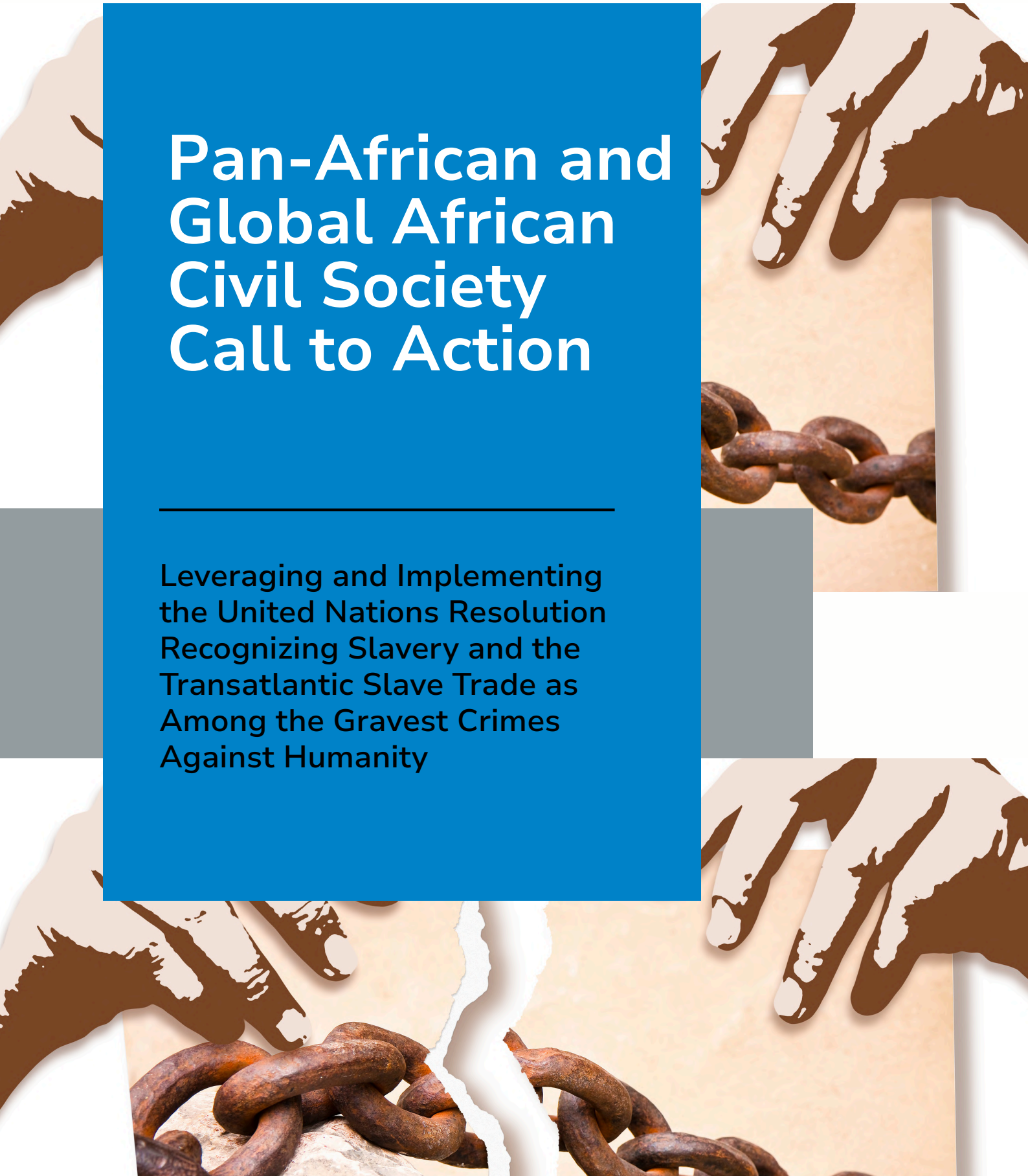
IJR
THE INSTITUTE FOR JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

