



COMBATING RACISM IN THE 21TH CENTURY December 3, 2015

DPI, in partnership with the Sub-Committee for the Elimination of Racism of the NGO Committee on Human Rights; Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues; the AfroAtlantic Theologies and Treaties Institute/ATI; and the Psychology Coalition of NGO's Accredited at the United Nations hosted Combating Racism in the 21th Century. Its purpose was to commemorate 50 years of the Convention for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the launch of the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024). The program was webcasted and can be retrieved at [webtv.un.org](http://webtv.un.org/watch/dpi-ngo-briefing-combatting-racism-in-the-21st-century/4644549413001) (<http://webtv.un.org/watch/dpi-ngo-briefing-combatting-racism-in-the-21st-century/4644549413001>).

The program was structured as such:

MODERATOR

Corann Okorodudu

Professor of Psychology & Africana Studies, Rowan University;
DPI NGO Representative,
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues

PRESENTERS

Stephanie Franklin

Founder, President & CEO, the Franklin Law Group

Onaje Muid

Lecturer, Columbia School of Social Work

Dil Bishwakarma “DB” Sagar

President, International Commission for Dalit Rights

Manbo Dòwòti Désir

Chair, Sub-Committee for the Elimination of Racism
of the NGO Committee on Human Rights; NGO Representative, Drammeh Institute

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE

Salieu Suso

Kora player

Selected Bullets

The astute comments from the moderator and other panelists can be reviewed in their entirety by visiting the webtv archived presentation; here are some heightened points that drew my attention:

- Racism, Racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerances in all their insidious forms are human rights violations transmitted within and across generations and are manifested in cultural values, patterns, institutional and national norms and practices, in everyday behaviors in individuals and groups in all societies.
- Structural racism is the most profound and pervasive form of racism because it continually recreates old and produces new forms of racism, it is infused into the entire fabric of our society
- In spite of 50 years of ICERD, 4 UN Conferences on Racism, racism continues as a source of conflict in all regions of the world
- Black children in the fosters care system, as young as 1 year old, are receiving psychotropic medications as a human rights violation that has now been recorded by the United Nations due to one panelist research and view it as a silent form of murder
- Latino is a misnomer, it is used to denote both a race and ethnic group at various times, however in doing so, it politically disappears those who identify as Afro-Latinos and contributes to their oppression with regard to safety, survival, development or participation
- The UN has to create a transnational approach to black people worldwide
- The Dalit assertion is that their oppression must be understood as both racial and caste, therefore CERD should be used to combat both, and that the presenter was the convener of the first International Dalit Conference
- Subordinate groups must work together to for greater cooperation to offset conferred inherited (unequal) status but together we can knock the walls of inequality
- African peoples aspirations to enjoy human rights can be seen from two aspects, institutionalized movements and transformative resistance, here only the former will be discussed
- These four instruments: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, The International Convention to Eliminate all Forms of Racial Discrimination and the UN Declaration Against Racism was created to find space to breathe- we still need space to express our humanity
- Durban Declaration Plan of Action: A revised social contract is needed, it also
- Program of Activities: directed us to the development of policy, institution building, public awareness, special measures, for housing, education and other human needs are still required, Reparatory justice is require separate from but can lead to reparations
- Program of Activities Gaps: from the ephemera (historical memory of slavery) to the practical

Muid Remarks

- The United States has two contracts, the constitution as a social contract and the anti-social contract, according to Yusuf N. Kly, late founder of IHRAAM
- The anti-social is evidenced in all policies and practices
- Understanding the USA as a multi-national state will unmask the invisibility that oppressed nations suffer
- The International Decade for People of African Descent can be effective in advancing compensation, restitution and rehabilitation for Africa people who are due reparations
- All people should enjoy their gifts and talents, including African peoples
- The success of the Decade will depend of the actions that the people take

Note: With the short window between being asked to participate on the panel, and without the time to properly education myself about the IHRAAM HBCU Campaign, I was reluctant to discuss it on the panel due to the possibility of not being able to answer any questions sufficiently. With the intent of advancing the IHRAAM agenda, nonetheless, I asked, could the IHRAAM HBCU be place on the next phone conference call, which was accepted.

BACKGROUND

From 1997 to 1999 I enjoyed the pleasure of serving as the United Nations representative for the International Human Rights Association for American Minorities in consultative status with the United Nations. Thereafter I served as the United Nations representative for the Malik Shabazz Human Rights Institute under the auspices of the Admiral Family Circle Islamic Community. During the span of my service as a United Nations representative for both NGOs I visited the United Nations Headquarters in NYC for various conferences and meetings. One group that I established the most regular contact with, during and after my appointments was the Sub-Committee for the Elimination of Racism of the NGO Committee on Human Rights. My involvement, however, was somewhat restricted by my unavailability due to my full time professional commitment as a social work administrator for various behavior health organizations. In June 2015, I concluded my career as a social work administrator, creating a new pattern of availability and thus re-entered the United Nations system by rejoining and attending the regular Sub-Committee for the Elimination of Racism meetings. The chair invited me to join the Task Force for International Decade of African People 2015-2024 (TFIDAP) and submit a draft of a program of action. The program of action is a guideline for the public roll out that is under construction. The document isn't public as of yet and is asked to be held in strictest confidentiality. I elected to use Dr. Kly's rubic of social development as a base, and framed it as the Program of Action on Psychosocial Healing and Social Development. (That document is attached for your review.) My participation with the Sub-Committee, in addition to attending meetings, was also attending United Nations functions, such as the Confronting the Silence: Perspective and Dialogue on Structure Racism Against People of African Descent Worldwide, November 3, 2015. (Program attached).

