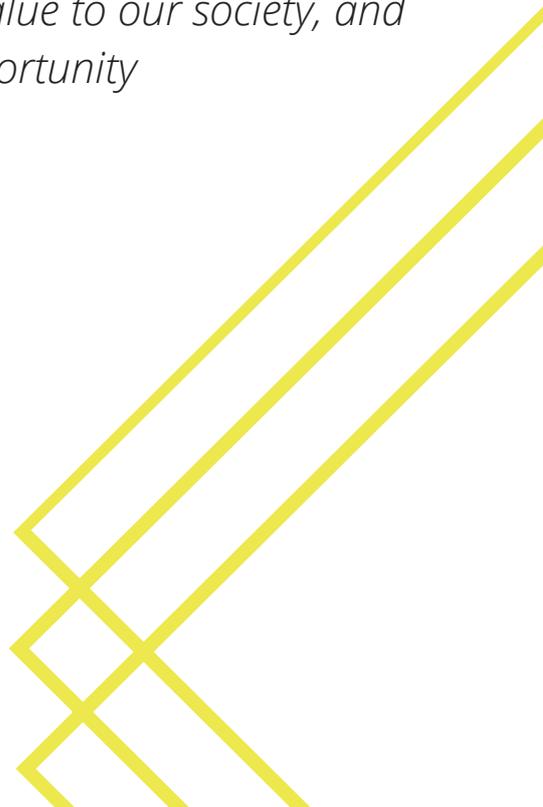
African Liberation Day is celebrated by many African communities around the world. It is a permanent mass institution in the worldwide Pan African Movement. It was founded during the first Conference of Independent African States, which attracted African leaders and political activists from various African countries, in Ghana on April 15, 1958. February 21, 2020 marks the 55th anniversary of the assassination of Malcolm X who is firmly located within the ranks of the foremost luminaries of Pan Afrikanism. As such, he was very much concerned with the fate of Afrikans across the globe. The broadness of Malcolm's humanity and sympathy informed his internationalism, which included all oppressed peoples, especially the racialised ones who have experienced the lashes of global white supremacy. Continuing injustices and denial of rights of indigenous peoples are part of the long legacy of colonialism.

Parallel processes of exploitation and injustice can be identified in relation to non-human species and/or aspects of the natural environment. International law can address some extreme examples of the crimes and harms of colonialism through the idea and legal definition of genocide, but the intimately related notion of ecocide that applies to nature and the environment is not yet formally accepted within the body of international law. In the context of this special issue reflecting on the development of green criminology, there is a need to explore connections between ecocide, genocide, capitalism and colonialism and impacts on indigenous peoples and on local and global ecosystems.



African Voices Forum (AVF) is a Bristol-based network of African and African-Caribbean community associations/organisations, other community organisations working to empower Africans and African-Caribbean to take active part in policies and initiatives that concern them, as well as other organisations that share and support the forum's values, principles, and objectives.

Our values and beliefs take into account the following statements...

- *The power of community development as a process which gives people confidence and skills to exercise greater power in their everyday lives*
  - *In working in partnership with other organisations that share similar beliefs in order to maximise resources and influence*
  - *Properly constituted community organisations can help empower individuals and make them contribute towards a cohesive and vibrant society*
  - *Racial, religious and cultural diversity adds value to our society, and that everyone has the right to equality of opportunity*
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Central to this there is a role for AVF in facilitating discussions from a Pan-Afrikan view point on the theme in line with the spirit of ALAM, as the Climate Emergency takes hold it is important to work alongside other organisations to raise awareness of the crisis and to develop a platform where African heritage communities can contribute in tackling environmental injustice both locally and for the Global South where the impact remains a threat to life and the future generations.

The Online Mini Series have been facilitated by 4 keys partners, AVF, XR International Solidarity Network, XR Bristol and XR Bristol Youth with the aim of creating a platform for discussion and solutions that are pertinent to the key issues under the theme of the legacy of Malcolm X Omowale (the son who has come home), the link to the concept of Panafrikanism in addressing Ecocide and Planet Repairs.

