

STATEMENT

(January 23, 2015)

Of the National Platform Dutch Slavery Past (LPS), on the placement of the Dutch Cultural Historical Tradition (Sinterklaas) on the National Intangible Heritage List. The following items are inclusive, Black Pete, Poems, and Songs and related Gifts.

The LPS is astonished and disgusted about the formal signing of the Certificate by the Dutch Centre for Popular Culture and Intangible Cultural Heritage (VIE).



In the Press release dated January, 15, 2015 regarding the signing of the Certificate by these organizations (The VIE and the Sinterklaas and Piet Gilde), it has been stated that the VIE realizes the complaints within the society (by which they mean the Black people of African descent and other of Good Will). Further the Centre Stated that traditions are not static but dynamic, they can change. However the Saint Nicholas and Pete Guild (SPG) declared that quote “they are not in power to change the Saint Nicholas tradition by leaving all the elements

including the Black Pete figure out' end quote. The SPG stated that changes are the responsibility of the Society. We are to defend the Tradition with all its aspects and elements". The question now is why the Centre agreed to place the **Sinterklaas** Tradition including the Black Pete caricature on the National list although they know that the Black Pete caricature has been declared as a racist element of the Sinterklaas Tradition by the Amsterdam Court of Justice as well as the National Commission on Human Rights.

As minority black citizens of the Netherlands the question is; what else can be done to make this three organizations: The VIE and the SPG understand that they are wrong? Obviously the Dutch Government on a National, Regional and Local level as well the National Parliament seems that they don't care. No questions about the recently act of The VIE and the SPG was asked in the National Parliament!!!!

It is indisputable that the LPS along with many other activists including people of GOOD WILL have taken many efforts to reiterate that black people of African descent living in the Netherlands, no longer wish to suffer under the yoke, that is called Afrophobia (anti-black racism) after decades of struggle.

That Black people of African descent living in the Netherlands, also would like to be considered as fully fledged citizens (not tolerated) and enjoy fully of the fundamental Human Rights as enshrined in the Dutch Constitution, in the Universal Declaration of Human and Cultural Rights, the European Convention of the Human Rights and related Treaties, Directives and Resolutions.

It is indisputable that the LPS has appealed to the;

- National and local governments
- The Prime Minister
- The responsible Ministers
- The Parliament,
- Dutch Centre for Popular Culture and Intangible Heritage (VIE)
- The Dutch agencies responsible for the Elimination of Racism (Anti-Discrimination Bureaus and the Federation of Bureaus)
- The National Commission on Human Rights
- The Federation of the Mayors and local Governments

That these institutions do all to support the dismantling of the Black Pete Caricature, the physical manifestation of Afro phobia and a concept within the Sinterklaas tradition.

In 2013 the LPS has supported the appeal against the Formal Decision of the Mayor of Amsterdam to permit on November 17th 2013 the entry of Sinterklaas if this figure will accompanied by Black Petes into the Capital. The LPS realized crowdfunding to cover Amsterdam Court of Justice costs. Crowdfunding has also been realized for payment of Court Costs for the Higher Court Case when the Mayor appealed to the Higher Court to challenge the Verdict of the Amsterdam Court of Justice.

The Black Pete caricature is considered as one of the national symbols of the so called 'civilized' Netherlands. Emerged from delusions about the Black African race. Created not to be something else than to serve the white race. To serve even to date nothing else than entertainment in a (original Christian) tradition. The children in the Netherlands are confronted at an early stage in their life, at home, in the neighborhood, in the street in cities at school and as adults on the job, with the Black Pete Caricature. From generation to generation they could keep on believing that Black people of African descent are not able to do something else than be inferior to the white race.

The IDEA, the delusion, about the inferiority of Black African humans in relation to White humans must be consolidated. Even though we are 200 years further from the Abolition of the trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and 152 years of the formal Abolition of slavery. The question here is: how could you otherwise consolidate the superiority delusion in the genes of a people? It is no doubt that the Cultural and Historical Dutch Saint Nicholas Christian Tradition is an excellent method that works in the Case of the Netherlands. It always has until to date. The Founder (Schenkman) of the conceptual framework of the Black Pete caricature has succeeded in his mission, that until to date a nation beliefs that it is an innocent children's event. The EVIL is generally accepted in the root of the Dutch society that they don't realize that it is RACISM. The question is: Is this dramatic or not?

There is no doubt that the Sinterklaas Tradition conflicts with the UNESCO Convention of the Intangible Heritage List. The VIE did not spare time to get this Sinterklaas Tradition including the racist Black Pete stereotype on the Dutch National Intangible Heritage list. They have put Black African people in the Netherlands for a fait compli.

How deep sunken could this VIE be in the swamp called RACISM?

Our heart cry when watching the faces of the signatories, how glad they are with the official placement of the Saint Nicholas tradition including Black Pete on the National list.

