

Rastafari Movement *UK C.I.C*



Newsletter: Issue: 1 April 2015

STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIR *Ras Gabre Wold*

The Rastafari Movement UK is a frontline organ championing Reparation and Repatriation, two of the cherished aims of Rastafari. On Emancipation Day 1st August 2014 our ancestors walked with us united in this cause. The day marked a memorial of historical struggles to achieve parity with the nations and citizens of the world after the holocaust of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade (TAST). (See The March Report below.) Today the Rastafari Movement UK maintains the call for Reparations Now. While it was an awakening and the ancestors trod with Inl it is just one small step in the continual struggle for recognition and justice for Inl the African People (and in particular the Rastafari community) who still suffer under neo-colonialism to this day. Unity is the accepted goal and the rebuilding of Africa will not wait on Inl. Inl must put aside our personal differences as there are many obstacles ahead of us. The work towards repatriation will need Inl united efforts. Let us be guided by H.I.M Emperor Haile Selassie I and Empress Menen. We thank all who have assisted us to date. We welcome those with appropriate skills to join us in this immense task of recovery. ***The Hotter the battle, sweeter the Victory!***

"The tide that is sweeping Africa today cannot be stayed. No power on earth is great enough to halt or reverse the trend. Its march is as relentless and inexorable as the passage of time."

HIM Emperor Haile Selassie I (Selected Speeches, p.205)

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EMANCIPATION DAY MARCH

August 1st 2014 will long be remembered in the annals of Black British History. London exploded with colour, sound and vibration: the thunder of drums, green-gold-and-red flags and banners fluttering in the afternoon breeze, vuvuzelas, whistles, horns and the charismatic throng of chanting, marching African descendants filling the streets from wall to wall, stopping the traffic.

The unbelievable scene unfolded appropriately on Emancipation Day as thousands massed at Windrush Square in the heart of Brixton then took to the streets on a two-mile trek to Westminster. The aim? To deliver a petition to Parliament for



Reparation for the atrocities Africans suffered over a 400-year period at the hands of the British, and the knock-on effects that African descendants still endure today. The resplendent march stretched back for a quarter of a mile, with staggered groups of drummers on foot and individuals with loud-hailers leading the chants for "Reparations Now!"

Westminster has surely never witnessed such scenes, particularly under the shadow of the Houses of Parliament where the laws



Chairman of Rastafari Movement UK Ras Gabre Wold Speaks to the Masses in Parliament Square 1 August (Mosiah) 2014

that victimized millions in the cruel Trans-Atlantic Trade were enacted. The pigeons had come home to roost in a powerful peaceful protest that pointed a dagger at the heart of Babylon. This was indeed a day to remember.

The Rastafari Movement UK (RMUK), a small working group representing the major Mansions of Rastafari in Britain were responsible for the march. Working in coordination with a range of Pan-African organisations the RM UK staged a massive victory. On Emancipation Day some 65,000 signatures were handed in to Parliament, with an undisclosed figure in the tens of thousands still to be collected. The march rekindled the smouldering fires of Black identity and conscious protest in Britain. Give thanks for the Almighty blessings and guidance that secured this victory in the on-going war for African redemption. This was a stepping-stone and global reference point for greater things to come. **(RMUK Report)**



PUBLIC REPORT

On Thursday 16th October the RMUK gave a long-awaited report on the march at the Queen Mary University in Mile End London. Representatives of all major Houses and organisations who supported the march addressed the large gathering. The meeting concluded with animated feedback from sections of the audience. A lively debate continued in the university grounds at the close of the session.

"We encountered a sense of purpose, of dedication, of vision, which, we are persuaded, found its genesis in the common acceptance of the ideal of African unity, in the common response to the unique challenge which modern Africa presents to each of us, in the common crusade in which we are all enlisted... It is this spirit which will sweep us forward to final, conclusive, glorious victory in the struggle to overcome the obstacles which still remain before Us in the making of a united Africa. It is in this, We believe, that the real triumph of Africa lies today".
The Wise Mind of Emperor Haile Selassie I.