***The online series have been centred on...***

## **8TH MAY**

Perspectives On Ecocide and Planet Repairs - The Global Black Experience of Ecocide and Resistance

## **16TH MAY**

Youth in Action - Black Action in Internationalist Solidarity for Planet Repair

## **25TH MAY**

Women's Voices – Narrative from Women Activists on their involvement.

# PROJECT TEAM

Peninah Achieng-Kindberg  
Kirk Sides  
Delwyn Thomas

**AVF**  
**UOB**  
**AVF**

Nils  
Alejandro  
Kirsty  
Sophia Mckenzie

**XRISN**  
**XRISN**  
**XR BRISTOL**  
**MALCOLM X**

Chay  
Donna Pinnock  
Trasi

**XR BRISTOL YOUTH**  
**AVF**  
**MALCOLM X**

## ADVISORY / PARTNERS

David Dravie-John  
Foluke Adebisi  
Kofi Mawuli

**AVF**  
**UOB**  
**XRISN**

# Event Reach & Participation

**8TH MAY** (The Global Black Experience of Ecocide and Resistance) - **7699** views across live platforms, 106 likes and 60 comments.

**16TH MAY** (Youth In Action) - **9011** views across all platforms, 131 comments and 40 comments.

**25TH MAY** (Women's Voices) - **7215** views across all platforms, 107 likes and 102 comments.

## Digital Platforms

YOUTUBE LIVE - XR BRISTOL CHANNEL

INSTAGRAM

FACEBOOK LIVE - XRISN - XR BRISTOL - AVF  
(AFRICAN VOICES FORUM)

ZOOM

# 8TH MAY

## THE GLOBAL EXPERIENCE OF ECOCIDE AND RESISTANCE

# Speaker's Panel

### **Esther Stanford-Xosei**

is a Jurisconsult, dynamic Pan-Afrikanist community advocate, specialising in the critical legal praxis of 'law as resistance' and internationally renowned Reparationist

POET - **Kabbo Ferdinand**  
**Lyricaly Justified**

Chair - **Chay**

### **Dr Foluke Ifejola Adebisi**

is a Senior Lecturer at the Law School, University of Bristol whose scholarship focuses on de-colonial thought in legal education.

### **Sauda Kyalambuka**

is a mother of four and a qualified Primary School Class Teacher and currently works for Venture's Trust at The Dolphin School. She has been a volunteer in her local community for over thirty-five years and currently volunteers for The Windsor Fellowship. She is a member of African Voices Forum for nine years, serving as its chair from 2012-2014.

### **Cleo Lake**

is the former Lord Mayor of Bristol (2018-2019) and was elected as a Councillor for Cotham (2016-2020) serving as Deputy Green Group Leader within that term and an MEP Can

# Speaker's Key Summary

Esther's work with XR and Stop the Maanagamizi: We charge Genocide and Ecocide! Gave us the fiery knowledge of how Afrika and Afrikans are suffering at the hands of the colonial elite that still work to exploit the continent.

Dr Adebisi shared her wisdom around how Pan-Afrikan thinking lends its self to a unified future for Afrika when tackling climate change.

Cleo rebutted the 'myth' that the black community does not engage with the green movement and that many people are already doing amazing work both in the UK and across the world.

Sauda gave a powerful perspective as a mother and teacher trying to educate others about the issues that effect young people today and that will effect them in the future. The talk had a huge impact garnering thousands of views across platforms.





Our 2nd question focused on how we can start to decolonise the debate around Pan-Afrikanism and Climate Change. All speakers agreed that that this starts with honest education. We must recognise the education system to tell the truth about colonialism, it's impact in Africa and the CEE. Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) at 1.5 degrees.

The first question of the night centred on how Pan-Afrikan ideology can be applied to the Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) that we, as a species are facing. We delved into how the Climate and Ecological Emergency was allowed to form on the very same foundations as racism and colonialism. Thus, the CEE is a product of colonialism and oppression.

Our final question was based around solutions- what can we do to halt the CEE whilst engaging the Pan-Afrikan Community? This question threw up many issues and what was clear is that, there is no single solution. Engaging with each other, educating ourselves and our peers and taking action, individually and as a society is needed to change the system and build a better world for all.

# QUOTES...

“There is a need for **Afrikan people to return to source** in order to resist the negative imposition that has sought to remove us from our way of life, and to resist the cultural domination imposed on afrikan people.”

“Decolonisation is repositioning our understanding of the world, **if the knowledge is wrong then we cannot reform.**”

“In order to decolonise our understanding of the climate emergency, we have to understand how knowledge is formed about people of African descent and, to understand the destructive nature that has been employed in the relationship between **humanity and nature.**”

“**The idea that you can lay claim to land is perverse,** which is the basis of which the global divide has been based on. The concept that land is only useful if it yields certain profits, has led to the destruction of the environment.”

“Pan-Afrikanism is a collective capacity and agency, it means **relearning our indigenous practice** and the relationship with the land.”

“We have to build institutions such as the Global Afrikan Peoples Parliament to build something that is **not Eurocentric and extend our connections.**”

“Real afrikan unity must be tied to the struggle that unifies Afrikans in the diaspora, with those in the continent through some **form of rematriation.**”

“**Partnerships** are needed to unite against the fight for climate change and we must put it at the heart of the agenda.”

# Outcomes

**Engage in a community outreach events and programs** to better understand one another's struggles.



Campaign to change the national curriculum and education system to include a **true depiction of British colonial history**



Combine environmental and social struggles to bring about an aligned movement for a **better future**