Pan-African and Global African Civil Society Call to Action

Leveraging and Implementing the United Nations Resolution Recognizing Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade as Among the Gravest Crimes Against Humanity



LEVERAGING AND IMPLEMENTING THE UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING SLAVERY AND THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE AS AMONG THE GRAVEST CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

Preamble

We, African civil society organizations, community leaders, faith communities, youth movements, women's organizations, labor unions, traditional authorities, academic institutions, human rights defenders, reparation advocates, cultural practitioners, and citizens of Africa and the African diaspora:

Recognizing that slavery, the transatlantic slave trade, Indian Ocean slavery, Arab slave trades, colonial exploitation, and their continuing legacies constitute some of the gravest violations of human dignity in human history;

Acknowledging the enduring social, economic, psychological, cultural, political, and developmental impacts of slavery and colonial domination on African peoples and peoples of African descent;

Welcoming the growing international recognition of the need for truth, justice, accountability, remembrance, healing, and reparative justice;

Determined to transform remembrance into action and moral recognition into measurable policy change;

Call upon all sectors of society to mobilize for the full implementation of the United Nations resolution and related international commitments.



LEVERAGING AND IMPLEMENTING THE UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING SLAVERY AND THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE AS AMONG THE GRAVEST CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

Our vision

An Africa in which:

- The truth about slavery is universally taught and acknowledged.
- Survivors' descendants and affected communities receive justice and reparative measures.
- Structural racism and racial inequalities rooted in slavery are actively dismantled.
- Historical memory is preserved.
- Human trafficking, forced labor, debt bondage, child labor, and modern slavery are eradicated.
- Africa's development agenda incorporates historical justice and reparative transformation.



STRATEGIC PILLARS FOR ACTION

1. TRUTH, MEMORY AND HISTORICAL JUSTICE



We Call for:

- Establishment of national truth and historical memory initiatives.
- Creation of slavery memorials, museums, archives, and cultural centers.
- Protection and preservation of slave routes, ports, forts, and heritage sites.
- Digitization of historical records relating to slavery and colonial exploitation.
- Recognition of annual national and regional remembrance days.

Civil Society Entry Points

- Organize public history projects.
- Conduct oral history documentation.
- Produce documentaries, podcasts, exhibitions, and community archives.
- Support intergenerational dialogue programs.
- Partner with universities and museums.

STRATEGIC PILLARS FOR ACTION

2. EDUCATION AND CURRICULUM TRANSFORMATION



We Call for:

- Comprehensive inclusion of slavery, colonialism, reparative justice, Pan-Africanism, and African resistance movements in school curricula.
- Decolonization of educational content.
- Expansion of African-centered historical scholarship.

Schools and Universities:

Actions for Educators

- Review textbooks for historical accuracy.
- Develop local history modules.
- Integrate human rights education.
- Organize memorial weeks and learning exchanges.

Actions for Students

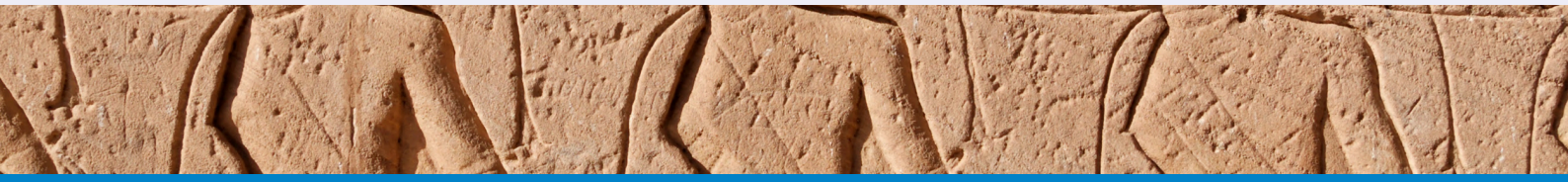
- Establish Slavery and Memory Clubs.
- Conduct community research projects.
- Organize debates and youth dialogues.
- Build links with African diaspora students globally.

