



# POLICY CENTRE FOR AFRICAN PEOPLES' MARCH 2016-MARCH 2017 REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

**POLICY CENTRE FOR AFRICAN PEOPLES**

**(PCAP) [www.policycap.org](http://www.policycap.org)**

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## PCAP'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES – 2016/2017



**Mohamed Rashid Hassan, PhD** –Dr Mohamed Rashid Hassan became a Trustee of PCAP in May 2011. He is an internationally respected analyst on topics related to Africa, including African political engagement, history, economic development and international relations.



**Mr Don Flynn, BSc (HONS)** –Don Flynn has been a Trustee of PCAP since September 2008. He served as PCAP's Secretary from December 2009 till May 2011, when he became PCAP's Treasurer and Chairman in 2013. He is also an Associate and former Director of Migrants Rights Network.



**Ms Goretti Kyomuhendo, MA** –Goretti Kyomuhendo became a PCAP Trustee in May 2011. She is also one of the founding members of the Ugandan Women Writers' Association and Publishing House FEMRITE, and the Founder and Director of African Writers' Trust.



**Ms Rose Nunu, BA** –Rose Nunu became a PCAP Trustee in April 2013. She is the Founder and Director of Diaspora, a not-for-profit music foundation created to support and promote diversity in British music.

**PCAP'S charity registration number: 1131139**

## CHAIR'S REPORT

The period between March 2016 and March 2017 has proved to be wonderful in relation to the consolidation of the Policy Centre for African Peoples (PCAP)'s achievements. PCAP has gone from strength to strength in terms of providing a platform for the engagement and education of African communities and the general public, and has brilliantly fulfilled this objective throughout this year.

PCAP continued to build on the success of the African Diaspora Summer Festival it launched in 2013, and hosted **the 3<sup>rd</sup> African Diaspora Summer Festival** in July 2016. It included a screening of the film **Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom** and a **discussion on the promotion of the social engagement of African Diaspora youths**. The event was very-well attended, and received coverage from UK and African media.

We carried on publishing the **Policy Centre for African Peoples' newsletter** throughout the year. A key indicator of the popularity of our newsletter is that the number of its subscribers is now nearly 2,000. We are delighted that the new subscribers were a mixture of people of African descent and non-Africans. This underlines the capacity of the Policy Centre for African Peoples to reach out to both members of African communities and other individuals.

In accordance with its vision to provide a platform for the engagement and education of African communities and the general public, PCAP organised, and participated in, many activities aimed at engaging and educating people on topics of relevance to African communities throughout the year. These included a 5-month consultation on the **Promotion of Young People's Social Engagement** and the event **African Leadership Forum**, held at University College in London in February 2017.

PCAP also took part in numerous media discussions throughout the year, including an analysis of **Leadership Lessons from African Life Philosophy** published in the magazine We Are the City in June 2016; a TV debate on **Education and the Legacy of Nelson Mandela** also in June 2016; 2 TV

discussions on **Leadership amongst African Communities** in September and October 2016, and a TV **discussion on Ghana at 60** in March 2017.

We would like to wholeheartedly and warmly thank and congratulate **Sylvie Aboa-Bradwell** who carried on working as PCAP's unpaid Executive Director: in addition to the African Diaspora Award for Leadership and Community Education she won in 2013, she was **selected as one of the 100 Diaspora Change Makers, and chosen for the Diaspora Leaders' Programme 2016-2017**. We also thank our volunteers, trustees, advisers, partners, and the many individuals who have supported us throughout this year.

**Don Flynn**  
**Chair**

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The following headline work streams provide an overview of the projects and activities undertaken at the Policy Centre for African Peoples (PCAP) between March 2016 and March 2017. Further details are provided in the specific project and activity pages of the annual report.

### 1. Third African Diaspora Summer Festival

PCAP organised its third African Diaspora Summer Festival at the Amnesty International Action Centre, London, on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2016. The Festival included a **screening of the film 'Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom'** –a film based on Nelson Mandela's autobiography and starring Idris Elba.

There was also a debate on the topic '**Promoting the Social Engagement of African Diaspora Youths'** with myself and the Africa Director of the Washington-based National Democratic Institute, **Dr Christopher Fomunyoh**.

### 2. Promoting Young People's Social Engagement

One of the conclusions of the debate that took place at the 3<sup>rd</sup> African Diaspora Summer Festival was that there was an urgent need for programmes aimed at promoting social engagement amongst African and other young people in the UK. Attendees felt that the disengagement of African youths and young people's disillusionment following the June 2016 EU referendum outcome had to be combated.

As a result, PCAP carried out a **consultation from September 2016 until February 2017** to find out from young people, experts and other individuals what concrete projects they would like our organisation to undertake.

