

LETTER FROM SALVADOR

REPARAÇÃO JUSTIÇA
DIREITOS REPARAÇÃO
JUSTIÇA DIREITOS
REPARAÇÃO JUSTIÇA
DIREITOS REPARAÇÃO
JUSTIÇA DIREITOS
REPARAÇÃO JUSTIÇA
DIREITOS REPARAÇÃO

2nd INTERNACIONAL CONFERENCE

Black Initiative for Rights, Reparation and Justice

December 5th to 7th, 2023

SALVADOR, BA





Salvador, September 7th, 2023

Letter from Salvador for Rights, Reparation and Justice

We excuse ourselves and hail this home named Salvador, Bahia.

Since 2015, Iniciativa Negra por uma Nova Política Sobre Drogas has been signaling that the war on drugs is not a war against substances, but indeed against certain people and territories that have one thing in common: the dark color of their skin. The same skin that is targeted by the State public security, also targeted by the consequences of a war that affects their access to rights, to justice and that refuses to repair the damage caused to the people and territories. Not that all damages are repairable. Look around, see the Mães de Maio, and so many other mothers that hold back their tears and turn the grief into fighting for the survivors of incarceration, incarcerated families, victims of the violence of the State and forced disappearances.

The impacts of this war are unmeasurable. Who stands to win and who stands to lose with it? The correlation between police brutality and repression in neoliberal or progressive governments has turned into a meeting place! But we know which bodies are afflicted. That is why we have gathered here, in the city of Salvador, at this second Conferência Internacional Iniciativa Negra por Direitos, Justiça e Reparação.

We, black people; people experiencing homelessness; cis and trans black women and travestis; cis, trans black men; non-binary black people; quilombolas; native and river dwelling communities; people from the countryside and from the forest; racialized bodies; are here. We, healthcare workers; cannabic entrepreneurs; researchers; activists and militants of social issues; people from the streets; from the terreiros and the most diverse religious expression; mothers; fathers; siblings; children and family members, are here. We, impacted by this war and a policy that is the axis of the globally structured contemporary capitalism, are here.

We face the daily reality of the projects for the marginalization and extermination of our lives. We, black feminists, decolonial in nature, penal abolitionists and intensely radical that have fought for a life of well-being are here. We will not fall back. We will intensify the networks, meetings, political action and creation starting from the global south so that the commitment to the defense of life, of our lives, is unnegotiable. We are here for that and we will not retreat a single step.

And, for that, by means of this Letter from Salvador for Rights, Justice and Reparation, we have elected fundamental goals for the defense of life, the assuredness of dignity and the promotion of peace.



A New Model of Safety

The drug policy of public security, be it in Salvador, Quito, Boston, Bogotá, Xamar, Montevideo or Praia imprisons and murders black bodies. It is not some mistake or a deviation, but a political project we must block starting with joint and active meetings and mobilization. But more so than blocking it, we need to create a new model based on conflict mediation, on the defunding of racist technology, such as facial recognition, as well as the funding the apparatus of repression and punishment in the promotion of access to Justice and Rights. We demand dignity, equity, respect to our autonomy and freedom.

Reproductive Justice

It is of urgent need to think about how the war on drugs and racism affect black parenthood. And that leads to reflecting on the number of black and native men and women in reproductive ages who are incarcerated, being excluded from exerting their living experiences fully. The punitive and repressive processes bring about direct consequences in reproductive health and in access to integral healthcare. The 110 thousand children with no father on their records in Brazil, in the majority, black, native, river dwelling and on the outskirts, are the direct responsibility of this war that determines not only who has the right to live, but also the right to be born.

Strengthening the public healthcare system, SUS, and the building of communitary, collective and popular models are urgent demands! And not only that. As the global network that we are, it is necessary to fight for assuring the existence of dignified healthcare, public and free for every single one in diverse contexts and countries. To live, live, and live!

Reparation and Reconciliation

We want full and total Reparation and a project based on the promoting of peace based on our intelligences and ancestrality. To resignify without forgetting where we came from and where we want to walk towards. We need to deepen the reflections on reconciliation, that being based on the responsabilization of the State and, with that, an overhaul of social relationships that allow for a dignified, safe and fair life for everyone, promoting the reinvention of methods for dialog and collective action.

Radical Self Care

We want to think of self care as the right to well-being and reparation. In the words of Conceição Evaristo that guide us: “we have agreed on not dying”. But we don’t want only to survive, we want to live life to its fullest. Radical self care must be absorbed by our organizations as self-preservation, self-defense, revolutionary praxis and political action. We are not inventing the wheel. We are proposing the return to

techniques developed by our ancestors, that consider our humanity wholly, assuring needs and holistic care for the health and vitality of our communities. The gathering of knowledge in the field of damage reduction needs to articulate itself with ancestral knowledge that historically organizes and manufactures prevention and other ways of seeing and experiencing the world. To rest is a right for bodies that have been historically expropriated and explored as a work force in a system where profits are stronger than life. We deny that. And we will use swing and sway as anti-colonial technology for world reinvention.

Communication of Causes




The media for mass communication has an important role in combating the current model of war on drugs. By reproducing stereotypes, the media supports the State terrorism that stigmatizes and endorses the massacre of our bodies. It is necessary to dispute and reverse those practices and models. Alternative media, outcast and from the outskirts are the spaces we must privilege and strengthen in our counter-colonial narrative dispute.

Audiovisual productions have an educational nature and, as such, responsibilities must be considered. The press must be urged to engage in the mapping of professionals, the sensitization of the environment for the agenda and in the promotion of staff that mirror the diversity of society. We want communication based on affection and humanity.

Our formulations do not end here. For three days, we have met to analyze the political scenario in the Americas and the World through the perspective of the Global South. During these three days we pondered and re-elaborated strategies, we hugged each other, we talked, we exchanged experiences and we took care of each other. For three days, we made this meeting a pulsation of strength, self preservation and recovery. And this is an act of war for understanding who our enemies are. Another policy on drugs is an emergency for our lives, for those living now and for those yet to come. And we will not give in. We are “beginning, middle and end” - Hail Negro Bispo! From here on out, forward, forever. Axé!

Event by:



 /iniciativa_negra
 /iniciativanegra
 iniciativanegra.org.br

Supported by:

