



Statement of Recognition of the UN International Decade for People of African Descent

CUPE Ontario recognizes the UN International Decade for People of African Descent.

In 2013, the General Assembly of the United Nations declared January 1, 2015, to December 31, 2024, as the International Decade for People of African Descent. The theme of the Decade is “People of African descent: recognition, justice and development”.

Given the existence of slavery in Canada, from the 16th century to 1834, and ongoing inequalities and injustices towards people of African descent, CUPE Ontario acknowledges the importance of this decade. This decade is an opportunity to celebrate and recognize the important contributions made by people of African descent to our union and society and to work towards reparations and justice.

Following consultations, a United Nation’s working group of experts drafted a clear list of recommendations to address structural barriers faced by people of African descent across Canada. These recommendations can guide us in our work as activists.

As a progressive labour union, we have a responsibility to act. The Anti-Racism Organizational Action Plan (AROAP) is one way that we will continue to do better. As a union, we can take concrete measures to ensure the full inclusion of people of African Descent. We can work to combat anti-Black racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and other forms of oppression.

No one is free until we are all free!