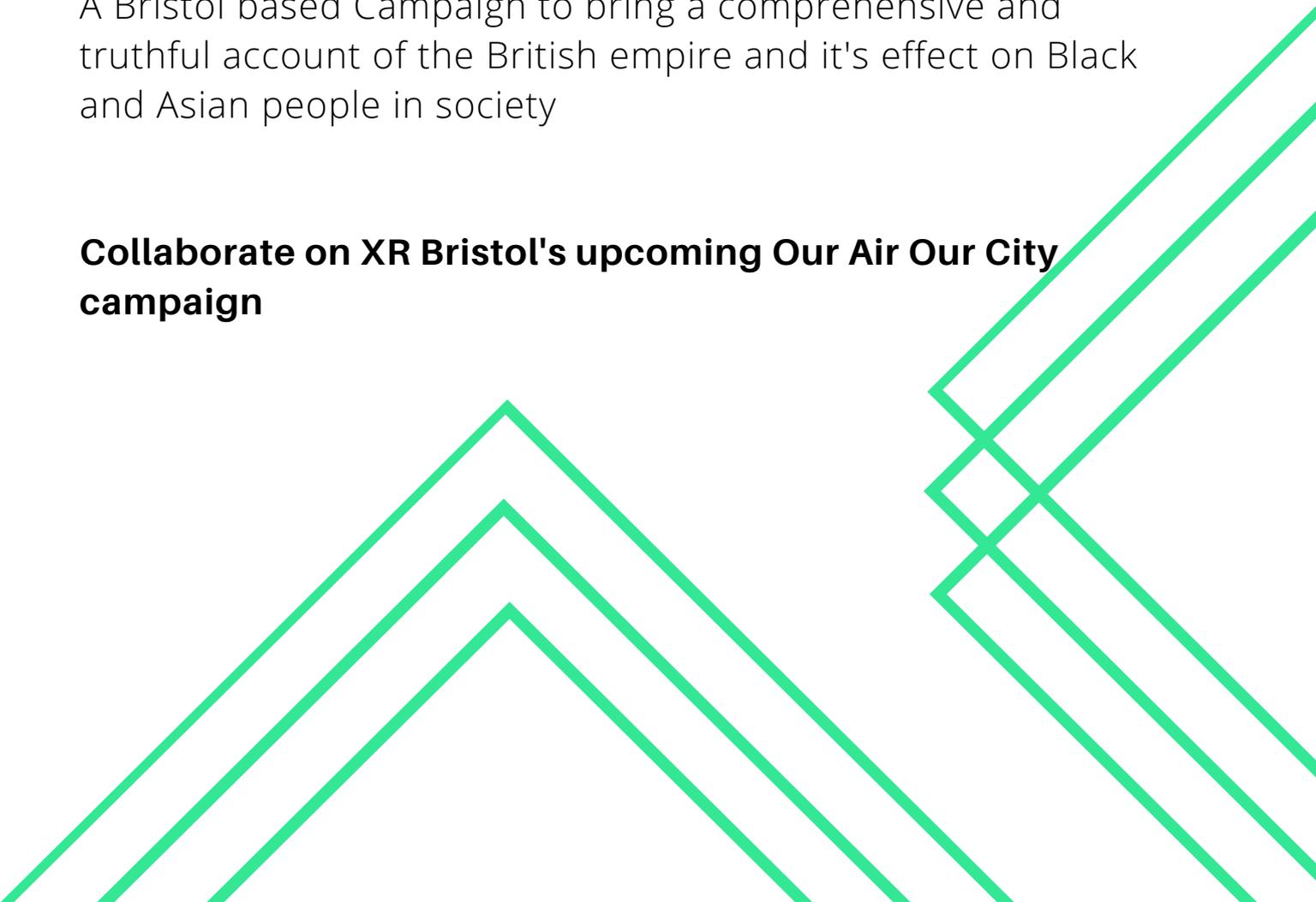
# IMPACT

We must decolonise the way we teach Afrikan history in schools, with a focus on colonialism and the impact of empire on our lives today. The Climate and Ecological Emergency can only be tackled by recognising that it is a product of racist systems designed to oppress Afrika and Afrikan peoples. We must all come together and unite against common enemies if we are to halt climate change and eradicate racism from our society.

## *Next Steps...*

A Bristol based Campaign to bring a comprehensive and truthful account of the British empire and it's effect on Black and Asian people in society

**Collaborate on XR Bristol's upcoming Our Air Our City campaign**



# 16TH MAY

## YOUTH IN ACTION

# Speaker's Panel

### **Steph (London)**

XR Youth Solidarity  
Coordinator and part  
of Students Stand Up  
To Racism movement

Chair – **Alejandro**

### **Dom (Bristol)**

A Sports Science  
Student and also  
a youth  
executive for  
Ghana  
Community  
Bristol.

### **Amy Chambers (South Africa)**

Activist for African Climate Alliance,  
and is a 15 year old climate activist  
from Cape Town, South Africa. She is  
an active member of the youth-led  
environmental organisation called the  
African Climate Alliance (ACA).  
ACA is a youth-focused affinity group  
which was founded after the first  
#climatestrikecapetown in March 2019  
in order to deliver dynamic, Afrocentric  
environmental action.

### **Sanyaolu Juwon (Nigeria)**

Youth lead CORE (Coalition  
for Revolution), TakeitBack  
Movement Campus,  
RevolutionNow Campaign. He  
is a writer, journalist,  
activist, social commentator  
and public affairs analyst

# What is the Role of Young People



- The role of people cannot be overemphasised! Young people make a difference and can shape the line of history and they have done this for generations:
- Professors older people have been knowing about climate change for a very long time and have spent decades researching millions of diff. ways to describe how terrible climate change is - it took young people in high school to take the streets and start a global movement that mobilised millions.
- Young people, particularly students, organised against military dictatorship in Nigeria so advent of democracy is owed to young people in Nigeria.
- Soweto Uprising in SA, was youth led movement that changed history.
- Young people in the diaspora have the role to bring to the forefront the existing movements of rebellion in the motherland i.e. Indigenous sovereignty movements
- It is duty of young people as well to empower other youth and educate each other about issues affecting their realities and set up an example for other youth - there is still quite a lot of young people who do not know about this issues or made to feel like they can't do.