JAMAICA HIGH COMMISSION



Following the landmark Emancipation march RMUK was contacted by Her Excellency Mrs Aloun Ndombet-Assamba, High Commissioner for Jamaica, who commended the RMUK for their successful efforts.

A follow-up meeting was held on 30th October at the High Commission where RMUK members reasoned with Mrs Vivienne Siva, Community Relations Officer, concerning the plight of the Rastafari movement in Jamaica and repatriates in

Shashemane, Ethiopia. RMUK have also written to Jamaican PM Mrs Portia Simpson-Miller on these issues.

FAIRFIELD HOUSE



On Saturday 1st November RMUK Chair, Ras Gabre Wold addressed a full-house audience at Fairfield House in Bath, the former home in exile of His Imperial Majesty Emperor Haile Selassie I. The occasion was the opening of the 'Rastafari: The Majesty and the Movement' Exhibition, in tandem with celebrations marking the 84th Anniversary of His Majesty's Coronation in Addis Ababa. Imperial Envoy II Cavaliere Bonn opened the Exhibition, representing His Imperial Highness Ermias Sahle Selassie who joined via a live phone link-up from Washington DC.

"Today it is not only possible to meet, but also to evolve united action in all matters of common interest by the process of consultation..."
HIM Emperor Haile Selassie I
(Selected speeches, p.203)

NATIONAL NYABINGHI COUNCIL REASONING

RMUK made two successive presentations hosted by the Nyahbinghi National Council in Islington, London on **17TH November 2014** and **15th December 2014**. The first was an open reasoning among Rastafari Houses and representatives in the aftermath of the Emancipation march. The meeting aimed to dispel tensions and to air grievances that had arisen subsequent to the march, so that the spirit of unity could be maintained and consolidated for the future. The second meeting focused on CARICOM'S 10-point plan for Reparations. It acted as a pre-runner to RMUK's Consultation initiative and invited the community's response to the itemised agenda. Both gatherings proved fruitful in providing lively forums for discussion on crucial issues facing the local and international community.

RMUK FILM NIGHTS

Two successful Film Nights on 6th February and 6th March 2015 have been hosted to date by the RM UK at the High Trees venue in South London. Films focusing on the Rastafari experience in the Diaspora and in Ethiopia have afforded the community an opportunity to update awareness on the history of the movement and to contribute to informed discussions and projections for the future.

BIRMINGHAM INITIATIVE



RM UK has strongly supported the Rastafari Majesty and the Movement UK Committee's Birmingham Exhibition at the Drum and the activities surrounding the exhibition on Thursday 16th February and Thursday 19th March, the latter date featuring the first UK showing of a documentary by famed Rastafari activist **Ras Seymour Maclean – Gabre Menfes Kiddus**

Extract of letter to Africa Directorate from RMUK

(2nd November 2014)

"... We have carefully considered your response.....Your words of condemnation of this most horrendous and evil act against our Race are noted. However, words could never be sufficient in addressing the pain and disadvantage that we have inherited from the transatlantic trading and enslaving of our Forefathers. We are aware of the fact that our reparation includes repairing the damage done to our self-esteem.

As part of this process the RMUK has embarked on a programme of education for sustainabilityThe Community has made it clear that the lack of accountability and reparation is an acute wrong that continues to impact on our lives..... This cannot 'remain in the past' for us, who are compelled to live with the consequences in the present...

...Clearly, we do not expect the Government or yourself to view reparations in the same way as we do. We are also aware that the ruling mind-set is not one that is willing or prepared to right the wrongs that continue to be perpetrated against our Race. Our aim of raising awareness of how the Community feels has been achieved and we duly note and thank you for your response...."

A full version of this communication is available on request to Rastafarimovementuk@yahoo.co.uk

RECOMMENDED READING

“Historical Facts of the Trade of Enslaved Afrikans”

Available at a cost of just £3.+p&p

Email: Rastafarimovementuk@yahoo.co.uk

An important part of our reparation and healing is **education**. This involves raising awareness on different levels and examining the historical facts which have figured in the journey that have led us to where we are today.

The fact that millions of Afrikans were brutally kidnapped and enslaved is known universally. Yet, this horrendous fact and the consequences from it are rarely acknowledged, let alone addressed.

