

Chair of RMT's
Black & Ethnic Members (BEM)
Email WatsonRMT0543@aol.com
Mobile 07956 133 450
Date: Monday the 13th July 2009

Greetings Comrades,

RMT's 3rd Conference on Reparation aim at Trade Unionist

I am writing to you, as a fellow Trade Unionist, inviting you to a conference for justice

In 2001, we sent a delegation to the UN World Conference Against Racism (WCAR) held in Durban South Afrika out of which came the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA) which declared Enslavement and Colonialism as crimes against humanity. Such crime has no statute of limitation and remedy must be sought, campaign for until obtained All nations signed up in 2001 for the DDPA except Israel and George Bush's US

In 2007, our Annual General Meeting passed a motion calling for a Reparation campaign and in the same year we held the first every annual conference on the subject by a UK Trade Union.

This year in April, we again sent a delegation to the UN's WCAR review conference, this time in Geneva where the Global community again endorse the DDPA calling for Reparation.

In 2001 there was a very large delegation of UK Trade Unionist in Durban South Afrika and another delegation, not so large this time, was also in attendance at Geneva in April 2009. Again, some nations walked out. Of those who walked out in Geneva, all were nations who were involved in enslavement, or who had profited from the enslavement of Afrikan People.

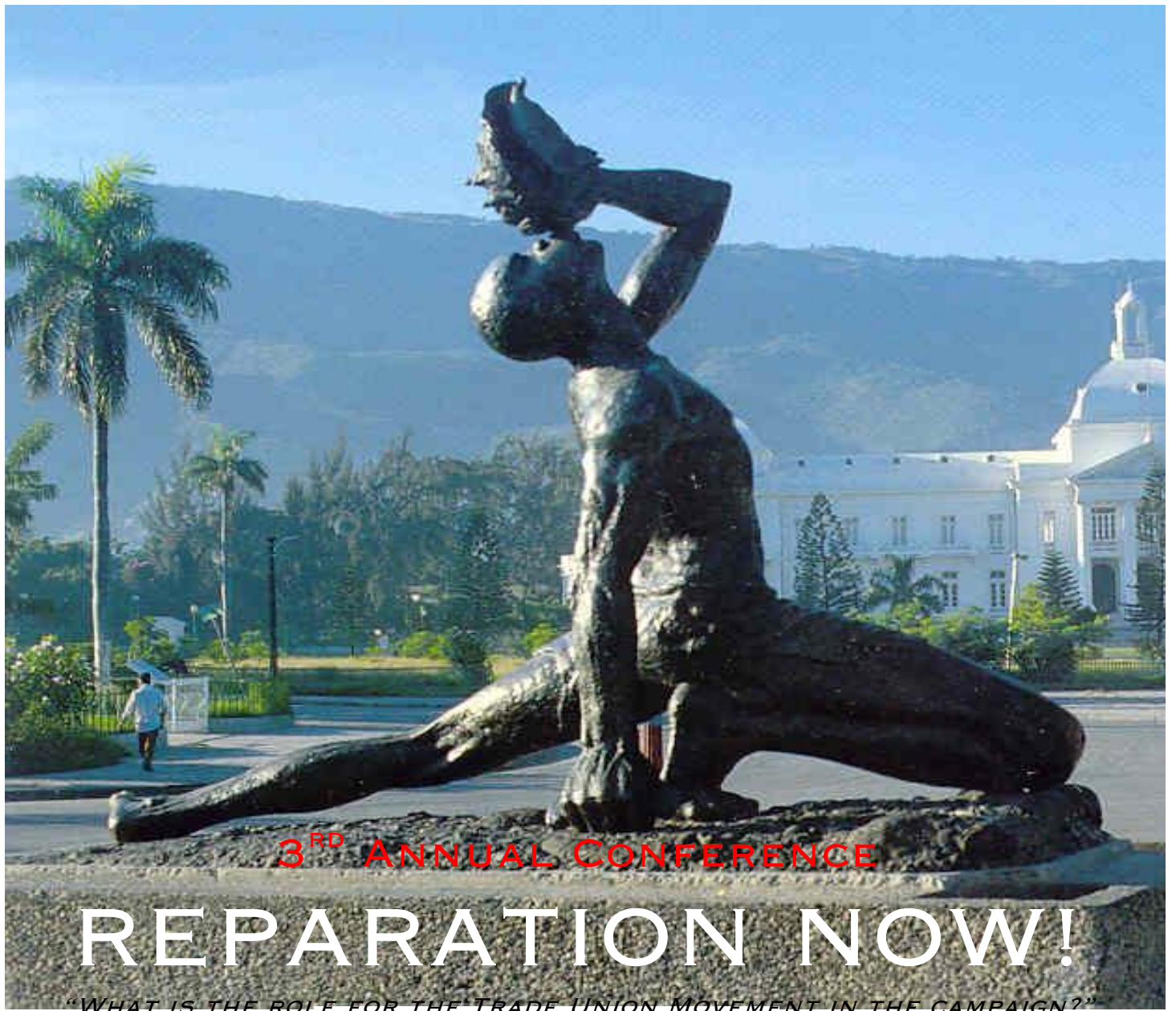
In this our third year, our conference will be in Partnership with RMT Affiliate GACuk (Global Afrikan Congressuk) and thanks to Bernie Grant's widow Sharon, also ARM (African Reparation Movement) and others we are hoping will also help with sponsoring the event. Union Lawyers Thompson have been invited and asked to providing a small social after.

