

Georgetown African American Historic Landmark Project and Tour

Statement Before
the
National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission
October 5, 2021

**Testimony of Mr. Tabue Nguma and Miss Lucie Seck
Slave Route Project, UNESCO**

Dear Chairman May and members of the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission,

Please receive the hereby testimony in our capacity as Coordinators of the Slave Route Project at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Founded in 1994, the Slave Route Project aims to deepen the research and education related to the history of slavery, their resistances, and contemporary consequences.

The issue brought to your attention by Mrs. Andrena Crockett, member of the Georgetown African American Historic Landmark Project and Tour, rightly fits within UNESCO's initiatives to break the silence on the twelve million Africans enslaved in the United States. The recognition of the crime against Humanity that they have endured as well as their contributions to the emergence of the United States of America economic and cultural power is of considerable importance for the American people as a whole. In effect, the strengthening of the links between communities is one of the core missions of UNESCO, as emphasized by its Declaration on Cultural Diversity. Through the building of such a monument, people from enslaved descent along with their fellow citizens could heal, honor, and reflect on the above-mentioned issues.

The monument project presented by the Georgetown African American Historic Landmark Project and Tour would constitute a culmination point in terms of monuments commemoration. As Mrs. Andrena Crockett has pointed out, no commemorating work exists in Georgetown's Waterfront yet. And with no location to properly remember and pay tribute to, healing is made laborious. It is precisely one of UNESCO's Slave Route Project purposes to elaborate healing approaches towards the enslaved descendants and slave owners'. Therefore, the organization believes that reuniting all the hurt communities along could encourage them to share their traumas and struggles, hence participating to their healing process.

UNESCO is aware of the Georgetown African American Historic Landmark Project and Tour's ambitious curriculum and finds itself ensured that the expected monument would fulfill its duties. Representing UNESCO, we would highly advise the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission to accept the request made by Mrs. Andrena Crockett. Not only will this monument be a place of remembrance, it will also reinforce the international position of the United States of America and its institutions in their capacity to acknowledge and draw lessons from its past in order to construct a future society promoting tolerance and equality so that such atrocities do not occur ever again.

We thank the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission for the time that it has granted us and hope that it will take our recommendations into consideration.

Respectfully submitted by:
Mr. Tabue Nguma
Miss Lucie Seck