Because the offspring of the kidnapped Afrikans and their families that remained on the Continent live with the centuries of misery and pain, our Race continues to function below our natural ability.

Afrika is the birthplace of Mankind. As the first people we are naturally strong, resilient and blessed. For this reason we manage to survive the terrible atrocities that we have endured at the hands of outsiders. Not only are the people of Afrika continuously victimised, but the Continent is also under constant attack and pillage.

The RMUK recognises the need for those affected by the centuries of European brutality to address the issues of:

- what has taken place
- how it has impacted on how we see ourselves
- how we treat each other
- what we should do to address this huge wrong

As part of the RMUK Education and Awareness Raising Programme we are carrying out extensive research into the enslaving of Afrikans and the historical journey up to the present time. The information from our research is produced and available in our **Historical Factsheets**. The Factsheets provide comprehensive insights into the history of our journey in an accessible format. This is a vast subject, yet, it is important for us to know

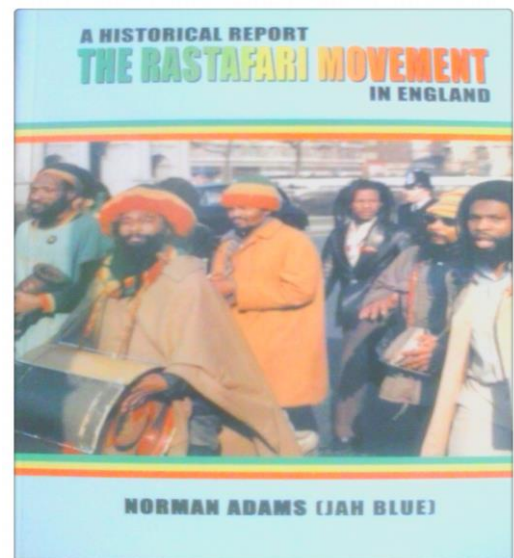
what has led us to where we are. This is an opportunity to be aware of the facts that have shaped our history and also to engage in further research as all materials used are referenced.

The RMUK will facilitate Workshops for discussions on this important subject. Whilst there are painful issues to deal with in the contents of the Factsheets, there is also the triumph of acknowledging that only the fittest of the fittest could survive the atrocities. We celebrate the fact that we are here and blessed.

The final page of Volume 1 of the Factsheets is a reminder of the substance that runs through our DNA. We salute our brave Ancestors. Lets us give thanks for life.

“A Historical Report: The Rastafari Movement in the UK” by N W Adams

(a.k.a Jah Blue)



Available from RMUK £15 +p&p :
Rastafarimovementuk@yahoo.co.uk

RMUK Official Emancipation Day 1 August 2014 DVD:

Email: for your copy. £12+pp
rastafarimovementuk@yahoo.co.uk



OTHER NEWS

RMUK has engaged in a range of international linkages with Rastafari organisations in the Caribbean, Trons Global in the USA, the Millennium Council in Jamaica, the Rastafari Community in Ghana and the Ethiopian community in Shashemane, in order to harness the combined resources of the movement in the cause of Reparation and Repatriation.

RMUK Mission Statement, Declaration and Position Paper have been sent to the Reparations Conference in the USA carded for 9th-11th April 2015

18th April 2015 RMUK facilitated an all-Houses and Mansions meeting "*Rastafari in One focussed Vision Aim and Destiny*"

25th April 2015 RMUK will interface with the West Midlands community as part of a nationwide programme reaching out to UK communities and consulting on the CARICOM 10 Point Action Plan.

Public Meetings will continue in the months leading up to August 2015 and beyond

1st August 2015 will resonate with global drumbeats for reparation and repatriation. A Community Awareness Rally in Kennington Park is now in the planning phase with Lambeth Council. For further information check

RMUKEvents@yahoo.co.uk

Late 2015: Plans are being set for a self-financed RMUK committee research project to Shashemane Ethiopia, later this year. More information on this initiative will be available in the near future.

"Where there is no vision the people perish"

Our Fundraising efforts are essential in this struggle. Your donations are gratefully received towards this revolution.

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