# A

## Pan-Afrikanist perspective by Kofi on the role of the youth



Pan afrikan thought and action has been shaped very much by young people who knew what their role as far as their communities role was concerned - this is because traditional afrikan society with indigenous systems of education paid a lot of attention to young people to teach what their role ought to be. Rites of passage to train both boys and girls were critical to make young people aware of what their rights and responsibilities to their community were.

Fundamentally traditional African societies have seen the Role of young people as scouts, people who advanced. People who rooted in their community knowledge and who under the guidance of elders go forward and try to become the pathfinders of where their society should move on further - so the role of progress of pathfinders of progress in traditional afrikan society has always been for the young people and this is where the pan afrikan movement has tried to learn from and revive that traditional knowledge.

Pan afrikanism fundamentally is building afrikan unity across the world to tackle injustices that afrikan people face like afriphobia that set the mindset for genocide and ecocide that is perpetrated across the world and to reclaim afrikan sovereignty and control of our wealth from foreign plunder.

# QUOTES from Young People in Action...

“There are a lot of young people organising independently BUT there is a major problem of coordination we need to coordinate ourselves and strike collectively! **Young people must unite to strike the major enemy an enemy that is killing our planet** - there needs to be a coalition of organisations.”

“**We need to couple social and environmental fight to truly move on forward and engage more young people.**”

“**Need to make links to what is going home in the motherland to the youth in the diaspora** because when people realise how interconnected things are it makes people stick around in a movement!”



## **Inter-generational relationships?**

Some old people don't want to let go of their power and not letting young people take on leadership

While there are elders with a lot of knowledge and youth, sometimes old people disregard and don't respect or see any wisdom in youth and refuse to listen to what they have to say

**Young people need to be bold in confronting their elders about this and making themselves heard always with respect**



Inter-generational trauma plays a part on whether youth in the diaspora get involved in the struggle as often parents who are highly traumatised just want their kids to "carry on" - many parents just want their kids to "study go to university" (assimilation) which cuts all of the work of generations that have come before because you are just taking on the abuse.

**There needs to be healing of inter-generational trauma**



“

Old people are attached to the old system  
i.e. elections in UK reflected this and willing to stuck on their views,  
There is a lot of older generations can learn from the young

**Pan afrikanism challenges the racism of afriphobia** - as such  
older generations need to support young people in their own  
resistance

against afrophobic racism we can't get more afrikan heritage people  
engaged unless this racism is targeted and other forms of anti-black  
racism such as colourism

”

“

There is a lack of pride in identity in  
being “afrikan” due to afriphobia - which make  
young people ashamed of who they are  
and how - **inter-generationally parents need  
to reignite that love and cultivate and keep  
that afrikan identity and culture alive in  
their young.**

Young people can't do it on their own  
need support of older people i.e. older people  
said they would be lawyers and  
talk to young people and support them in their  
activism

”

# Outcomes

**Young people are “path-finders”** and as such have always been at the forefront of calls for change and transformation. As such, the role of young people in action to transform the world cannot be over-emphasised!



Traditional afrikan communities always valued the key role young people played as “scouts” in a society and this is something pan-afrikanism has sought to revive! **“Youth must be the spark”**



