

PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT : JUSTICE, RECOGNITION AND DEVELOPMENT

A Journey through the UNOG Library Collection

Exhibition - UNOG Library – Door 20, 1st Floor

Organized in cooperation with the Working Group of Experts on
People of African Descent

“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.....”

(Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), Article 1)

“Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status”

(Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), Article 2)

Since the approval of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, the United Nations has been at the frontline of the struggle against racial discrimination. Through declarations, conventions, conferences, the establishment of international observances and other actions it has been able to achieve considerable progress worldwide, the greatest victory perhaps being the end of apartheid in South Africa in 1994. However, when the Third World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance met in Durban, South Africa in 2001, it had to recognize that many problems still subsisted. The Conference identified people of African descent as a specific victim group who continued to suffer racial discrimination stemming from the historic legacy of the transatlantic slave trade. It is estimated that 200 million of people of African descent live in the Americas and many more around the world. The Conference acknowledged that their human rights needed to be promoted and protected at the national and the international level.

Paragraph 7 of the Durban Programme of Action (2001) specifically requested “the [UN] Commission on Human Rights to consider establishing a working group or other mechanism of the United Nations to study the problems of racial discrimination faced by people of African descent living in the African Diaspora and make proposals for the elimination of racial discrimination against people of African descent”.

The Commission on Human Rights established the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent with resolution 2002/68. The Working Group is tasked not only with studying the problems of racial discrimination faced by the African diaspora, but also to make proposals to remove obstacles to their full integration and human development in society.

The Working Group’s proposal to establish an International Decade for People of African Descent 2015-2024 was approved by the General Assembly on 23 December 2013, by resolution 68/237.

This exhibition at UNOG Library retraces the efforts of the United Nations to eliminate racial discrimination and, through documents and books from the collection, it elaborates on the three topics the Working Group has selected as the main themes for the International Decade:

JUSTICE, RECOGNITION AND DEVELOPMENT

In the next pages you will find a selection of the works on display. A complete bibliography is available upon request (contact: library@unog.ch).

UN EFFORTS TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

MILESTONES

1963 - Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

1965 - International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

1966 - International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

1971 - International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

1973-1983 - First Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

1978 - UNESCO Declaration on Race and Racial Prejudice

1978 - First World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (Geneva, 14-25 Aug. 1978)

1983 - Second World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (Geneva, 1-12 Aug. 1983)

1983-1993 - Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

1993-2003 - Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

2001 - Third Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (Durban, South Africa, 31 Aug.-7 Sept. 2001)

2001 - International Year of Mobilization Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

2004 - International Year to Commemorate the Struggle against Slavery and its abolition

2011 - International Year for People of African Descent

2013 – Proclamation of the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024)

JUSTICE

Justice[for people of African descent] relate[s] both to remedies for past injustice for the individuals and nations that were victims of slavery and colonisation and the issue of contemporary discrimination in access to justice.

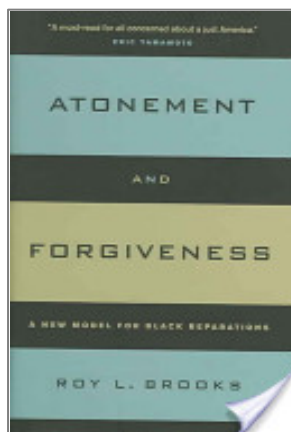
(Excerpt from the Report of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent on its 11th session, Geneva, 30 April-4 May 2012).



De l'esclavage aux réparations, les textes-clés d'hier et d'aujourd'hui / textes réunis et présentés par Louis-Georges Tin; ouvrage coordonné par l'association Sortir de colonialisme; postface de Patrick Farbiaz.

Paris : Les Petits Matins, 2013.

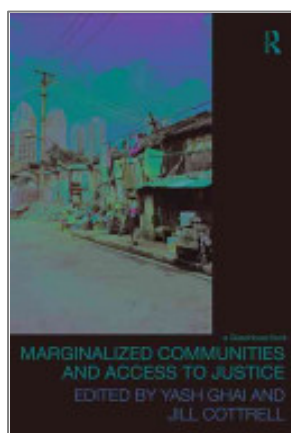
UNOG Library : 326 E743



Atonement and forgiveness : a new model for Black reparations / Roy L. Brooks.

Berkeley, Calif. : University of California Press, 2004.

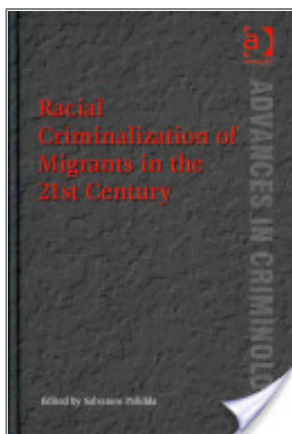
UNOG Library: 910.3(73) B873



Marginalized communities and access to justice / edited by Yash Ghai and Jill Cottrell.

