

Campaign plan for Group strategic and political action 2023

Agreed by Justice Congo Group on Jan 10 2023

1. Broad themes for campaigning work:

- a) The conflict in DRC is caused by mining for the minerals that are desired by the UK (and elsewhere) for electric batteries, to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels.
 - b) The role of Rwanda in fomenting conflict and violence in eastern DRC, through its proxy militia M23, to enable their seizure of valuable minerals, which are then sold as Rwandan products.
 - c) The humanitarian catastrophe taking place in DRC – a war in the heart of Africa, which is largely unreported. 5 million displaced civilians and a population terrorized by those seeking minerals desired by the Global North.
 - d) Complication re: East African Community currently adding to the interference in eastern DRC.
 - e) The urgent need for publication and action on the Mapping Report by the United Nations, to address impunity enjoyed by perpetrators in the DRC.
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3 strands of work – UK population, UK government, United Nations, to be carried out by members of the Group, where their interest lies. Note: members living outside UK could perhaps adapt these for their local situation?

1. UK population – locate multiple ways in which we can draw attention to the “war in the heart of Africa”:

- (i) Talk to friends and family about the horrific situation in Congo, which needs to become as well known as the war in Ukraine.

- (ii) Reach out to members of political parties through our model motion (available from justicecongo610@gmail.com)
- (iii) Organise further screenings of the film The Empire of Silence – through:
 - a) approaching London commercial documentary cinemas (Curzon cinemas, British Film Institute etc). If they are interested, we can put them in touch with the film production company, Films de la Passerelle, so they can make a commercial arrangement;
 - b) community-based screenings at University of Northampton (already suggested) – with the focus on reaching UK audience, rather than Congolese diaspora who are already aware of the horrors of the past 25 years.
- (iv) Reach out to UK population through designated Justice Congo Group social media pages – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram – rather than Global Justice London pages, as in the past (see details below)
- (v) Where members have a lively local newspaper, develop “letters to the editor” and/or “op-ed” articles that can be used by all of us.
- (vi) Consider starting a simple petition to supplement our campaigning – calling for Rwanda’s suspension from the Commonwealth (see 2. (vii) below).

2. UK government – locate ways to reach out to MPs and Ministers to remind them of their moral responsibility re: Congo:

- (i) Develop a simple template letter that people can send to their MPs, as well as support people who feel able to attend their MP’s advice surgery to raise Congo issues.

- (ii) Lobby the Foreign Secretary, James Cleverly MP, re: his recent declared commitment to tackle human rights abuses worldwide.
- (iii) Engage with the Minister for Africa, following up from correspondence in July 2022 with the previous postholder.
- (iv) Engage with the All-Party Parliamentary Group on DRC, as follow-up to our invitation to them re: film screening in Nov 2022 (a few replied to this invitation).
- (v) Continue liaison with London Mining Network on the government's 2022 Critical Mineral Strategy, as part of the LMN working group on this subject.
- (vi) Engage with the Labour Party, Liberal Democrats, Greens and Conservatives on Congo issues – Justice Congo members who belong to these parties could reach out as preferred, but see 1.(ii) above re: model motion that can be used, if that helps.
- (vii) Lobby Commonwealth Secretariat re: the truth about Rwanda. Like Zimbabwe in the past, Rwanda should be suspended from the Commonwealth for its blatant interference in DRC, and its shocking human rights record. We could start a petition along these lines.

3. United Nations – work in progress, to include calling for full publication and action on the Mapping Report, as well as publication of the recent (leaked) document about Rwanda's incursions into DRC. Oral report, and written report delivered to United Nations Human Rights Council in March 2023 (see website section on United Nations)

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