

## **Resolution Date: 9<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

### **Resolution Title: In support of reparations**

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The death of George Floyd in the US shocked the world and mass protests started across the US and the world against Police brutality and Racism towards Black people. The officers were all arrested and charged for Floyd's Murder. The UK is not innocent and tensions with the Black community has been rising during the Covid 19 Pandemic due to the Police stop and search laws. In June 2020 22,000 Black men were stopped and searched this is a quarter of Black males in the UK. Since 1990 1,731 people have died in Police custody with barely any officers being prosecuted or sacked from their role. The toppling of Edward Colston statue combined with the Government acknowledging the disproportionate deaths within the Black and South Asian community during Covid has led UK organisations and institutions to respond about their shameful role in the Transatlantic slave trade.

The Windrush scandal saw the Tories Draconian policies target people who were invited to come to help rebuild the UK after the second World War targeted by policies that saw them taken to detention centres for long periods of time or sent back to countries such as Jamaica and Trinidad which they had no connections to. The policies saw people lose their jobs, homes and access to services such as the NHS. Leading to deaths due to not being able to seek treatment. The Government held a review and did not bother to implement the recommendations until forced to after the Black lives matters protest started. A compensation group was set up by the Government to compensate people affected by the scandal. People have been paid a measly £22,000 which is unacceptable considering what was lost. Others have passed away before they could even receive a payment. The Government so far has paid out just under a million.

Reparations talks have been happening over the years from the European countries involved in the Transatlantic slave trade. This saw 12 million Africans taken away from Africa to work in plantations in Brazil, Caribbean and North America. The CRC on 19th June launched the Caricom 10-point plan for Reparations demanding that Europeans stop apologising for the slave trade and to pay the Caribbean 200 years' worth of Labour. The effects of slavery are still felt today in the Caribbean due to the lack of resources available in Education, Health and Technology. The CRC believe It is time the European Governments involved support the Caribbean development fund like the US does to ensure that the Caribbean can develop in the future. The CRC and Caricom leader the president from St Vincents clearly state they would like support from the African Union for the 10-point plan and to forge a working relationship between both unions through Trade and the Climate crisis.

The US have already started the process of making demands for Reparations for African Descendants. In January 1989 US Congressman John Conyers of Detroit introduced the Bill H.R, 40 Commission to study Reparation proposals for African Americans Act. This piece of legislation represents a crucial milestone in the long struggle for Reparations in America. John Conyers has reintroduced the bill in Congress every year since its release. The National coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N'Cobra) was formed in September 1987. The group is a mass- based coalition for the sole purpose of obtaining reparations for African Descendants in the United States. Since the launch of the Caricom commission in 2013 talks about Reparations have been reenergised which has inspired the creation of national African- American Reparations commission, the European reparations commission and similar groups in Canada and the UK.

In the UK British organisations and institutions made a lot of money out of the Transatlantic slave trade some were even formed in this period. The majority of them are Banks such as Royal Bank of Scotland, Barclays, HSBC and Lloyd's Banking group. The Brewery Greene King was set up by an apprentice called Benjamin Greene

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who was an apprentice with Whitbread brewing firm. Greene would go on to inherit estates in St Kitts becoming an absentee slave owner like many living off his Caribbean property. Greene would go on to become one of the 4,000 slave owners who were compensated he received £4,000 which works out to be £270,000 today for 1, 396 enslaved Women and Men in St Kitts and Montserrat. A number of Universities such as Oxford Oriel college and Glasgow University who has set up research fund with the University of West indies after pledging to support the Caribbean from the role they played in slavery.

The Unite housing workers branch can support the demands of the John Conyers January 1989 Bill by holding the organisations who profited from the Transatlantic slave trade to account by urging them to pay Reparations for their role. Encouraging members to lobby their MPs about the demands to spread awareness in Parliament so it can be debated and brought to the public's attention. Furthermore, the inequalities of slavery and exploitation has never been addressed, the continued exploitation of the developing world and propagation of racism under capitalism. The branch can play a role in this by having a motion in support of the John Conyers demands and how Capitalism and Racism have a role in this Racist system.

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