



Afrikan Peoples' Liberation Charter: An Action Framework

2012 Toronto, Canada

*Tiko Ba Si Igi Le Hin Ogba Ogba Ma Nwo**

We Afrikan people from all corners of the globe:

Supported and energized by our Divine Creator, our Glorious Ancestors and our loving, sacred Mother Earth;

Grounded in the knowledge, assurance and certainty of the strength, skills, assets, resilience, tenacity, self-reliance and historic achievements of Afrikan people;

Mindful of the negative impact of White Supremacy, Patriarchy and Capitalism;

Driven by a love for justice;

Empowered by the diversity, richness and limitless possibilities of Afrikans; have drafted this living document as the Afrikan Peoples' Liberation Charter: An Action Framework in which we declare:

- Our right to social, economic and political justice as residents of Canada.
- Our commitment to support plans, activities and initiatives in the public sphere that recognize and meaningfully address racism/racialization, heterosexism, gender inequality, economic disparity and income inequality, youth alienation and oppression and all other forms of exclusion and oppression as fundamental social determinants impacting on the health and well-being of the Afrikan community.

*** "If fence does not have props it will collapse" (Yoruba Proverb)**

- We recognize the intersecting identities and compounding impact of various forms of marginalization on Afrikan people, including race, national or ethnic origin, class, spirituality or faith, sex, gender, sexual orientation, age, mental or physical dis/ability (visible and invisible), immigration, family status, language capacity, region and identities arising from these, on Afrikan individuals' and communities' state of well being.

This Action Framework further declares that long term, integrated, social changes are required in our society to challenge and address the serious and persistent levels of income disparities, the inequitable distribution of wealth, as well as structural and systemic barriers in health, education, criminal justice and children and youth welfare. These realities disproportionately and negatively affect members of marginalized communities most especially members of the Aboriginal and Afrikan communities. Leadership in addressing these changes resides with public policy makers (including all those in public office), funders, the Afrikan community as well as those responsible more broadly for addressing social and economic issues in Canadian society.

This Action Framework exhorts all Afrikans and justice loving peoples to help break down persistent policy, financial, physical, organizational, attitudinal, and other systemic and structural barriers in order to promote and support the collective material, spiritual, cultural and communal health of Afrikans by:

- Working from an anti-racist and anti-oppressive framework, consistently challenging, deconstructing, questioning, exposing and disrupting all systems of oppression in ways that are consistent with the best principles and legacies of resistance and struggle amongst Afrikan and justice loving peoples. Addressing this matter of the abusive use of power must occur *within* the Afrikan community as well as *in the broader society*.

***P*ublic Policy**

Given the deep crisis currently faced by the Afrikan community in many critical areas (health, income/employment status, education, criminal justice, social service, children and youth in care), this Action Framework further calls upon all governmental and non-governmental policy and decision makers:

- To be consistently committed to the principles of accountability, equity, inclusion, and transparency in the creation and maintenance of an equitable, accessible and fully accountable educational, criminal justice, academic, health and social service system of support for the Afrikan community and all justice loving communities.

- To apply an anti-racism/anti-oppression lens to policy development, service delivery and the evaluation of all related services and providers.
- To support and promote funding for and provision of linguistically and culturally appropriate, anti-racism/ anti-oppressive, effective and meaningful services that are comprehensive, inclusive and accessible to all, and to provide accessible information (including linguistic access) about such services in order to ensure that we are all able to make informed decisions about our families and communities.
- To ensure equitable representation of members of the Afrikan community across the various institutional sectors, at all areas and levels of service delivery and decision making.
- To support and appropriately fund research which prioritizes and promotes collaborative, multi-sectoral and multi-faceted strategies and approaches that provide comprehensive responses to the diverse needs of the Afrikan community. This should be supported by research approaches that meaningfully involve members of the community Afrikan in all its diversity at every phase, and incorporates appropriate levels of funding and resource support.
- Given the current urgency within the Afrikan community, to immediately develop emergency federal, provincial and municipal initiatives in collaboration with the Afrikan community, to address the deepening social and economic crisis within the Afrikan community.

A Call to Action

- This Action Framework calls upon all Afrikans, supporters and allies to build on current community achievements and work by deliberately and collaboratively crafting an inclusive, coherent community-focused long-term strategy and approach to building individual, family and community-based capacity in order to defend, support and advance the best collective interests of the Afrikan community. *This approach should prioritize competent, visionary leadership, institution building and economic self-sufficiency.*
- As well, this Action Framework calls on all Afrikans in this time of crisis and challenge to creatively and tenaciously utilize all appropriate means to address our objective conditions and to do so with the best spirit and intentions of the *Nguzo Name* (Unity, Cooperative Economics, Collective Work and Responsibility, Self-determination, Faith, Creativity, Purpose and Respect). In this regard we support a collaborative, activist agenda which includes:

- Fighting for and protecting human rights – proper, safe and secure housing, meaningful employment, accessible and racism-free health care, high quality, equitable and anti-racist education and anti-racist children and youth support services.
 - Moving beyond the tyranny of capitalism, which has demonstrated a profound lack of capacity to address the needs of Afrikan people and other marginalized populations; especially the worsening economic disparities between members of racialized communities and others.
 - Assertively and strategically addressing state and community violence – freedom from state repression including police sponsored surveillance, police brutality of young people, over-policing of Afrikans, and significant racism at all stages of the criminal justice system in Ontario.
 - Struggling against environmental racism and for a clean and healthy environment. This includes the removal of hazardous waste, toxic chemicals and hydro electric wires from low income communities;
 - Supporting gender equality, women’s liberation and women’s right in all areas of personal, social, economic and political life. This includes addressing domestic abuse in the Afrikan community, supporting women’s rights in the workplace and the promotion of accessible, culturally appropriate health care for women.
 - Actively and publicly supporting those in the Afrikan community who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered as full, equal and valued members of the Afrikan community. This includes a commitment to aggressively addressing homophobia and transphobia in the Afrikan community and generally.
 - Advancing our support for full and meaningful Equity in Employment
 - Supporting all struggles of oppressed peoples for liberation and justice- the right of the Afrikan community and all other communities to be self-determining (*Kujichagulia*), to craft their unique path to progress and well-being.
- Also, this Action Framework supports a pro-active, long-term, inclusive, collaborative and activist approach (anchored in the best healthy Afrikan cultural traditions) to preserving the dignity, respect, self-reliance, independence and sovereignty of the Afrikan community. This means utilizing the very best ideas and approaches from the various strands of community activism- e.g. Black Nationalists, Africentrists, Liberation Theologists, Black Radicals, Muslims, Rastafarians, Traditional Spiritualists and all others who make up the rich diversity of Afrikan people.
 - Finally, this Action Framework locates all of the work and endeavors of Afrikan peoples in a broader Pan-Afrikanist context and tradition. This means that we stand in solidarity with Afrikans across the globe who are committed to the principles of liberation, justice, equity, anti-racism and anti-oppression wherever they struggle and build. We commit to offering material, political, spiritual and communal support however and wherever we can.