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THE UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION

The Decade for People of African Descent

Vaughan African Canadian Association



- Programme of Activities for the Implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent
- The UN General Assembly proclaimed 2015-2024 as the International Decade for People of African Descent ([resolution 68/237](#)) citing the need to strengthen national, regional and international cooperation in relation to the full enjoyment of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights by people of African descent, and their full and equal participation in all aspects of society.
- As proclaimed by the General Assembly, the theme for the International Decade is "People of African descent: recognition, justice and development."



This Declaration was made to ensure that the lens would be turned to reflect the history, culture, trauma, legacy and spirit of African people from the Continent and throughout the Diaspora.

In the Past two years, numerous studies have been commissioned in Ontario and the GTA to collect data on the issues facing the Black community.

The Data shows us that:

Black student are streamed into Applied level courses at a higher rate than any other race in spite of their ability.

Black students are suspended and expelled at a greater rate and throughout high school are twice as likely to be suspended from school by the time they graduate.

53% of Black students were encouraged to take Academic courses compared to 81% of white students

69% of Black students graduated grade 12 compared to 87% of white students

Study by Carl James – York University (April 27, 2017 – Toronto Star)



Other issues:

- Police carding (being stopped while black)
- Police shootings
- Stereotypes
- Discrimination in hiring and promotion practices
- White Privilege
- Lack of funding and opportunities to succeed
- Black male students being targetted
- Lack of diversity in workplaces
- Lack of Equity & Inclusion training
- Need for Anti-Black Racism framework
- Lack of Black men and women on Boards', Commissions, Committees

- There are around 200 million people identifying themselves as being of African descent live in the Americas. Many millions more live in other parts of the world, outside of the African continent.
- Whether as descendants of the victims of the transatlantic slave trade or as more recent migrants, they constitute some of the poorest and most marginalized groups. Studies and findings by international and national bodies demonstrate that people of African descent still have limited access to quality education, health services, housing and social security.
- In many cases, their situation remains largely invisible, and insufficient recognition and respect has been given to the efforts of people of African descent to seek redress for their present condition. They all too often experience discrimination in their access to justice, and face alarmingly high rates of police violence, together with racial profiling.
- Furthermore, their degree of political participation is often low, both in voting and in occupying political positions.
- In addition, people of African descent can suffer from multiple, aggravated or intersecting forms of discrimination based on other related grounds, such as age, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, social origin, property, disability, birth, or other status.



- January 20, 2018 “Today is an important day for Canada. Our commitment to the International Decade will help us better address the very real and unique challenges that Black Canadians face, and bring us closer to a more just and inclusive country.” *The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada*
- Quick facts
- The International Decade for People of African Descent, proclaimed by the UN General Assembly resolution 68/237, began in 2015 and will be observed until 2024.
- The theme for the International Decade is “People of African descent: recognition, justice and development.”
- The objectives of the International Decade include promoting respect, protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of people of African descent, as well as encouraging a greater knowledge of and respect for the diverse heritage, culture, and contributions of these communities to society around the world.
- The Government of Canada also honours Canadians of African descent and their role in Canadian history and society through its annual Black History Month campaign.

Canada's commitment

- *Country Level (from UN homepage: Decade for People of African Descent)*
- Canada [has announced its commitment to the International Decade for People of African Descent.](#)
- Ottawa, Ontario - January 30, 2018
- The Government of Canada is committed to build a better, more inclusive country that recognizes the contributions of all, and creates better opportunities for more Canadians.
- The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, today announced the Government of Canada will officially recognize the International Decade for People of African Descent. This Decade, which spans from 2015 to 2024, is an opportunity to highlight and celebrate the important contributions people of African descent have made to Canadian society. It also provides a framework for recognition, justice, and development to fight racism,