Our hearts bleed when watching the glorification of a phenomenon that is based on despicable racist theories about Black African human beings. Based on theories which underlie the reprehensible trans-Atlantic slavery institute. In 2001, declared as a crime against humanity by the UN Member States. And in view of the barbarity of the system, employed instrument and methods as well as the centuries-long period of the crimes qualified by the UN Member States as the greatest tragedy in the history of mankind.

All Countries, all States, all members of Parliament, all members of civil society have the duty and obligation to be vigilant with respect to practices that aim to (continue to) glorify racist stereotypes.

The glorification of racist stereotypes, which aim to position Black African human beings in a negative way, should be a signal for Political Authorities and the Public Prosecution in the Netherlands to come into action in the same way when it concerns objectionable practices such as Anti-Semitism as well, Islamophobia are publicly glorified and or noticed. Because:

BLACK LIVES MATTER

The LPS sticks to the VERDICT of July, 3, 2014 of the Amsterdam Court of Justice, that *“regarding the authorization for the Sinterklaas Entry by the Administration of the Municipality Amsterdam, no account was taken of the objectionable elements of the Saint Nicholas Cultural Historical Dutch Christian tradition, to be specific the Black Pete elements. That the Black Pete caricature is a racist phenomenon as part of the Saint Nicholas Tradition. Even though it is not the intention of the people, the tradition is a hurtful experience for Black human beings. Because of the fixing of stereotype images (stupid, seroant, and black) Black human beings are continually suffering due to the racist elements of the Tradition”*. The Court decided that the Amsterdam Mayor has to take a new

Decision whereby he considers all the considerations mentioned in the VERDICT of the Amsterdam Court of Justice including Article 8 of the European Treaty on Human Rights.

On the appeal by the Mayor of Municipality Amsterdam. the Higher Administration Court (Council of State) in their VERDICT have not disapproved the Verdict of the Amsterdam Court of Justice about the racist aspect of the Black Pete figure in the higher Appeal, that it is *'offensive and that Black Human beings are suffering from it'*.

In our opinion the Council have said: "we are not to judge whether Black Pete is a racist character or not, we are to judge on the answer if the Mayor of Amsterdam act in the right way by not considering all the aspects mentioned in the Verdict of the Amsterdam's Court of Justice. The Council of State in its Verdict decided that The Mayor of Amsterdam act in the right way and destroyed the Verdict of the Amsterdam's Court of Justice where it said that the Mayor of Amsterdam has to take a new decision whereby he considers the considerations made by the Amsterdam's Court of Justice.

In fact the Council of State judged: "Amsterdam you are absolutely in your right. It is not your duty to examine the content of events, even though you know in advance that the content includes racial elements. And by doing so the Council of State in fact has given space to all other Mayors in the Netherlands to do the same and as a result of that the 'precipitation' of a peaceful protest against the Black Pete caricature ended in the arresting of the majority of the protesters in November of 2014 in the City of Gouda.

As a consequence of the Verdict of the Council of State the VIE and the SPG consider it as a legitimization to place the Saint Nicholas Cultural Historical Dutch Christian Tradition, including the Black Pete caricature on the National Intangible Heritage List.

The LPS adheres to the Declaration of the National Commission on Human Rights that the Black Pete caricature is a racist element of Sinterklaas "even though it is not as intended". In fact this Commission said it is racist but because of the fact it is not the intention of the Dutch people they has given space to go along with it. Because why is it that the Commission did not use their authority to say because it is an event of racist elements, the racist elements have to be dismantled?

What has happened with everybody, even the National Commission of human rights are of the opinion that the dismantlement is a process that needs a national debate and

understanding to get rid of it. While we, people of African descent know that the Black Pete caricature is a living trace of the trans-Atlantic barbaric slavery past.

What if racism is so established in the national folk culture that one no longer sees that racism is rooted in the culture? In South Africa the whites always have believed that Apartheid -- conceived among other by Dutch people - was a normal way of structuring the society and that is how society has to govern. Many elder white South Africans if asked today will declare that in their minds Apartheid was a good system to separate blacks from whites since black people were seen as devilish creatures, Niggers, Bantu Niggers, who like animals had to be restraint. And that those people in their opinion, were not capable to anything than to serve as slaves and or destroy them when they became 'useless' and/or incite resistance. With all that this implies for the thousands of STEVE BIKO'S therefore, tribute to all of the STEVE BIKOS of the Black Pete Resistance.

Because:

Black lives Matter

The formal signing of the certificate by the VIE and the SPG has once again, demonstrated the bankruptcy of The Netherlands, in particularly of the VIE, to combat Racism in general and in particular Afrophobia.

With the signing of the certificate evidence of the true profile and nature of the VIE has been delivered, in particular from the director. A director who knows how sensitive the issue of Black Pete is and didn't have the competency and will to consolidate Afrophobia above the elimination as to be GOOD FOR THE PEOPLE. The OWN PEOPLE FIRST Thought although the racist elements.

And proud - according to the picture on the website-, as they are. The signed documents, show shamelessly disrespectfully without empathy. To black citizens of African descent, in fact, the VIE played a dirty trick to the many people of GOOD WILL For it is clear that a public debate, of which many political officials and other representatives of the people have called for have shown that it was a wrong path.

