STOP THE MAANGAMIZI: WE CHARGE GENOCIDE/ECOCIDE! CAMPAIGN

Atonement, Reparatory Justice and Climate Justice for Africans and People of African Descent

The motion as submitted by Councillor Thirza Amina Asanga-Rae · Manchester City Council, Full Council, 25 November 2026, Item 10

This is the text of the Notice of Motion as submitted to Full Council and published on the Council's website, before the Labour group's amendments. For the changes the Labour group made, see the marked-up amendment; for the text the Council passed, see the motion as passed.

This Council notes:

1. The United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution A/RES/80/250 on 25 March 2026, declaring the trafficking of enslaved Africans and racialised chattel enslavement of Africans the gravest crime against humanity. The resolution was led by Ghana; the UK Government abstained.

2. At the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Antigua and Barbuda in November 2026, King Charles III expressed profound personal sorrow over transatlantic slavery and acknowledged its continuing shadow, without offering a formal apology or endorsing reparations. Regret without accountability leaves the UK Government's obligation to provide a remedy and reparation unmet.

3. Prime Minister Andy Burnham acknowledged Manchester's cotton industry was built on enslaved labour, supported dialogue about a possible state apology and proposed international debt measures, while rejecting direct financial reparations. The UN Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation, adopted by consensus by the UN General Assembly in 2005 and applying to all victims of gross violations of human rights, set out reparation as restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition.

4. Manchester's industrial growth and cotton economy were built on extraction from Africa: Manchester cloth was exchanged in West Africa for captured African people, whom enslavers trafficked to the Caribbean and the Americas to grow cotton for its mills. Under British colonial rule, that extractivism continued in Africa through the cotton schemes of the Manchester-based British Cotton Growing Association.

4a. These legacies continue in the anti-Black racism and inequalities African heritage communities in Manchester live with today, including Afriphobia: the specific form of racism directed at Africans, people of African descent and all things African, which the European Parliament, in its resolution of 26 March 2019 on 'fundamental rights of people of African descent in Europe', recognised as leading 'to the exclusion and dehumanisation of people of African descent'.

5. Manchester's African heritage communities have made substantial contributions to the city's cultural, social, economic and political life and hold the right to a remedy and reparation under international law.

6. CARICOM Heads of Government endorsed a revised Ten-Point Plan for Reparatory Justice in July 2026, encompassing historical accountability and development priorities. African heritage communities in Britain hold the right to a remedy and reparation in their own right. In General Recommendation No. 40 (August 2026), the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination called on states to establish independent commissions that include people of African descent and set out that participatory processes must be ‘State-funded and led by people of African descent’.

7. Africa and the Caribbean, made vulnerable by centuries of extraction, now face severe climate harm, from Cyclone Freddy in Madagascar, Mozambique and Malawi (2023) to Hurricane Melissa in Jamaica, Haiti and Cuba (2025). That extraction continues, as mining for minerals for the so-called green transition creates what the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment calls ‘sacrifice zones.

8. The Pan-Afrikan Reparations Coalition in Europe (PARCOE) has called since 2003, and the Stop the Maangamizi: We Charge Genocide/Ecocide! Campaign since its launch in 2015, for an All-Party Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry for Truth and Reparatory Justice (APPCITARJ) and a holistic approach to reparations informed by UN principles and African heritage communities' experiences.

9. The Stop the Maangamizi Campaign worked with councillors on earlier atonement and reparations motions in Islington, Lambeth and Bristol, passed in 2020 and 2021 in support of that call, and has requested a co-production role in developing a Manchester motion.

10. Manchester hosted the Fifth Pan-African Congress from 15 to 21 October 1945. Its eightieth anniversary in 2025 renewed attention to the city's place in the history of African liberation and anti-colonial organising. The Congress’s demands for an end to colonial rule and economic exploitation continue in today’s struggles for reparatory justice.

11. The Africa Reparations Movement (UK) took those demands forward in its Birmingham Declaration of 1994, which committed to ensuring ‘that Africa is restored to its rightful place at the centre of world politics’ and called for ‘a strong united front’ to overcome the harm inflicted.

12. The All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Afrikan Reparations was established in 2021. Its 2026 UK Reparations Conference ‘calls on the APPG for African Reparations to take all necessary steps to establish an All-Party Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry for Truth and Reparatory Justice’.

This Council believes:

1. Enslavement and colonialism were crimes against humanity whose consequences continue to shape economic and racial inequalities.

2. Manchester should examine and acknowledge both its links to enslavement and colonialism and its history of African resistance.