Each year we also invite an international Speaker, who this year will be Saladin Mohammed a Trade Unionist with Black Workers For Justice (BWFJ) who is based in South Carolina. Our main aim is to galvanise all Workers, Black and white to recognise and help fight for justice on the issue of Reparation, not just for the injustice of the past, but for the effects which can be seen day to day on the shop floor in the form of institutionalise Racism.

We hope you can join us with a delegation from your union, and look forward to seeing you.

BEM Chair





3RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE

REPARATION NOW!

"WHAT IS THE ROLE FOR THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT IN THE CAMPAIGN?"



22nd August 2009

Saturday

1200 - 1600HRS

VENUE: RMT'S BOARD ROOM UNITY HOUSE
39 CHALTON STREET, EUSTON NW1, 1JD NEAREST TUBE KINGS CROSS

Keynote Speaker: Saladin Mohammed

ORGANISED BY RMT'S BLACK AND ETHNIC MEMBERS (BEM)
For more information Text 07535693770 or Email WatsonRMT0543@aol.com

MAKING THE CASE FOR REPARATION

When Chattel enslavement ended - not in 1807 as some would like us to believe – but in 1838, it was simply replaced by bonded enslavement whereby these same ‘freed’ Afrikans were force to work on the very same plantation from which they had been ‘freed’.

Worst still, the people who had for so many years been exploiting, brutalizing, raping and murdering them were compensated for these crimes, by the very same government who wanted to claim credit for their freedom. No Afrikan has ever been compensated!

For us, as Trade Unionist, the argument is very simple, if we put aside the vicious, inhuman and barbaric way in which Afrikan people were treated - but we must never forget it - Workers were not paid; Deferred wages “*getting lashes instead salary*”. When these wrongs were finally admitted, Afrikans were still not paid. Instead, the exploitation simply continued as another form of enslavement. **Nuff said! Case made?**

It would seem not!

This conference has been called to reflect the continuing effect that the enslavement of Afrikan people has had on the Black working class in particular and a global working class. In 2001 the UN World Conference Against Racism declared enslavement of Afrikan people a crime against Humanity. (you there Mr. Brown?) This means it has no statute of limitation and Reparation must be obtained. In February 2006, the Church voted to apologise to the descendants of victims of enslavement, recognising the damage done. **It’s a start, but is an apology enough?**

The Bank of England made capital available for ships voyages and the City became the financial centre of the trade in slave. Even the term ‘*being in the Black*’ was associated with when the organisation concern had ‘Blacks’ Lloyds of London insured slave voyages.

There were cases where Captains dumped their ‘*entire cargo*’ overboard because they had not stored enough food. They later won sizable claim from insurance companies. Alexander and David Barclay were ‘*slave traders*’ who operated in the West Indies, and later founded Barclay’s Bank with their profits. Likewise Sir Francis Baring had major financial interests in slavery. His family eventually founded Barings Bank.

Would an apology from the benefactors and descendant of the above be enough to indemnify the wrongs committed? There are countless examples of these benefactors still pedalling their wares of oppression globally, never proffered regrets.

Our annual conference is always held in August because in 1791, a brave group of Afrikans on the island of San Domingo rose up and fought against the heinous crime of enslavement. This was the richest and cruellest colony in the Western Hemisphere. More than one third of Afrikans died within a few years of being taken there. Led by Toussaint L’Ouverture they took on the then Super Powers of France, England and Spain and were victorious and in January 1804 they established the first free Afrikan state outside of Afrika, called Haiti. This tiny but power nation was broken with revenge attacks and reparation payment to France, to the point where today it cannot feed its own people.



Global Afrikan Congress



AFRIKANS BLOOD ENDED ENSLAVEMENT
ABOLITION OF THE SLAVE TRADE



AGENDA

1200 – 1600hrs

AFRIKAN Drummers OPENING CONFERENCE

12:05

Introduction & Welcome by Black & Ethnic Member's Chair

12:20

Setting the Agenda

Judy Richard (UNISON) Delegate to Geneva

12:40

History of Toussaint L'Ouverture and Haiti

Brother Omowale Afrikan Teacher

13:00

Keynote Speaker

Saladin Mohammed

14:00

C, Q and A (*Contribution Questions and Answers*)

15:00

Establishing structures and the work ahead

UNITING THE MOVEMENT BEHIND THE REPARATION CAMPAIGN

OPEN DISCUSSION: What are the legal Ramifications?



1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0