Civil Society Entry Points

- Develop supplementary teaching materials.
- Train teachers.
- Create digital educational platforms.
- Publish youth-friendly learning resources.

STRATEGIC PILLARS FOR ACTION

3. REPARATIVE JUSTICE AND ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION



We Call for:

- National and international dialogue on reparative justice.
- Establishment of reparations commissions.
- Investment in communities most affected by historic extraction and exploitation.
- Debt justice and development financing reforms.
- Equitable international partnerships.

Civil Society Entry Points

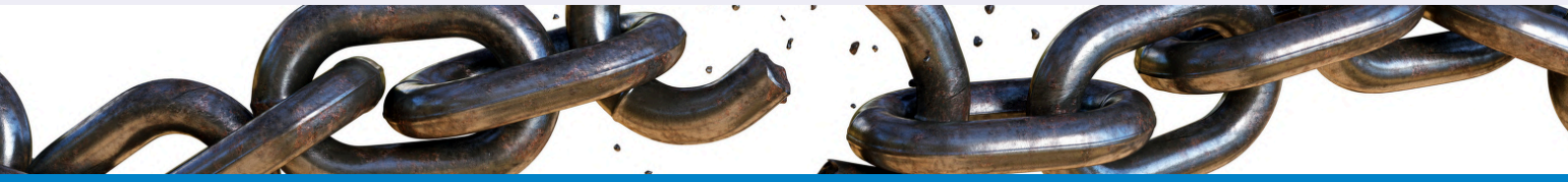
- Conduct research on historical and contemporary harms.
- Track reparations commitments.
- Develop evidence-based policy proposals.
- Engage parliamentarians and policymakers.
- Build Africa-Diaspora advocacy coalitions.

Priority Outcomes

- Educational opportunity funds.
- Community development funds.
- Cultural restoration initiatives.
- Land and resource justice measures.
- Investment in health and social recovery programs.

STRATEGIC PILLARS FOR ACTION

4. ENDING MODERN SLAVERY



We Call for:

- Stronger anti-trafficking laws and enforcement.
- Elimination of forced labor.
- Protection of migrant workers.
- Eradication of child labor.
- Corporate accountability throughout global supply chains.

Workplace Actions

Employers

- Adopt modern slavery policies.
- Conduct human rights due diligence.
- Audit supply chains.
- Protect whistleblowers.
- Ensure living wages and decent work.

Labor Unions

- Monitor labor exploitation.
- Educate workers on labor rights.
- Advocate for stronger labor protections.
- Report trafficking and forced labor abuses.

Civil Society Entry Points

- Community monitoring systems.
- Legal aid support.
- Survivor protection mechanisms.
- Independent labor rights investigations.
- Corporate accountability campaigns.

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5. COMMUNITY HEALING AND CULTURAL RESTORATION



We Call for:

- Recognition of historical trauma.
- Mental health and healing interventions.
- Cultural revitalization programs.
- Strengthening traditional knowledge systems.

Community-Level Actions

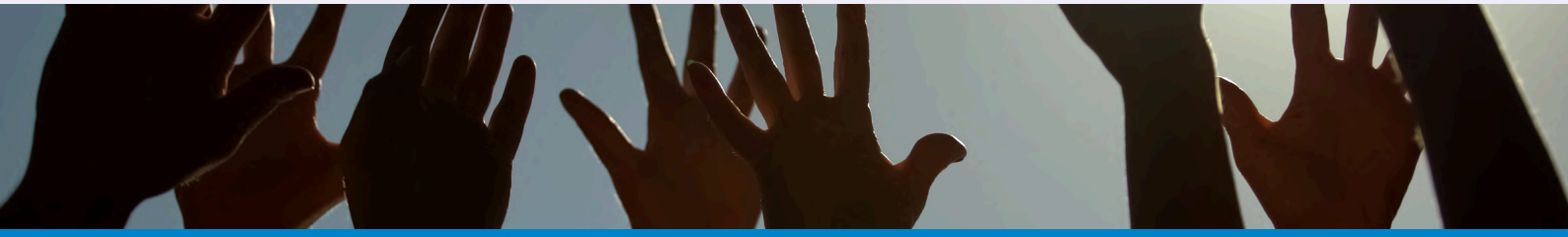
- Community dialogues.
- Healing circles.
- Cultural festivals and remembrance events.
- Heritage preservation projects.
- Storytelling and oral history initiatives.

