



## **CCUK MANIFESTO – 02/10/2020**

### **PREAMBULE**

Recalling that on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 1960, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) acceded to its “Flag and Anthem Independence” and until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020, this independence is still unfinished business;

Considering that 60 years later, the Human Development Index (HDI) for the DRC, in 2018, was evaluated at 0.459, which puts the country in the low human development category, languishing at position 179 out of 189 countries;

Observing that, although the United Nations (UN) has been involved twice in the DRC crises (1960-1964; 1999 – to date), spending huge amount of human and financial capital (20,000 UN personnel; around \$1bn/year), the country’s situation is worsening, with millions of people dead, and still dying, starving, being displaced or exiled, due to armed conflicts and human rights abuses, many of which are crimes against humanity;

Noting that the DRC is endowed with vast human and natural resources (around 80 million people, of which 60% is under the age of 25, 2<sup>nd</sup> largest rain forest, 3<sup>rd</sup> longest river, “incredible” and strategic minerals including 65 % of Cobalt and the largest Coltan reserve);

Recalling the contribution of UK individuals and institutions in highlighting and standing against King Leopold II’s atrocities;

We, the Congolese Community in the UK, have decided to publish this Manifesto to help the DRC achieve “true political, economic and social Independence”.

## **Actions for Congolese both in the Congo and in the Diaspora**

### **1. Training and Awareness raising about DRC History and the Dangers of Balkanisation**

- 1.1. Educate ourselves and our children about the wonderful history of the DRC as well as its current challenges, including low human development index and the risks of balkanisation;
- 1.2. Raise awareness of the current situation of the DRC wherever and whenever we can by organising regularly cultural events, training sessions and lobbying at the local, provincial, national and international levels;

### **2. DRC Cultural Identity and Ownership**

- 2.1. Acknowledge, respect and be proud of our national identity, languages and constructive values originating from all native people living around the Congo River basin;
- 2.2. Reclaim DRC rightful place amongst all the countries in the world;

### **3. DRC unity around constructive values**

- 3.1. Unite around universal constructive values such as: Peace, Justice, Work, Ubuntu philosophy, Empathy, Equity, Equality, Solidarity, Unity, Truth, Excellence, Respect for all human life and for the environment.
- 3.2. Cultivate a leadership of influence and change.
- 3.3. Denounce and reject anti-values such as: Egocentrism, Clanism, Tribalism, Regionalism, Sexism, Nepotism, Favouritism, Corruption, Laziness, Theft as well as Abuses of power, of human rights and of the environment.

## **Actions for the Congolese Community in the UK**

### **4. Integration, involvement, actions and professional training in the UK**

- 4.1. Transform the CCUK (Congolese Community in the UK) into a legal entity whose main objective would be to promote the integration and participation of Congolese in the UK society as well as to lobby for the DRC.
- 4.2. Establish a "Congo-UK Celebration Day", in May of each year, to commemorate the presence of the first Congolese in the UK (Colwyn Bay), whose beautiful gospel singing raised the necessary funds for the creation of the "Congo and African Institute of Wales" (1896 -1912).
- 4.3. Celebrate "Congo Week" each year, in October, during the UK Black History month, by organising the London International Conference on the DRC to promote its history, culture, politics, economics, etc
- 4.4. Promote the organisation of free, fair and democratic elections in the DRC with experts/observers from the DRC or the Congolese UK diaspora trained in the UK.
- 4.5. Encourage the study and practice of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects at all levels.
- 4.6. Support practical projects to help human, socio-economic, cultural and environmental development in the UK or in the DRC.
- 4.7. Lobby the UK Government to weigh in, as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, for a political will in ensuring the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions that meet the expectations of the population and are in the interests of DRC's sovereignty.
- 4.8. Motivate Congolese to get involved in the political, socio-economic, cultural and academic life of the host country with a view to gaining experience and expertise.

## **Actions for DRC local & national authorities and political actors**

### **5. DRC National Integrity**

- 5.1. End the selling of Congolese land to the detriment of the National Interest or in violation of the DRC constitution and laws.
- 5.2. Promote good governance in national institutions (the Presidency, the National Assembly, the Senate, the Courts and Tribunals, etc.) that respects and applies the laws according to the DRC constitution and the population's legitimate expectations.
- 5.3. Lobby for the construction of transport infrastructures in order to integrate all the provinces of the DRC.

### **6. DRC Public Institutions**

- 6.1. Reform the electoral law in order to have credible, responsible and conscientious candidates and political parties with programmes that meet the expectations of their constituencies.
- 6.2. Ensure the organisation of free, fair, transparent and democratic elections at all levels, starting from the local, provincial and national parliaments to the presidency.

### **7. Demilitarisation and End of Violence in the DRC**

- 7.1. Demilitarise cities and build military camps away from urban centres to enable the army to be professional, impartial and non-political, serving the country instead of individuals;
- 7.2. Demilitarise and reform the police and security services according to the prescriptions of the DRC constitution and make them closer to the population as agents of public order and not forces of oppression.

### **8. Lobby for the DRC at International Level**

- 8.1. Be present on the international diplomatic scene; Settle arrears and pay contributions to international institutions; Pay diplomats' wages; Promote professionalism in the selection of diplomats.
- 8.2. Launch a diplomatic mission to explain the situation and position of the DRC to the world.
- 8.3. Mobilise all local resources for the independence and autonomy in all sectors of the national life (agro-food industry, health, social, educational, economic, technological, and industrial).

This Manifesto was edited by the following people and organisations, based on the speeches made at a Zoom event on 30/06/2020:

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Congolese Community  
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