### 3. African Leadership Forum

We built on our long track record of engaging with leaders from African communities to participate in **the African Leadership Forum**. The event, which was attended by dozens of African leaders, took place at University College London on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

### 4. Research and Media Activities

As in previous years, PCAP produced research papers, which it used to fulfil its mission to promote the education and engagement of African communities and the general public. The paper **‘Entrepreneurship, Social Engagement and African Development’** was included in the book *The Economics of International Development*, published in October 2016 by the Institute of Economic Affairs.

PCAP also greatly increased its media presence, thanks to its newsletter, posts on its website ([www.policycap.org](http://www.policycap.org)), as well as media appearances and publications. These included an analysis of **Leadership Lessons from African Life Philosophy** published in the magazine *We Are the City* in June 2016; a TV debate on **Education and the Legacy of Nelson Mandela** at the end of June 2016; 2 TV discussions on **Leadership amongst African Communities** in September and October 2016, and a TV debate on the social, political and economic situation of Ghana 60 years after its independence in March 2017.

My sincere thanks are extended to PCAP’s trustees, volunteers, supporters and partners, who have all played a crucial role in strengthening our work. We are especially grateful to **Mr John McClintock** for making regular donations to our organisation throughout this year.

**Sylvie Aboa-Bradwell**  
Executive Director

## **POLICY CENTRE FOR AFRICAN PEOPLES:**

### **Providing a platform for the engagement and education of African communities and the general public**

The Policy Centre for African Peoples (PCAP) was founded in September 2008 in the United Kingdom by African Diaspora members. The impetus for PCAP's creation was the desire to provide a platform for the engagement and education of African individuals and the general public on topics that are of relevance to African communities.

To fulfil this objective, PCAP carries out educational, research and social engagement projects in the areas of education, human rights, social justice and leadership.

#### **Our Mission:**

The mission of PCAP is to provide a platform for the engagement and education of African individuals and the general public on topics that are of relevance to African communities.

#### **Our Vision:**

PCAP envisions a world where African individuals and the general public are educated and engaged on topics that are of relevance to African communities.

#### **Our Motto:**

The platform for African engagement.

## PCAP'S PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

The projects and activities of PCAP throughout the period March 2016 – March 2017 included:

### I. Third African Diaspora Summer Festival

The Festival took place on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2016 at Amnesty International Human Rights Action Centre, London

The Festival's **overarching theme was "Promoting the Social Engagement of African Diaspora Youths"**. The event, brilliantly chaired by the journalist and broadcaster **Henry Bonsu**, was attended by over 300 people. The **screening of the film 'Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom'**, proved to be one of the main highlights of the evening.

Most attendees were full of praises for the film, which narrates Nelson Mandela's life journey. Many people who spoke after the screening thanked and congratulated PCAP for this initiative. Several attendees urged our organisation to seek to implement a leadership and self-development programme that could inculcate young members of African communities with the values of courage, integrity, human dignity and staunch defence of racial equality embodied by Nelson Mandela.



The screening was followed by speeches on the theme '**Promoting the Social Engagement of African Diaspora Youths**' by the PCAP Director, **Ms Sylvie Aboa-Bradwell** and the Africa Director of the National Democratic Institute, **Dr Christopher Fomunyoh** (both pictured left). Ms Aboa-Bradwell stressed that as an organisation whose motto is "The

platform for African engagement”, PCAP had already carried out programmes aimed at promoting the engagement of members of African communities. She pledged to spend the summer consulting people about what concrete projects PCAP could design and implement to foster leadership and social engagement amongst young members of African communities in the UK.

Dr Fomunyoh used his speech to debunk the myth that democracy was alien to African communities. He cited democratic practices that had been established throughout Africa for hundreds of years such as the election of village chiefs and the discussion trees which he called “village parliaments”, to highlight the fact that democracy is intrinsically African. He urged young members of the UK African Diaspora to get involved in advocacy and social projects, and make their voices heard by voting.



After the debate, there was a Q&A session. Many attendees spoke to express their desire to see projects aimed at promoting civic and social engagement amongst UK African communities in the near future. Afterwards, were several thrilling, outstanding performances by the dancer, actor and storyteller **Usifu Jalloh** (pictured left)

including 2 entertaining and educational stories, and 3 dances.

The event concluded with attendees having African food and drinks, networking and dancing to the irresistible music of Usifu Jalloh.

## II. Promoting Young People's Social Engagement

From September 2016 to February 2017, **PCAP carried out a consultation on how it could promote the social engagement of young people in the UK.** The background of this consultation was that at the 3rd African Diaspora Summer Festival, there was a huge demand from attendees for programmes aimed at nurturing good leadership and engagement among young people in general, and young members of African origin in particular. It was noted that following the Brexit vote, there was a climate of hostility towards African and other ethnic minorities in the UK and, as a result, there was an urgent need for programmes encouraging social engagement amongst African Diaspora youths, and leadership development sessions to enable them to be determined to fight racial prejudice and injustice as bravely as Nelson Mandela did, without losing hope for a brighter future.