3. Reparatory justice addresses the specific historical and contemporary harms that peoples have experienced through enslavement, colonisation and dispossession, with repair defined by those who were harmed. It can include stopping harms that continue today, truth-telling and acknowledgement, the return of looted cultural objects and ancestral

remains, resourcing African heritage communities' own self-repair, and guarantees that the harms are not repeated.

4. Reparatory justice must be driven by African heritage communities' experiences, voices and perspectives, as Bristol City Council recognised in 2021.

5. Reparatory justice and climate justice are bound together. The cotton economy built on enslavement and colonialism made Manchester the first industrial city, powered by coal, so the harms done to African peoples and the climate crisis share common roots. Planet Repairs, the nexus of reparatory, environmental and cognitive justice, names the need to repair holistically humanity's relationship with, and inseparability from, the earth, environment and the pluriverse, beginning by stopping the extraction that continues today.

6. Manchester should build on the previous local authority motions in Islington, Lambeth and Bristol, which supported the call for a Commission of Inquiry for Truth and Reparatory Justice.

7. Manchester hosted the Fifth Pan-African Congress in October 1945, an important gathering of African and diaspora leaders who called for an end to colonial rule, racial discrimination and economic exploitation. As the city of the Congress, Manchester has a particular responsibility to support today's struggles for reparatory justice.

8. The UK Government should meet its obligation to provide a remedy and reparation to African heritage communities in Britain.

This Council resolves:

1. To acknowledge formally Manchester's historical economic connections to enslavement and colonialism and the importance of addressing their legacies.

2. To support the establishment of an All-Party Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry for Truth and Reparatory Justice through the APPG for Afrikan Reparations, as the 2026 UK Reparations Conference called for, and to call on the UK Government to support it as the mechanism through which it can meet its obligation to provide a remedy and reparation.

3. To request that the relevant Executive Member explore establishing a Manchester Reparatory Justice Working Group with African and Caribbean community representatives, reparations campaign formations such as the Stop the Maangamizi Campaign, historians, academics, cultural organisations and other stakeholders.

4. To request a review of existing historical research and educational resources on Manchester's connections to enslavement and colonialism and opportunities for improved public interpretation.

4a. To recommend that the Executive recognise Afriphobia as a specific form of racism in the Council's equality work, and to work with African heritage communities on how it is defined, recorded and addressed in Council services, employment and hate incident reporting.

5. To recognise the Fifth Pan-African Congress of 1945 in future educational and commemorative work, drawing where appropriate on the Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre and other local archives.

6. To invite the Stop the Maangamizi We Charge Genocide/Ecocide Campaign, alongside other Manchester African heritage and Caribbean organisations, to contribute to the development of this work, without prejudging the Council's formal decision-making procedures.

7. To encourage collaboration among local universities, museums, archives and community organisations on education, commemoration and recognition of African heritage communities' contributions and resistance. To call on Manchester institutions holding looted African cultural objects and ancestral remains to return them to the peoples from whom they were taken.

8. To recommend that the Executive take account of reparatory justice and Planet Repairs in the Council's climate action and procurement, including the sourcing of minerals in the goods it buys, and to explore cultural, educational and climate-justice partnerships with African and Caribbean institutions and communities, within existing Council powers and resources.

9. To call on the UK Government to meet its obligation under international law to provide a remedy and reparation to African heritage communities in Britain, and to engage constructively with the UN, African Union and CARICOM concerning reparatory justice, the revised CARICOM plan, debt and climate vulnerability. This includes supporting the repudiation of illegitimate debts rooted in colonialism that are claimed from countries in Africa and the Caribbean, and recognising that African heritage communities in Britain, as rights-holders, hold the right to development, which the UN Declaration on the Right to Development (1986) recognises as an inalienable human right of every person and all peoples, including through Afrikan Heritage Community Restituted Resources for their own self-repair.

10. To request that the Leader of the Council write to the Prime Minister and relevant Secretary of State communicating the Council's position, including its support for the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry for Truth and Reparatory Justice.

11. To invite the Commission, once established, to hold hearings in Manchester.

12. To request an update through appropriate Council scrutiny or reporting arrangements on progress and opportunities identified within twelve months.

This Council therefore declares

That Manchester, the city of the 5th Pan-African Congress, supports the establishment of a Commission of inquiry for Truth and Reparatory Justice.

Proposed by Councillor Asanga-Rae, seconded by Councillor Abdullatif and supported by Councillors Alam, Johnson, Tudor-Worrall, Wakefield