Faith Communities

- Public reflection on historical complicity and resistance.
- Interfaith reconciliation initiatives.
- Support for healing and remembrance programs.

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6. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY



We Call on African Governments to:

- Develop national implementation plans.
- Create inter-ministerial task forces.
- Strengthen anti-racism and anti-discrimination legislation.
- Support historical research.
- Mainstream reparative justice into national development plans.
- Report progress regularly.

Civil Society Engagement Opportunities

Executive Branch

- Participate in policy consultations.
- Submit policy briefs.
- Request implementation roadmaps.
- Advocate for budget allocations.

Parliament

- Support legislative reforms.
- Organize parliamentary hearings.
- Establish caucuses on historical justice and reparations.

Judiciary

- Advance strategic litigation where appropriate.
- Promote access to justice for affected communities.

STRATEGIC PILLARS FOR ACTION

7. REGIONAL AFRICAN ACTION

We Call on

- African Union
- Regional Economic Communities
- African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
- Pan-African Parliament
- African Development Bank

To:

- Develop a continental framework for implementation.
- Establish an African Reparative Justice Platform.
- Coordinate a continental research agenda.
- Support member states through technical assistance.
- Integrate historical justice into Agenda 2063 implementation.

Civil Society Entry Points

- AU policy engagement.
- Civil society shadow reporting.
- Regional advocacy coalitions.
- Pan-African youth mobilization campaigns.

STRATEGIC PILLARS FOR ACTION

8. ENGAGEMENT WITH THE UNITED NATIONS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL ACTORS



We Call On

- United Nations
- UNESCO
- OHCHR
- UNDP
- ILO
- IOM
- UNICEF
- World Bank
- International financial institutions

To:

- Support implementation frameworks.
- Strengthen anti-slavery programs.
- Advance research on slavery's ongoing impacts.
- Expand support for education and memorialization.
- Integrate reparative justice considerations into development cooperation.

Civil Society Entry Points

At the United Nations

- Submit shadow reports.
- Participate in Human Rights Council processes.
- Engage Special Rapporteurs.
- Contribute to treaty body reviews.
- Participate in Permanent Forum and Decade initiatives.

International Advocacy

- Build Africa-Diaspora coalitions.
- Organize global campaigns.
- Participate in international conferences.
- Produce civil society implementation reports.

KEY CAMPAIGN DEMANDS (2026-2030)

1. Every African country should establish a National Action Plan on Historical Justice and Modern Slavery.
2. Slavery and its legacies should be incorporated into all national education curricula.
3. National memorialization and remembrance programs should be established.
4. African governments should support continental reparative justice mechanisms.
5. Modern slavery, trafficking, and forced labor should be reduced through measurable targets.
6. Annual reporting mechanisms should be established at national, regional, and international levels.
7. Civil society should be formally included in implementation, monitoring, and evaluation structures.



CALL TO COLLECTIVE ACTION

The recognition of slavery as one of humanity's gravest crimes must not remain a symbolic declaration. It must become the foundation for truth, justice, healing, accountability, reparative transformation, and the eradication of modern forms of slavery.

We therefore commit ourselves to building a continent-wide movement that links memory with action, history with justice, and recognition with transformation.

Nothing about the legacy of slavery should be decided without the participation of African peoples, affected communities, and peoples of African descent.

The time for remembrance is now. The time for repair is now. The time for action is now.

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