Abingdon, England ; New York : Routledge, 2010

UNOG Library: 347.9 M328



Racial criminalization of migrants in the 21st century / edited by Salvatore Palidda.
Farnham, England ; Burlington, Vt. : Ashgate, 2011.
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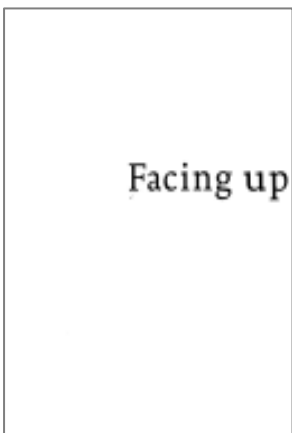
RECOGNITION

Recognition...relate[s] to the recognition of history and of past crimes, current inequalities and the role of the diaspora in global development.

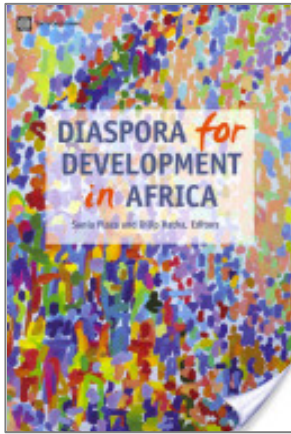
(Excerpt from the Report of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent on its 11th session, Geneva, 30 April-4 May 2012).



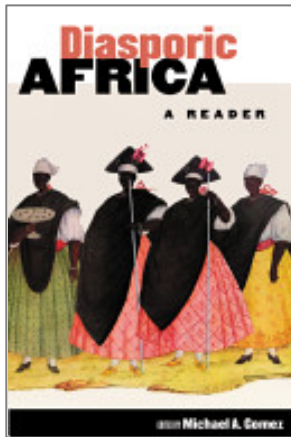
La chaîne et le lien : une vision de la traite négrière / directeur de publication, Doudou Diène.
Paris : Editions Unesco, 1998.
UNOG Library: UNESCO 326 C434



Facing up to the past : perspectives on the commemoration of slavery from Africa, the Americas and Europe / edited by Gert Oostindie.
Kingston : Ian Randle, 2001.
UNOG Library: 326(4:8) F141



Diaspora for development in Africa / Sonia Plaza and Dilip Ratha, editors.
Washington, D.C. : World Bank, 2011.
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Full-text available online

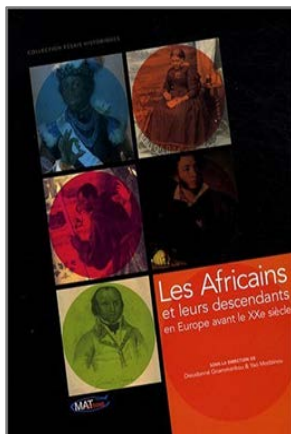


Diasporic Africa : a reader / edited by Michael A. Gomez.
New York : New York University Press, 2006.
UNOG Library: 910.3(6) D541

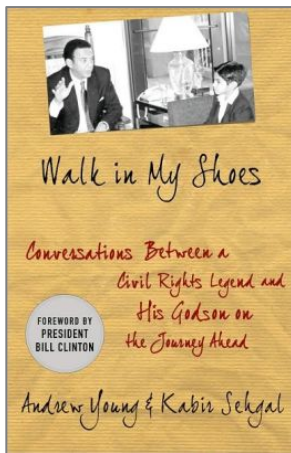
DEVELOPMENT

The draft Programme of Action...considers development for people of African descent in two ways. Firstly, the role that people of African descent have played in global development must be recognized both in terms of the contribution that the African continent has historically made... and continue(s) to make to the development of nations. Secondly, in a period of economic and financial crisis, a human rights-based approach should be integrated into all development activities where the realization of rights including the fight against poverty and access to education, health, employment and political participation are the goals of development.

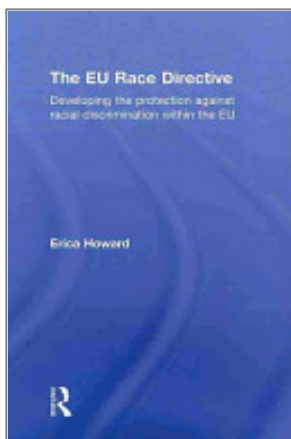
(Excerpt from the Draft Programme of Action for the Decade for People of African Descent, in: Report of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent on its 11th session : addendum)



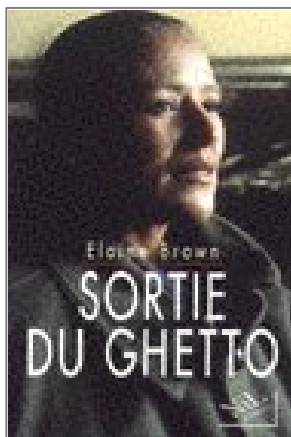
Les Africains et leurs descendants en Europe avant le XXe siècle : actes du colloque international, 8-10 décembre 2005, Maison de la recherche, Université de Toulouse-Le Mirail organisé par la Maison de l'Afrique à Toulouse (La MAT).
Toulouse : MAT Editions, ©2008.
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Walk in my shoes : conversations between a civil rights legend and his godson on the journey ahead / Andrew Young and Kabir Sehgal.
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UNOG Library: 341.1(73) Y685



The EU race directive : developing the protection against racial discrimination within the EU / Erica Howard.
London ; New York : Routledge, 2010.
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[S.l.]: NiL éditions, 1997
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