



GLOBAL AFRIKAN CONGRESS – NORTH AMERICAN REGION
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December 12, 2006

The Most Reverend Dr. Rowan Williams
Archbishop of Canterbury
Lambeth Palace
London SE1 7JU

Your Grace:

Re: ***The Church of England formal apology for its role in the British Empire Trade in Afrikans as slaves and the enslavement of Afrikans.***

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chair of the **Global Afrikan Congress (GAC)** to congratulate you and the Church of England for your recent acknowledgement of and apology for the sins and crimes that the Church of England committed against Afrikan people in the European slave trade and enslavement of Afrikan people.

The **GAC** is an international network of Pan-Afrikanist and Afrikan-centered organizations and individuals who are committed to building linkages and genuine and permanent relationships across the Afrikan world. We aim to mobilize the human, economic, political, spiritual and cultural resources of Afrika and the Afrikan Diaspora in the interests and to the benefit, of Afrika and her scattered sons and daughters. The governing body of the **GAC** is the International Working Committee that comprises representatives from throughout the Afrikan world.

The **Global Afrikan Congress** is encouraged by your leadership role and courage in taking a first step to right the wrongs of the past and urge you to take the next step, which is to advise the British government, companies and families, including the British royal family, to do the same and ensure that reparations and restitution for their participation in the crimes of the slave trade and enslavement of Afrikan people are made.

I am sure you are aware that one of the consequences of the European Transatlantic Slave Trade and the enslavement of Afrikans was the development of a white supremacy ideology and institutions to justify this idea. As greed could not be used to justify the crimes of the slave trade and enslavement, the worst crime in all of human history, the racist ideology was invented as an effective weapon in the arsenal used by Europeans to impose the indignity of subjugation and the pain of servitude and the churches, including the Church of England, played a critical role in these horrendous crimes. The **Global Afrikan Congress** urges you to issue a comprehensive statement, with immediate effect, repudiating the teaching of the racist ideology of the Church doctrine, and its historic and continuing catastrophic, effects on Afrikan people today.

We believe that without 'good works', your bold stance will disappoint those expect no more than expressions of regret. The **Global Afrikan Congress** would like to inform you that as the first phase in atonement, the Church must agree to payment of reparations to Black people for its crimes. As acknowledged by your statement "*we were directly responsible for what happened. In the sense of inheriting our history, we can say we owned slaves, we branded slaves, that is why I believe we must actually recognise our history and offer an apology*". We are proposing that the Church of England, under your leadership meet with a delegation of Black reparations scholars, activists and religious leaders to begin the process of this atonement.

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We believe that one of the most salutary means of repairing the enormous damage that has been done to us as Black people is the establishment of a University that would carry out research and provide teachings that would allow us, and all other Afrikan and Afrikan descendants, to appreciate and proclaim our suppressed and stolen history – the achievements of our ancestors, our heroes and role models, the past contributions of our people to the world– and that prepare us, as Blacks, to make the contribution that God intends we should.

Our “vision” is for a Place of Learning, second to none, where Black youth (and adults) can learn with and from one another; where strong and beautiful characters are shaped and where ideas and mechanisms are explored and developed for fostering a true integration of Blacks within the wider society and where the perfect foundation is laid for a peaceful and harmonious world.

Because of the role of the Church of England in instituting and continuing to support the historical wrongs against us and the Church’s present leadership position as an institution of conscience, we believe, and therefore, sincerely request that the Church assume the responsibility for raising the funds (estimated to be about USD\$100- 120 Million) for the establishment, equipping and operation of the proposed University.

We believe such an initiative by the Church of England will serve to remedy unparalleled wrongs perpetrated against our ancestors- wrongs that still hold us hostage. This initiative will be the logical and truly meaningful extension of that forgiveness for which your Grace has asked in partial atonement of the Church’s 16th century ownership of the Codrington Plantation in Barbados, its participation in the kidnapping and trafficking in Afrikans as cargo and the evils of the Transatlantic Slave Trade. The Church has joined in partnerships with the British government, military, companies and families including the British royal family in the 19th and 20th century colonization and exploitation of Afrika and Afrikans. We believe the Church has a sacred obligation to remedy the effects of the enormity of the evil it perpetrated.

Further, it would be fitting for the Church to embrace our suggestion since, as an institution that ranks among the third greatest power in the world, the example of the Church will have an inestimable impact in changing the perception of a very large part of the world (Europe) about “ordained” Black subordination and our place at the bottom of the economic, political and cultural ladder.

We would be honoured to work with the Church in this noble endeavour to begin to address the shameful legacy of one of the worst scourges in human history and look forward to your response. The Church of England’s sincerity will be measured only in its achievements and actions of atonement.

Please advise if you would be available for a meeting in London, England, during the last two weeks in January 2007. We would appreciate at least four weeks notice of your availability in order for us to plan properly.

Yours sincerely,



Cikiah Thomas
Chair, **Global Afrikan Congress**

Cc: **GAC IWC members**
GAC International Reparations Commission
The Most Rev. Dr. John Tucker Mugabi Sentamu
Archbishop of York
Attorneys David Comissiong & Roger Wareham
Rev. Dr. Chester A. Searles