**We consulted young people from a variety of backgrounds**, including students in Medway and London; young people who have attended our events, and apprentices, interns and volunteers at several organisations. We also had discussions with adult and old members of African communities; parents; lecturers; psychologists; social workers; youth engagement officers and other professionals.

A lot of people we had conversations with drew our attention to the fact that because many African youths grow up in communities where children are not allowed to speak in public, they often lack the self-esteem, self-confidence and public speaking skills necessary to make their voices heard. PCAP also looked at available research, including the report "Political Disengagement in the UK: Who is disengaged?" published by the House of Commons Library in February 2016. The said report reveals that young Africans are less likely than other youths to take the lead and participate in campaign or advocacy activities even if they care strongly about an issue.

As a result of this five-month consultation, PCAP decided to strive to give volunteering opportunities to young people as a way of encouraging their social engagement; give them leadership, public speaking and campaign sessions, and provide them with a platform to develop their own social engagement projects.

### III. African Leadership Forum -24<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at University College London

The Policy Centre for African Peoples was delighted to engage with dozens of African leaders from a wide variety of backgrounds at the African Leadership Forum. The meeting brought together leading figures including NGO activists, business people, researchers, journalists and special guests with particular interest in the field of African development.



The attendees (pictured left) generally felt that many of the participants could serve as role models, and promote good leadership among African communities both in the Diaspora and in Africa. They also argued that a lot of them were in a unique position to become agents of hope and positive change.

The PCAP Director spoke and outlined the following points:

- African leaders must be prepared to use their human, financial and other resources to act as catalysts for positive change and development.
- African leaders both in the Diaspora and in their countries must have the courage and determination to use research as well as concrete evidence to highlight, denounce and combat the pauperisation of African populations by African leaders and their cronies.
- Established and aspiring leaders must have the boldness to challenge the status quo and groupthink in whatever area they are working, and put in place concrete mechanisms or programmes that will lead to African development.

#### IV. Research, Media and Other Public Engagement Activities

PCAP published many papers and pieces on its website, as well as on other publishing platforms. Publications included an analysis of Leadership Lessons from African Life Philosophy released by We Are the City magazine in June 2016, and a paper written by the PCAP Director, '**Entrepreneurship, Social Engagement and African Development**', which was included in the book *The Economics of International Development*, published in October 2016 by the Institute of Economic Affairs.



In addition, **PCAP participated in numerous media discussions** throughout the year. Among these were several Africa Today TV programmes in London. They included a discussion in June 2016 to debate **Education and the Legacy of Nelson Mandela**. The debate was chaired by the South African-born journalist Vuyiswa Nggobongwana, and the debaters were the PCAP Director and the South African analyst Xolani Xala (all pictured above).



**The topic of leadership among African communities was widely explored** in TV discussions including one in September 2016, when PCAP was represented at an Africa Today debate on leadership and political crisis in Gabon. The debate was chaired by the journalist Amina Taylor, and the debaters were the PCAP Director and the pan-African analyst Explo Nani-Koffi (all pictured left).

In October 2016, the PCAP Director appeared on the prestigious programme of **TV5 Monde hosted by Ms Denise Epoté**, *Et si vous me disiez toute la vérité*, to discuss leadership in Central Africa. PCAP was also represented at a TV debate on the social, political and economic situation of Ghana in March 2017.

## PCAP's STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

This year, as in the previous ones, **Ms Sylvie Aboa-Bradwell** had overall responsibility for the day-to-day management of PCAP as an unpaid Executive Director. Her duties also included the implementation of the strategic goals and objectives of the organisation.



In addition, she participated on behalf of PCAP in many events and projects led by many members of African groups.

For instance, she is pictured above (standing, third from left) with members and supporters of the dynamic organisation ACUDEVA.

We are very grateful to the following individuals for helping PCAP as Research and Administration Volunteers:

- **Ms Sophie Toke:** March 2010 –present
- **Ms Sian Ndome Mafiamba:** February 2015 –present
- **Ms Nyasha Zororo:** Summer 2016
- **Mr Anthony Ian:** January 2017 –present

## Policy Centre for African Peoples

Income and Expenditure Statement for the Financial Year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017

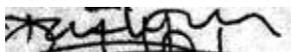
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>AMOUNT IN £</b>
John McClintock	2,100
Sylvie Aboa-Bradwell	50
Total Income	2,150
<i>Sum Pre-existing in PCAP's Account</i>	2.75
<b>Total Available</b>	<b>2,152.75</b>

<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>AMOUNT IN £</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> African Summer Festival	885.73
Promoting Young People's Social Engagement	300
African Leadership Forum	150
Transport	355.60
Telephone	220
General Admin Expenses	185
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>2096.33</b>

**Money in PCAP's Account as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017**      **56.42**

The accounts were approved and authorised for issue by the Board on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2017

**Signed**



**Don Flynn**

**Trustee and Chair**

## CONTACT DETAILS

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