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

Combating Racism in the 21th Century

The program, Combating Racism in the 21th Century, was strategic in creating a public forum for the International Decade for African People. Beyond the public significance of the event in promoting and educating the public about the Decade, it created an opportunity for networking. I was particularly gladdened by the fact that Dil Biswakarama Sagar, President of the International Commission for Dalit Rights was in attendance. Without question, IHRAAM's unconditional support of the Dalit people is long standing. I would like to gift him with the book, Dalit: The Black Untouchables of India. This connection is very much aligned with IHRAAM's mandate. Mr. Sagar is very much interested in learning more about IHRAAM and exploring projects of mutual concern. Additionally, all panelists expressed the desire to find out more about IHRAAM. The list of persons with their contact information will be forwarded under separate cover.

Sub-Committee for the Elimination of Racism

The Sub-Committee is gearing itself up to advocate for and advance the agenda for the Decade. The next phone conference is schedule for December 16, at 7pm. The chair wrote:

Good Evening All,

I am pleased to report the overwhelming number of Subcommittee members are available on the 16th of December at 7 PM for a conference call meeting. Guest speakers include writer and activist Kali Akuna and Jan Lonn. Both gentlemen were in attendance at the climate change talks in Paris. I have asked that they make a brief presentation about their experiences there, and that they share what the outcomes mean, in terms of our work as a SubCommittee/Committee.

The call-in number is [712.432.1500](tel:712.432.1500) code 974810#

An agenda shall follow. If there are specific items you wish to discuss, especially as it relates to rebuilding ourselves as a stand alone committee, please send me an email in advance of the meeting so that I might include it on the agenda.

Good weekend.

Dowoti

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As mentioned above, I requested that the IHRAAM HBCU Campaign be placed on the agenda for December 16. The phase I used was, if at all possible, I would like to be placed on the agenda to introduce the work that IHRAAM is doing to advocate for the right of education and the preservation of historically Black colleges. The chair accepted my request. After conveying that development, Chair Diana Kly forwarded the forth coming book on the campaign, which

will assist me in introducing the campaign to the Sub-Committee. It is my plan to invite Dr. Farid Muhammad to speak on the development of the Office for HBCU International Development (OHBCUD) in the near future.

IHRAAM

It is my contention that the body of Yusuf Kly's work (all his writings and books) must find their way into social work, and other curriculums, to launch a human rights centric social work profession. This is why I have altered my professional arena from direct practice as a social work administrator to that of the academy. In the Spring 2016, I will teach at Bryn Mawr Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research, Columbia University and Fordham University Schools of Social Work. As a human rights activist, my primary desire is to advocate for reparation by first interrogating what is needed for the ground work to understand the rehabilitation aspect of reparations. This however is not in contrary to the IHRAAM agenda to establish the OHBCUD, in fact, it is in support of it. What better place for an expanded curriculum of social development to exist other than HBCU? For the last ten years my research and program design work has been focused on healing historical trauma.

If it is the pleasure of the board to continue my status as a NGO representation of IHRAAM, I would gladly serve in the highest possible manner. If that appointment was granted, it would be my commitment to articulate and advocate for the IHRAAM priorities as the board establishes them. To provide the board with some information about me, I've attached a biographical sketch and my curriculum vitae. Thank you for my valued association with IHRAAM.

Onaje Muid, MSW, LMHC, CASAC, FLDC has a thirty year history of designing, planning, securing funding and managing community based organizations and community development

corporations. He is known for designing social justice centered and culturally relevant youth and adults behavior health agencies and initiatives in depressed, urban communities through the United States of America, including New York City, Chester, PA and Pittsburgh, PA. He has managed capital and operation projects and budgets well over twenty million dollars. The triple pronged career as a transformative social work administrator documents accomplishments in clinical practice, managing outpatient and residential youth and adult drug treatment centers; as well as teaching and advising at such universities as Columbia University, Temple University, and New York University schools of social work; finally also functioning as a human rights activist, he is formerly the International Human Rights Association of American Minorities United Nations representative, a NGO with consultative status. The triumph of his journey past the common barriers of urban entanglements is best represented in the recent conferred status as fellow, to the New York Academy of Medicine (November 2015). That award follows his achievement of being named the Mid Career Exemplary Leadership Award from the National Association of Social Workers-New York City Chapter (December 2014). His professional careers include a span from the performing arts, to engineering, to social work and finally community building. Onaje is a practitioner and social transformative visionary speaking and teaching at various conferences, gatherings and meetings on the healing of historical trauma, human rights and social development. He has built and maintained affiliations from the street level, like Men of Color in NYC, to that of the federal government, as a consultant to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). He is currently a member of the United Nations Subcommittee to Eliminate Racism, celebrating the Decade of African People (2015-2024). Other memberships include the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond, the National Association of Black Social Workers, and the National Association of Social Workers. He currently serves as the co-chair for the Diversity Interest Group for the College of Behavior Leadership and the Task Forces of Social Workers of African Descent (NASW-NYC), as well as board member to the SUNY-Stony Brook University, where he obtained his master's degree from their School of Social Welfare. He holds a license in mental health counseling, credentials in alcohol and substance counseling and one in family development. He is president of Muid and Muid Associates. Married to Fatima Hafiz, PhD, they enjoy eleven children and countless grandchildren in their blended family, contributing to better world through Sufi Healing Circles. He relishes his recent appointment as adjunct lecturer at Bryn Mawr College of Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research and Fordham University School of Social Work.

Respectfully Submitted

Onaje Muid

December 13, 2015