THEMES FOR THE DECLARATION

- Recognition
- Justice
- Development
- Multiple or aggravated
discrimination

ONE CITY – ONE APPROACH

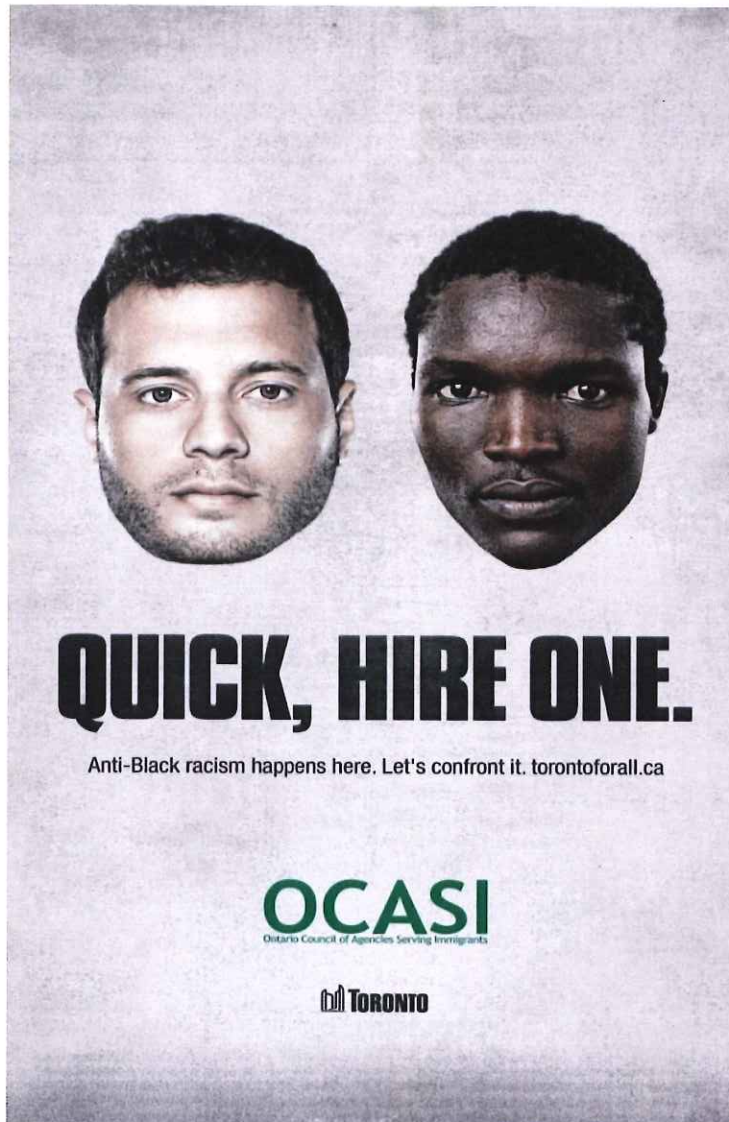
Mayor John Tory

- On December 5, 2017, City council will consider Toronto's Action Plan to Confront Anti-Black Racism, a five-year plan that aims to tackle the systemic racism the city's 200,000 citizens of African descent face in spaces like schools, police stations, and community centres.
- "Anti-Black racism exists in Toronto," writes Mayor John Tory in the plan's introduction. "I believe this is an important statement for the Mayor of Toronto to make."
- Black Torontonians, the document says, remain significantly more likely to be expelled from school, unemployed, incarcerated, or victimized in hate crimes.
- [More than half of GTA black residents say they've been stopped by police in public: report](#)
- [Black students in Toronto streamed into courses below their ability, report finds](#)
- [New book examines centuries of anti-black racism in Canada](#)
- The request is for nearly \$1 million in 2018 to begin putting the 22 wide-ranging recommendations, which address five areas, in motion.
- If adopted, it would see more money put into services and community centres in areas with larger black populations, a greater emphasis on diversity in the city's hiring practices, and a review of police training methods to prevent black Torontonians from being racially profiled and over-policed.

ONE CITY – ONE APPROACH

Mayor John Tory

- "We are experiencing those systems every day. When you talk to folks, you hear instance after instance of micro-aggressions, or being excluded," he said.
- The action plan is the final push of a four-stage process to address racism that began in 2016 with the Toronto For All campaign.
- Since then, the city has undertaken a review of 41 years of past recommendations and followed up with 41 separate community conversations about what the plan should contain.



Vaughan African Canadian Association – Deputation on the UN Declaration for People of African Descent – May 8, 2018

OUR CITY - OUR APPROACH

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