**Work with youth** to decolonise education system



**Young people face a number of challenges,**  
among them

**Feeling dis-empowered** and unable to make change and not feeling supported and respected by elders and parents.

**Intergenerational Trauma and Afriphobia**

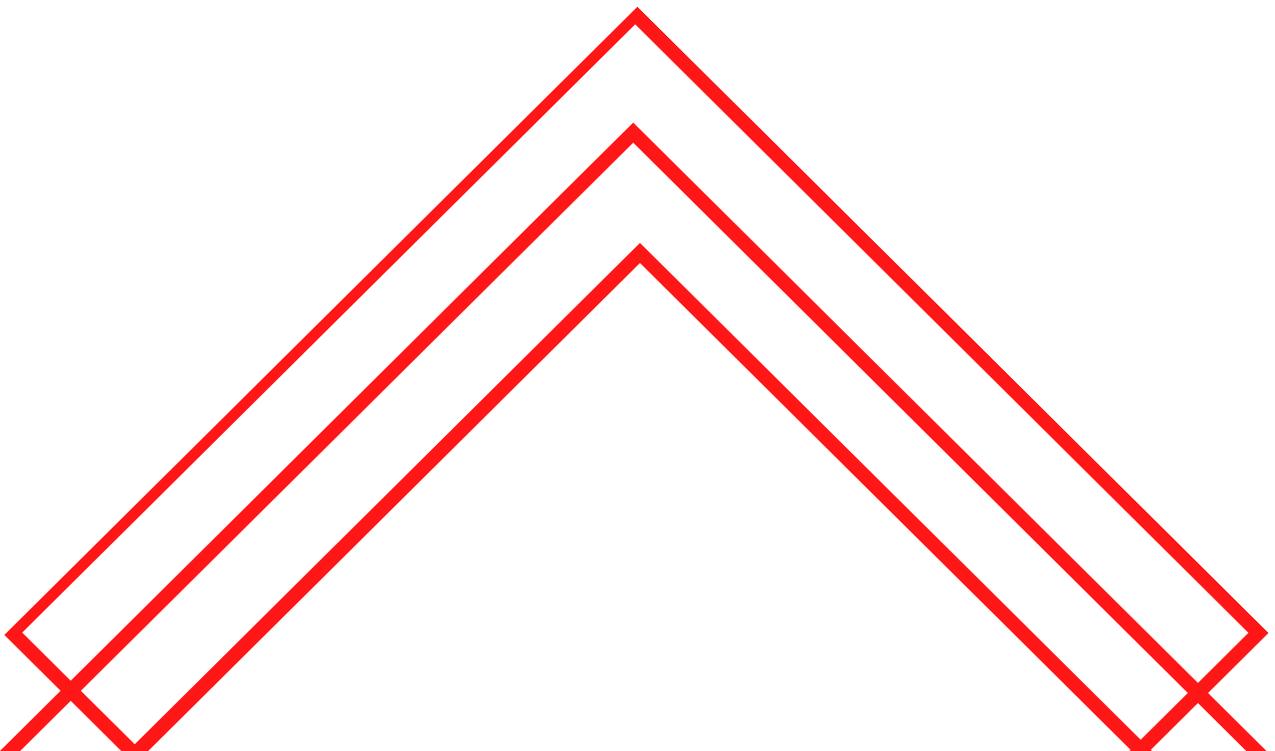
## How to engage more afrikan heritage youth in Planet Repairs?



First of all, its been mainly a **frikan heritage and global south people who have been and still are at the forefront of planet repairs**, however they are not seen or acknowledged by the media as the climate strikes in Europe have been.



**Support young people** in things they can't do because they are young i.e. financially, legal support + advice etc.



# 25TH MAY

WOMEN'S VOICES - INTERACTIVE  
CONVERSATION UNDER THE THEME OF PAN  
AFRIKANISM, CLIMATE JUSTICE AND  
DECOLONISATION OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

## Speaker's Panel

### **Sophia McKenzie**

Educationist in both  
primary and  
secondary schools.

POET - **Kabbo  
Ferdinand**  
**Lyrically Justified**

Co Chairs –  
**Peninah A-  
Kindberg** and  
**Donna Pinnock**

### **Zakiya McKenzie**

is a PhD student at the  
University of Exeter whose  
research explores literary  
archives to better  
understand Black British  
journalism in post-Empire  
Wind-rush Britain.

### **Tess Humble**

Climate change campaigner,  
Trustee of Project MAMA,  
which provides maternity  
support for  
refugees, asylum seekers  
and refugees.

