

Reparative Futures

Participant briefing • Discussion draft for reflection, refinement and co-creation

EMERGING PROPOSITION

Reparative Futures will mobilise the voices, relationships and collective social capital of legacy families to support governments, institutions and movements advancing reparatory justice across Africa and its global diaspora.

This paper offers a starting point for discussion. It does not present a settled programme or presume to speak for every participating family, community or movement.

A movement with deep foundations

The global movement for reparatory justice has developed through decades of advocacy by African states, Caribbean governments, civil-society movements, scholars, communities and people of African descent worldwide.

The 1993 Abuja Proclamation, the 2001 Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and the later work of the CARICOM Reparations Commission helped establish important Pan-African, international and Caribbean foundations. In 2023, the Accra Reparations Conference called for a united African and diaspora front to advance justice and reparations.

The African Union subsequently designated 2025 as the year of “Justice for Africans and People of African Descent Through Reparations”. Its objectives included developing an African common position, strengthening institutional mechanisms, collaborating with CARICOM and the diaspora, and integrating reparatory justice into wider policy. The AU has also declared a 2026–2036 Decade on Reparations.

A new international opening

On 25 March 2026, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Ghana-led Resolution A/RES/80/250 by 123 votes. It declared the trafficking of enslaved Africans and racialized chattel enslavement of Africans as the gravest crime against humanity and called for good-faith dialogue on reparatory justice and the prompt restitution of cultural property.

The resolution was championed by President John Dramani Mahama in his capacity as African Union Champion on Advancing the Cause of Justice and the Payment of Reparations. Its adoption marked a significant movement from historical acknowledgement towards international responsibility and constructive engagement.

In June 2026, Ghana’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs convened a High-Level Consultative Conference in Accra to consider how recognition could be translated into structured cooperation and action. Its agenda addressed legal strategies, transcontinental cooperation, government and civil-society collaboration, cultural restitution, the economics of repair, and the creation of advisory, legal and restitution panels.

Why legacy families matter

Many histories represented within the Africa House Legacy Initiative emerged from struggles against enslavement, colonialism, apartheid, racial oppression, political exclusion and economic extraction. Together, they connect liberation, Pan-Africanism, civil rights, peace and social justice across Africa and its global diaspora.

Legacy families may bring historical and moral credibility, public visibility, trusted relationships, intergenerational memory and an ability to connect movements across countries. Their contribution should arise not only from inherited recognition, but from their own commitment to responsible stewardship and constructive action.

The opportunity is not for legacy families to replace governments, affected communities, legal experts, commissions or organisations already leading this agenda. It is to stand alongside them—using collective social capital to strengthen, connect and amplify credible work.

Proposed purpose

PURPOSE

To strengthen the global movement for reparatory justice by mobilising the voice, visibility, relationships and intergenerational influence of legacy families in support of credible public and institutional action.

Primary functions

- **Collective advocacy.** Issue carefully considered statements supporting significant resolutions, policies, campaigns and implementation commitments.
- **Visible solidarity.** Demonstrate that families connected to liberation, Pan-Africanism, civil rights, peace and social justice stand behind the contemporary pursuit of repair.
- **Institutional support.** Use relationships and influence to strengthen the work of governments, the African Union, CARICOM, the United Nations, specialist commissions and credible civil-society organisations.
- **Convening and amplification.** Bring decision-makers, experts, advocates and communities into conversation and help important developments reach wider audiences.
- **Africa–diaspora coalition building.** Connect advocacy across Africa, the Caribbean, the Americas, Europe and other parts of the global diaspora.
- **Intergenerational mobilisation.** Engage younger family members and future Legacy Champions in carrying the advocacy forward.

The proposed Global Legacy Coalition

The Global Legacy Coalition is proposed as the advocacy and solidarity platform through which participating legacy leaders could combine their voices, relationships and social capital around agreed causes. It would sit within the wider Africa House Legacy Initiative and complement the governance role of the future Legacy Council.

Coalition participation would be voluntary. Membership of the Legacy Initiative would not automatically authorise the Coalition—or any individual member—to speak for every family, community or affected population.

What the Coalition could do

- Issue collective statements and appeals on significant developments.
- Support government, multilateral and institutional initiatives through advocacy and visible solidarity.
- Mobilise members around clearly defined campaigns and moments of action.
- Convene private or public dialogue between governments, experts, civil society and legacy communities.
- Amplify credible organisations already pursuing reparatory justice.
- Build relationships between African and diaspora advocacy networks.
- Open doors to philanthropic, academic, cultural and media partners.
- Participate in delegations to relevant AU, UN, CARICOM and governmental forums.

How collective statements could work

The Coalition would require a clear charter and approval process. Statements should be opt-in, evidence-based and issued only where collective intervention can add value. Early statements should identify the participating signatories so that institutional authority is built transparently over time.

Possible forms could include:

- **Coalition Statement.** Formally approved under an agreed voting threshold.
- **Open Statement.** Signed voluntarily by named Coalition members and invited supporters.
- **Joint Appeal.** Issued with a government, commission, institution or credible partner organisation.
- **Chair's Statement.** Used only within a narrowly defined and pre-authorised mandate.

SUGGESTED INSTITUTIONAL SIGN-OFF

The Global Legacy Coalition
Convened by the Africa House Legacy Initiative

Principles and safeguards

- **Complementarity.** Strengthen existing work rather than duplicate or claim ownership of it.
- **No assumed representation.** No statement should imply that all legacy families or affected communities have endorsed it.
- **Historical integrity.** Advocacy should be grounded in credible evidence, scholarship and lived experience.
- **Respect for difference.** African and diaspora histories are connected but not identical.
- **Independence and transparency.** Conflicts of interest, political relationships and sources of support should be appropriately managed.
- **Community participation.** Prominent families should reinforce—not displace—the voices of affected communities and established advocates.
- **Action with accountability.** Public commitments should be linked to credible next steps and reviewed over time.

Questions for the inaugural gathering

1. Is advocacy and solidarity the right primary role for Reparative Futures?
2. Where could the collective social capital of legacy families be most useful now?
3. Which governments, commissions, movements and institutions should the programme support or consult?
4. Should a Global Legacy Coalition be established, and who should be eligible to participate?
5. What approval threshold and opt-in process should govern collective statements?
6. Which issues should fall within—or outside—the Coalition's mandate?
7. What would constitute a meaningful and achievable first-year contribution?

Proposed next step

Following the gathering, Africa House could consolidate feedback, consult existing reparations bodies, prepare a short charter for the Global Legacy Coalition, identify an initial group of participating legacy leaders and test the model through one carefully selected advocacy action. Any formal programme proposal would then be considered through the Initiative's emerging governance process.

Selected reference points

[UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/80/250](#) • [Accra Proclamation on Reparations \(2023\)](#) • [African Union Theme of the Year 2025](#) • [AU Decade on Reparations 2026–2036](#) • [Ghana MFA briefing on Resolution A/RES/80/250](#) • [Accra High-Level Consultative Conference 2026](#)