

Africans Rising for Justice, Peace & Dignity

We are determined to foster an Africa-wide solidarity and unity of purpose of the Peoples of Africa to build the Future we want – a right to peace, social inclusion and shared prosperity.

#25May2017 Mobilisation Guide

Africans Rising is a peoples' movement committed to a decentralised, citizen-owned future that will build support and solidarity for local struggles, empower local leadership and immerse activists in the grassroots work of building social movements from below and beyond borders.

It is a growing and self-selecting collective of social movements, NGOs, peoples and popular social justice movements, intellectuals, artists, sports people, cultural activists and others, across the continent and Diaspora.

The process that started out as the *Africa Civil Society Centre* (October 2015), widened into the *Africa Civil Society Initiative* (May 2016) and since 24th August 2016 is known as *Africans Rising* is the result of a bottom-up series of on and offline consultations and dialogues between and amongst social movements, NGOs, peoples and popular social justice movements, intellectuals, artists, sports people, cultural activists and others, across the AU determined regions of the continent including the African Diaspora.

People who have given input to the consultation process agree that African unity reflected by greater social, political and economic integration is critical for Africa and its peoples – and a united civil society should be the vanguard of such a movement for justice, peace and dignity. A Validation Conference was held in Arusha, Tanzania at the end of August 2016 and the key consensus from that gathering included:

Unanimous agreement to use African Liberation Day (Africa Day) on 25 May each year as the apex organising moment and, to launch the movement on #25May2017 with a series of events and actions all across the African continent – rallying together as one Africa, to build peace, seek justice and manifest our dignity.

Why launch on African Liberation Day?

On 25 May 1963, leaders of thirty-two independent African states met to form the Organization of African Unity (OAU). By then more than two-thirds of the continent had achieved independence. At this meeting, the date of Africa Freedom Day was changed from 15 April to 25 May, and Africa Freedom Day was declared African Liberation Day. Since 1963, 25 May is celebrated and known as *Africa Day*. On this day, many African countries celebrate the hard-fought achievement of their freedom from European colonial powers. Yet today we note that most governments on the continent hardly observe this day since they know that it will ring hollow for many of our people across the continent.

This guide aims to help mobilise all Africans - grass roots organisations, trade unions, community groups, women's organisations, faith groups, youth groups, local associations, social movements, the media, and concerned individuals towards the launch of Africans Rising while reclaiming the vision behind African Liberation day.

The guide is designed to be easily adaptable for all members, partner networks and supporting organisations, to make it as easy as possible to get involved in this pan-African mobilisation. We aim to let our leaders know that we have had enough of this unfair and unjust system and we want to make clear our intention to work together, to build a new Africa.

Mobilisation colour

We have chosen Red because it symbolises the sacrifice and blood spilt by so many before us across the continent for our liberation from colonial rule; it signifies the ongoing bleeding of the wealth from the continent through illicit financial outflows and, the destruction of Africa's natural resources which benefits greedy corporations and a narrow economic and political elite on the continent who live like nobles, while the majority of people suffer the daily indignity of dehumanising poverty.

Red is also a reminder that irrespective of the country we call home; the religions we embrace; irrespective of who colonised us and, the languages we might use from that past, all of us have the same red blood.

We ask that people wear red on this day; and/or wear a simple piece of red cloth as a wrist band, arm band or head band. This will serve as unifying symbolic colour that unites the various peaceful mobilisations across the continent.

Tell us more about #25May2017

Broadly, we should aim to hold one of the most successful joint social movement launches on the continent. With millions of people wearing red (headbands, wrist bands, armbands or red clothing) and taking action all at the same time in Africa, we hope to be able to draw attention to what we stand for as Africans, demand the future we want, need and deserve.

The core goal will be to have shared actions that take place in all African countries and add up to an inspiring continental picture of millions taking the same actions together for the same big cause – Africa-wide solidarity and unity of purpose of the Peoples of Africa to build the Future we want – a right to peace, social inclusion and shared prosperity.

Secondly, we need to create high visibility for Africans Rising, both among the public and with decision makers, putting pressure on governments to become more accountable to commitments made on behalf of Africans.

Finally, we also need to ensure that the Africans Rising Launch helps to build the strength of our movement.

All of the above must be embedded in a process of building the capacity of all members to mobilise large numbers of people and secure media attention. All activities should also have a strong focus on ensuring that the poorest and most marginalised groups lead, shape and manifest the launch of Africans Rising.

#25May2017 Actions and Events

One of the key aims of the Africans Rising launch is to ensure that #Africans Rising inspires millions of African people to demand from the government good governance as they all work collectively towards common goals of peace, social inclusion and shared prosperity.

Action #1 Between 12:00 (noon) and 14:00

Gather in your group, club, movement, office or alone

Wear red or have something red on you or in the background

Read out the Kilimanjaro Declaration

Read out your list of demands

Stand up together to signify your intention to build a new Africa and say:

WE ARE A UNITED AFRICA. WE ARE AFRICANS RISING. FOR JUSTICE, PEACE AND DIGNITY.

Action #2 Between 18:00 (6pm) and 20:00 (8pm)

Gather in your group, club, movement, office, with your family and, friends

Wear red or have something red on you or in the background

Light a candle (the more people with candles the better!)

Read out the Kilimanjaro Declaration

Read out your list of demands

Stand up together to signify your intention to build a new Africa and say:

WE ARE A UNITED AFRICA. WE ARE AFRICANS RISING. FOR JUSTICE, PEACE AND DIGNITY

What are we asking for?

We believe the demands below are broad enough to allow all civil society organisations to use the launch to amplify their ongoing demands and should not be in isolation to ongoing struggles and campaigns for social, economic, environmental and gender justice.

The Kilimanjaro Declaration calls on all of us to:

Expand space for civic and political action

Defend civic space and grow public participation in decision-making

We demand an end to rigged elections and other electoral injustices

Defend democratic space and the rights of citizens to enjoy the freedoms of association, expression and assembly

Fight for women's rights and freedoms across society

End gender inequality

Stop violence against women and children and LGBTQI peoples

Focus our struggles on the right to Equity and Dignity

Put youth at the centre of public life and ensure that the leadership profile of our institutions reflect the demographic realities of our continent

Make Education accessible to all

We Demand decent work and a living wage for all labour

Take meaningful steps to reduce the immoral levels of inequality that exists in Africa and the world

We demand good quality healthcare for all

End maternal and child mortality in Africa

Stop discrimination of Africans living with HIV and other terminal diseases

Dignity for all physically challenged Africans

Demanding good governance as we fight corruption and impunity

We demand transparency as a foundation for national development

End the collusion between governments and business that allow illicit financial outflows from Africa

Demand climate and environmental justice

Turn the crisis of climate change into an opportunity by engaging in an African-wide energy revolution that powers our continent on clean, safe, affordable renewable energy

Stop environmental injustices and the degrading our climate and environment for selfish capitalist interests

Stop land grabs from indigenous people for mining and ensure fair access to land

Hashtags

#AfricansRising #25May2017 #AfricaWeWant #IAmAfrican

#EndInequality #EndImpunity

Our website is www.africans-rising.org

Read and pledge your support for the [Kilimanjaro Declaration](#)

You can email us at 25may@aficans-rising.org

Follow on [Twitter](#) | Post your pledge on [Instagram](#)

Join the actions and events on [Facebook](#)