# The Conversation



- In the first series of these events our speakers clearly articulated the principles that have informed the pan-afrikan ideology and the link to make increasing victories against capitalism, neo-colonialism, racism, and ecocide, we also talked about the various forms of resistance and how they have been used in Africa and beyond. In the Youth session we further explored what action or the role of young people are taking towards planet repairs as we are acutely aware that we are facing a climate crisis. Many experts point to 1988 as a critical turning point when watershed events placed global warming in the spotlight.
- The impact of climate change has been far worse in the global south , specifically in Africa it has manifested in various forms, epidemics, endemic diseases, drought, floods, agricultural pests and bush fires, but some areas are also susceptible to earthquakes, cyclones and volcanic eruptions, we saw this recently in East Africa where there has been a locust infestation - When heavy rains come in to saturate the desert, locusts breed like mad and last year Cyclone IDAI in Beira claimed just under 1000 lives and devastated 90% of the city. The projections are even grimmer if we go by the reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) at 1.5degrees.
- Today we continue our talk by hearing from women who are active not just within the climate justice arena but also within the Education sector. We have talked about decolonising the education systems that have contributed towards things like Afriphobia, and the continuing “Maangamizi” which is the Swahili word for Harm. Our youth panel shared some of their experiences last week which have left some lasting images in my mind. So I would like to introduce my guest speakers for tonight.

# QUOTES ...

“ I grew up in Jamaica where you have **sustainable thoughts** out of necessity.”

“ Border security programmes seek to close borders by casting refugees, and migrants are criminals in order to close the borders that the EU drew up in the 18th Century without the **consent of afrikan people.**”

“ **Young people are not learning anything that they can relate to** in terms of history, we have to become more active in our children's education.”

“ We need more **Saturday schools** to **re-skill our communities** and to understand our individual power.”

“The privilege of growing up in an **environment where everyone looks like you promotes empowerment**”

“It is important to listen to the people you are working with to know that **one size does not fit all**”

“**Cultural sensitivity is lacking in the education system**, schools don't think about the implications of culture as they can go ahead and put a schools sports day in the middle of Ramadan thereby excluding our Muslim communities”

“We have to move towards a **greater resistance to global imperialism** when it comes to climate justice and oppression”

“Being allowed to just be without worrying about **judgement, stereotyping, assumption and misconceptions** i.e. black men are not good fathers, it squeezes us and forces us to have to explain our way of life, our music, our clothing and how we express ourselves.”

“**Trauma comes out as anger** even in very young children which can be misrepresented as a bad attitude.”

“There are no spaces for us, featuring black women, **it is what we see and hear that shapes how we see ourselves**”

“In regards to inter-generational trauma – white people don’t talk about this in the mainstream UK about our human and community experience, there is a lot to be learned and **we all have to decolonise our minds in the West.**”

# Outcomes

In order to decolonise, we need to develop **culturally inclusive / environments in schools** – young people having voices in their school environment, empowering them to take the lead in a way that they understand as part of the decolonisation agenda both within Education and Climate Justice - Which partners can we tap into?



**Shaping Environmental Action** – requires a fundamental understanding of climate change and climate justice – enable a platform for those currently suffering from Climate injustice especially in the Global South

Utilising indigenous knowledge, decolonising our minds, reigniting our relationship with land and communities, greater resistance to global imperialism, giving voice to human security and prosperity. Can AVF and partners facilitate a regular platform for different communities to interact on the subject of climate justice. Collaborate with Black and Green Project Ambassadors



**On the Education front** - collective community action, taking responsibility for the emotional well-being of young people, recognising the power we hold within communities, challenging institutions. We can support the delivery of a more inclusive curriculum through partnership work such as One Bristol One Curriculum, Saturday Schools to empower our communities.

# *Next Steps...*

- DECOLONISING LANGUAGE PARTNERSHIP PROJECT
- MID SUMMIT CONFERENCE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT IN SPRING 2021
- MONTHLY AVF ONLINE MEMBERSHIP PLATFORM ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
- ESTABLISHMENT OF A YOUTH BUREAU
- PARTNERSHIP FORUMS ON RACIAL AND CLIMATE JUSTICE
- ANNUAL SUMMIT IN 2021 TO DISCUSS PROGRESS AGAINST THE THEMES

