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DISCUSSION PAPER

PRESENTED BY

ANGUILLA NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

The Relativity of the Third Decade on

Decolonization

By

the United Nation's Committee of 24.

# STATEMENT

BY

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Anguilla

## INTRODUCTION

Your Excellency, Mr. Chairman and Fellow Members of the Decolonization Committee,  
Distinguished Representatives, other Participants - A pleasant Good Morning. Mr.

Mr. Chairman, we the people of Anguilla commend you and your Committee's monumental work, undertaken through the U.N. decolonization process, to assure the fulfillment of the exercise to self-determination and political independence for oppressed, colonized, peoples all over the world.

However, in spite of these notable achievements, we the people of Anguilla are gravely concerned that colonialism by our Sovereign Kingdom, is taking place in new and changing forms, all the more it has accelerated and intensified a cm^ i t i

will be decolonized.

### **Decolonization through Human Rights**

The Anguillian people call on the Decolonization Committee to: reaffirm and uphold with them their right to self-determination and political independence from United Kingdom; we call on the government of United Kingdom to halt the upsetting political, social and economic blockages. Could it be Mr. Chairman that to date only three of the six basic Human Rights Conventions have not yet been extended to us and I say the essential for us as we strive to be self governing namely The ICCRPR, ICESCR and we are awaiting CEDAW it only by being able to enforce our rights then we are regarded and respected and treated as a people. The United Kingdom should unearth their damaging control by increasing power to the Governor and invest the same in our duly elected Government by the people and for the people. As a people far more we renounce the divide & rule tactic as in the management of the Public Service, including the Police Force and Senior Public Servants who is under the Governor's remit while it is the Local Government who is responsible for the payment of salaries and other benefits to all civil servants.

### **Constitutional Reform**

Mr. Chairman this movement towards enslavement of our people is not the tardiness and

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for the 3<sup>rd</sup> decade on Decolonization facing us head on.

### **Political Status**

We in Anguilla made it clear that we are on the road to full self-determination, as was evident by the Anguilla Revolution of 1967 and affirmed in 1980 where Britain declared "*that they will not subject Anguilla to an administration it did not want!*" hence by choice we entered a relationship with Britain towards achieving our goal. Today that relationship seems to be continuously undermined. As a result, we Anguillians are becoming socially, culturally, politically and economically deprived people in our island call home. Mr. Chairman, what is even more alarming is that we have no voice in forums where major decisions are made, because of our political status, bid me to give one glaring example the upcoming Olympics to be held in the United Kingdom will feature an Anguillian in the United Kingdom top 100 athletes. She is class in Long jump and track and field race, however, to enter the races she had to enter under Britain and not Anguilla. This young woman in disgust wrote, *because of the opportunity I go as Britain but I know in my heart I am Anguillian and will always be Anguillian.* This is the resentment building amongst our Youth as to what it means to be Anguillian the answer lies following the process and right to self Governance. Let alone Mr. Chairman, in globalization, trade and investment, can only be done under the absolute decision of the United Kingdom Government. Even more unsettling is the element of fear to drive our people to action - A few weeks ago Anguilla who has a daily boat service 15 minutes ride every 30 -45 minutes freely go and come - to and from St Martin arbitrarily learnt that Anguillians without the British Passport - were no longer allowed to enter St Martin without a visa. It was fear, it was chaos, fearful for the Government trying to find a solution but in our neighboring island of St Martin who is a department of France received this mandate. The decisive action has been shelved momentarily as the answer has to come from Sovereign Kingdom France which is a mandate from the European Union in regard to free travel among EU citizens. The mind boggling effect of such a measure is to force our people to obtain the European Union British Passport, then who are we to speak of a right to self determination or would it be the trump card for us to be become fully integrated. Mark you well, the 40% approximately of

Anguillans who obtained the EU British passport had done so by opportunities granted by marriage to an Anguillian or years of residency. This is another complexity of development and population growth.

### **The Chief Minister's Plea**

Mr. Chairman in coming here the Hon. Chief Minister message was "My people who is on journey to freedom is at a very critical juncture our only hope is through the United Nations to assure that the United Kingdom lives up to the promised of 1980 when it decided that they will never place Anguilla under an administration it does not want and Anguilla maintain its rights to self determination under the other three options - Self Internal Governance, Integration or Full Independence. Today we are told either Full Integration or Independence.

Let me conclude with the following

### **Statements and Recommendations:**

1. Colonialism in the British Overseas Territories in the Caribbean in new and changing forms, has accelerated and intensified, rather than declined. Accordingly, we in Anguilla do see the need for the decolonization process greater, than ever, hence there is need for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Decade of Decolonization with a finite goal of decolonization for all peoples.
2. The Committee's decolonization mandate needs to be extended until the last vestiges of colonialism are eradicated. The process also needs to address the neocolonial devastating effects where global organization because of their power and finance and trade want to remove us as people from our native lands, away from our culture and to manipulate our fragile ecosystems.
3. Anguilla is the most affected and active British Overseas colonized territory pursuing and deserving expeditious decolonization. However, the increasing demands restrictions through the White Paper on partnership, the differentiation in the level of autonomy in our constitutions and the latitude to our borrowing

signals/thresholds, there are uneven plains to empowerment of us as one people in the region should not continue

4. The decolonization process must be expanded to involve other U.N. organizations and extra-U.N. bodies concerned with human rights, economic development and the environment
5. It is imperative that we in Civil Society Non Government Organizations become more involved in the decolonization process, which we generate our own initiatives and that such actions are recognized. These initiatives include personal decolonization there has to be a change in our mindset and overcome the psychic of fear and the perceived comfort zone of comfort and security. There must be enhanced involvement of local communities;
6. Education through awareness building via various mediums including the media, dance and music for freedom. The education system must be cognitive and behavioral.
7. Civil Society must be empowered with the full right to report independently to your committee on the decolonization process, this can be further achieved with the appointment of local focal points in the territories or Commissions;
8. That the key to preparing our peoples is greater involvement of the UN Agencies in the territories such as FAO, UNDP, UNFPA, PAHO, WHO, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNIFEM with programmes and financial assistance like given to other Independent nations;

Furthermore Mr. Chairman the UN Decolonization Committee must play a more ACTIVE and monitoring role during this decade, there should be an agreement reached whereby the Decolonization Committee must be to send missions to the territories for progress evaluation of the people towards decolonization then you are ensuring that colonization is truly eradicated from our people.

Mr. Chairman

I thank you . . .