



2015 Recommendations to the United Nations Human Rights - Universal Periodic Review from Sydney based Australian South Sea Islanders (Port Jackson) (ASSIPJ) and the ASSI NSW State Alliance.

ASSIs are the descendants of Australia's 'Indentured labour' trade or 'blackbirding' in the Pacific, which historically commenced some 168 years ago in the British colonies of New South Wales (1847) and Queensland (1863), now states of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Recommendations to the UNHR - Universal Periodic Review in support of decolonisation for some 40,000 ASSI descendants:

1. That the British Government and Commonwealth of Australia, States and Territories recognise formally the removal of some 55,000 Indigenous peoples primarily from 80 islands in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands but also from surrounding Islands now included in Fiji, French New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Kiribati and Tuvalu, to work mainly in the sugar cane industry but also in the pastoral and maritime industries in establishing the economic basis of eastern Australia.
2. That the British Government and Commonwealth of Australia, States and Territories apologise and make repatriations and compensation to the descendants of Australian South Sea Islanders (ASSI) affected by their dislocation to Australia, through in supporting them to locate their families and places of origin in the Pacific Islands, and restore their identity by working in with key organisations already involved in successful advocacy work.
3. That the British Government and Commonwealth of Australia, States and Territories through meaningful consultation with key ASSI organisations expedite the appointment of an ASSI specific task force to work in collaboration with government officials and educational institutions to consider cultural maintenance, decolonization, in the form of an Institute or dedicated Centre of Australian South Sea Islander Studies attached to an Australia university in an area of significant Australian South Sea Islander population, to implement policy development in health, well-being, and socio-economic programs and services.
4. That the British Government and Commonwealth of Australia, States and Territories to affirm a defined commitment from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) strategically to place ASSIs alongside the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Census Survey question, to assess effectively the demographics of our evident kinship (noting intermarriage with Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal people).
5. That the Commonwealth of Australia, States and Territories assist and ensure that ASSI history is added to the Australian national education curriculum.
6. That the Human Rights Council of the United Nations be obliged to review and report annually on the effective, successful development and implementation of changes to policies and meaningful programs and services for ASSI communities.

Document prepared by Emelda Davis – President and Professor Clive Moore UQ

PO Box 117 Pyrmont NSW 2009 Mobile: 0416300946 assi.pj@gmail.com www.assipj.com.au