The Party for Freedom (PVV) has been served on his winks. The contents of an announced Private Member's Bill has made a transition.

It has become clear that anyone who has urged to a national debate is very wrong.

RACISM YOU NEED TO TACKLE FROM THE BOTTOM OF IT. IT MUST BE EXTERMINATED AT THE ROOT WITH HEAD AND TAIL, IMMEDIATE.

The VIE has ridiculed itself and positioned the Netherlands Internationally as an intolerant and racist country where there is no understanding for human rights for some of its citizens.

The VIE and especially its director have provided, by the Act of signing the certificate, all International Human Rights Inspectors, the Alibi that the Netherlands glorify racist practices.

We can now, with the VERDICTS of the Amsterdam Court, the Council of State and the National Commission of Human Rights in our hands, demonstrate how proud the Dutch Centre for Popular Culture and Immaterial Cultural Heritage is that Racism has now acquired a place on the National Heritage list.

We can now demonstrate that the members of the Dutch Parliaments have no answer on this Racist Practice.

The Dutch Centre for Popular Culture and Intangible Cultural Heritage has brought unnecessary problems to themselves. For Public Prosecutor all reasons to intervene? Since Racism is punishable according to the Penal Lawcode

The Dutch Centre for Popular Culture and Intangible Cultural Heritage has ridiculed itself and the Netherlands to relevant UN bodies, such as:

- 1) The UNESCO Paris = the UN body that oversees among other things that the UNESCO Intangible Heritage List nominations that distorted racist elements;
- 2) The CERD = the Commission who oversees compliance with the UN Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

The Question is: What the Dutch Government should report to the CERD regarding this Black Pete Issue?

In August 2015 the UN periodic (two annual) review on the fulfilment of the UN Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination by The Netherlands will take place.

The LPS is wondering what the Dutch Government will report to the CERD, moreover what the conclusion of the CERD would be about the current developments in The Netherlands.

The LPS is looking forward with excitement and anticipation, for the final report from the UN Working Group of Experts on people of African descent, on the findings following the working visit in July 2014.

What would the collaborating Dutch NGO's report in their Shadow Report?

What explanation will Minister Koenders give about this horrible act of the VIE? Will he have the nerve, when questions are asked, to motivate that it concerns an innocent event for kids?

We do not think so. We suspect that Minister Koenders is already deeply embarrassed about this decision of the VIE and associates. Minister Koenders will eventually have to acknowledge that he has left the black citizens of African descent in the lurch.

We suspect that Minister Koenders will "swallow his teeth" and could not hardly dare to look his foreign colleagues in the eyes when he will give explanation about Afro phobia in The Netherlands. One only has to take a look at the website of the Dutch Centre for Popular Culture and Intangible Cultural Heritage to be able to draw a conclusion about Afrophobian practices, but also about the historical consciousness and the historical awareness of the Dutch Centre for Popular Culture and Immaterial Cultural Heritage and associates.

What will Minister Bussemaker do, under whose political responsibility the acts of the Dutch Centre for Popular Culture and Immaterial Cultural Heritage took place? Does she, perhaps neglected to guide the process on the policy of schools free of racism? Because if so, was it not, that Black Pete was out of sight, since she took office as Minister?

Would they have perhaps thought "they are only black people, their lives don't matter??"

Because if so, was it not, since she took office as Minister, that Black Pete was out of view from schools. They will have thought " Because let's face it under the nose of her own Secretary Dekker, under whose political responsibility the UNESCO Netherlands falls, the acts of the VIE could be accomplished.

The UNESCO Netherlands is aware that the tradition never would be accepted as proposal, when it includes Black Pete, for nomination on the International UNESCO Immaterial Intangible List.

What is the vision of Minister Asscher, responsible for national combat against racism? Is he still of the opinion that the discussion about Black Pete should take place in society?

Is it now too late to shut the stables, after the horse was stolen and already lies on the bottom of the Ocean catching his breath from the involuntary drowning adventure?

Are all these authorities still dare to say that the Saint Nicholas Tradition including Black Pete is an innocent children's event and that the discussion should take place in society?

Should the member of the Dutch Parliament Marcouch also have the guts now to ask questions now that an event with racist elements is declared as National Dutch Heritage? Should he aiming for action to the Public Prosecutor's Office? Racism is certainly punishable!!!!!!

What will be the response of the National Ombudsman? That politics in the Netherlands is still racist?

What will be the opinion of the Commission on Human Rights? It is racist but not so intended, so nothing to worry about?

The last word on the action of the Dutch Centre for Popular Culture and Immaterial Cultural Heritage and the Saint Nicholas and Pete Guild has not been said.

What crooked or wickedly EXCUSES will come also with regard to the Act of the VIE.

There is a generation coming who is convinced that

Black lives Matter

Tribute to all the heroes and heroines of the
Black Pete resistance.

With Human Dignity in Perspective