STOP THE MAANGAMIZI: WE CHARGE GENOCIDE/ECOCIDE! CAMPAIGN

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

The motion as passed · Manchester City Council, Full Council, 25 November 2026, Item 10

This is the text of the motion as carried, once the Labour group's amendments, accepted by Councillor Thirza Amina Asanga-Rae, had been made. It is reproduced word for word from the amendment as circulated, with the struck-out text removed. Where the deletions leave a sentence unfinished (beliefs 4 and 5) or a paragraph number missing, that is how the text reads.

This council notes the unique history of Manchester as a city which, through the cotton industry, derived wealth from enslaved people, while also playing a significant role in the abolition of the transatlantic trafficking of enslaved Africans.

This council resolves to bring communities together to acknowledge our shared history, learn from each other, and explore ways of educating, healing trauma, and finding paths to enhance our city in ways which do not exploit anyone.

This council further notes that:

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. Mancunians played a significant role in campaigns against the transatlantic trafficking of enslaved Africans, including documented events such as the huge crowd who attended the speech at Manchester Cathedral by the abolitionist Thomas Clarkson in 1787, and the mass meeting at the Free Trade Hall during the Cotton Famine in 1862, when working class Mancunians pledged support for the emancipation proclamation of Abraham Lincoln.

5. 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.

6. In October 2026 Prime Minister Andy Burnham acknowledged that Manchester's Cotton Industry was built on enslaved labour, supported dialogue about a possible state apology and proposed international debut measures, while rejecting direct financial reparations.

7. 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.

This Council believes:

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

2. Manchester should continue to 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,

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

7. As the city of the Fifth Pan-African Congress, Manchester has a particular responsibility to support today's struggles for reparatory justice.

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

This Council resolves:

1. To continue to acknowledge formally Manchester's historical economic connections to enslavement and colonialism and the importance of addressing their legacies. As will be documented in Town Hall visitor experience when it re-opens next year.

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 for Manchester with African and Caribbean community representatives, reparations campaign formations such as the Stop the

Maangamizi Campaign, historians, academics, cultural organisations and other stakeholders, the purpose of which would be to spread best practice, review existing historical research and educational resources on Manchester's connections to enslavement and colonialism and identify opportunities for improved public interpretation.

4. 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 Manchester City Archives, Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre and other local archives.

6. To encourage continued collaboration among local universities, museums, archives and community organisations on education, commemoration and recognition of African heritage communities' contributions and resistance. To highlight the work of Manchester institutions in restitution, co-curation and repatriation of looted African cultural objects and ancestral remains

7. To continue to review the Council's Climate Change Action Plan continue to monitor procurement, including the sourcing of minerals in the goods the council buys, and continue through Ward Climate Change Action Plans to explore cultural, educational and climate-justice partnerships with African and Caribbean institutions and communities, within existing Council powers and resources.

8. To call on the UK Government to continue reviewing its obligations 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.

9. To request that the Leader of the Council write to the Prime Minister to ask for further information on the next steps for the 'structured dialogue' he advocated in Antigua during November 2026 for a formal apology.

Proposed by Councillor Asanga-Rae, seconded by Councillor Abdullatif and supported by Councillors Alam, Johnson, Tudor-Worrall and Wakefield. Amended on the motion of Councillor Annette Wright, seconded by Councillor Leslie Bell. Carried as the substantive motion, 25 November 2026.