



# IN CONVERSATION WITH ONYEKACHI WAMBU



28TH JULY, 2023  
5:30 - 8:00PM



SOAS UNIVERSITY LONDON, KHALILI  
LECTURE THEATRE, TORRINGTON SQUARE,  
LONDON WC1H 0XG

The next big moment in the year of AFFORD@30 celebrations will be the In conversation with **Onyekachi Wambu** event at SOAS University of London on Friday 28 July from 5.30 to 8.00pm.

Onyekachi is the former executive director of AFFORD, a celebrated diaspora transformer, journalist and writer. For 21 years, Onyekachi has worked with great vision, creativity and commitment for the African Foundation for Development (AFFORD) and for diaspora impact in Africa. This will be an intimate and illuminating evening with the former executive director of AFFORD, covering his journey from journalist and writer, to diaspora and development, and culture and restitution.

Onyekachi has recently published the second edition of **Empire Windrush - reflections of 75 years and more of the Black British experience**. In this newly-published, ground-breaking anthology, Onyekachi collates some of the best and most significant writing from the 75 years following the arrival of Empire Windrush.

Featuring a preface by **Margaret Busby** and new writing from **Bernardine Evaristo**, **Mike Philips** and **Dan Hicks**, Empire Windrush conjures a unique journey through the British past, present and future, via the prism of the Black imagination. Several chapters tackle issues of restitution. Copies of Empire Windrush will be on sale at the venue, courtesy of Round Table Books.

In conversation with Onyekachi Wambu will be moderated by AFFORD chair **Ndidi Njoku** and **Professor Gibril Faal** of LSE. Onyekachi will be introduced by **Ra Hendricks**, founder of Jazzmo'thology, a platform promoting and staging live events to illustrate the breadth of music created and performed by African peoples.



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5.30

Arrivals and AFFORD@30 Film

6.00

Welcome Address

**Ndidi Njoku – Chair, African Foundation for Development  
(AFFORD)**

6.05

Introduction to Onyekachi Wambu

**Ra Hendricks – Founder, Jazzmo'thology**

6.12

In conversation with Onyekachi Wambu

**Prof. Gibril Faal, Visiting Professor in Practice, LSE &  
Director, GK Partners & AUC Lead Consultant**

6.50

Q & A with audience

**Moderator – Prof. Gibril Faal**

7.15

Evaluation, #AFFORD30 Campaign & Closing Remarks

**Ndidi Njoku**

7.20

**Drinks Reception**

For more information, please contact: Richard Leigh – [richard@afford-uk.org](mailto:richard@afford-uk.org)

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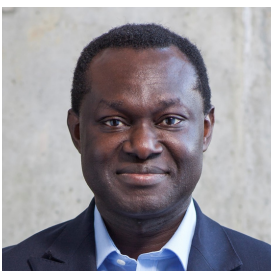
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**Ndidi Njoku – Chair,  
African Foundation for Development  
(AFFORD)**

Ndidi Njoku is the current Chair of AFFORD. Ndidi works in the Global Banking and Markets division at a global investment firm, where she has held several global and regional roles. Having held a number of high profiles positions, Ndidi began her career as a regulatory specialist at the UK utility regulator Ofgem, a DFID consultant, she worked on Migration and

Development issues, including the role of the Diaspora, and Branchless Banking as part of the Financial Sector Team; which included monitoring the impact of MPESA. Between 2011-12 Ndidi was seconded to HM Treasury (HMT) to lead the MIFID II review of the commodities derivatives; negotiating the UK's position in Europe. From 2007 to 2014 at the UK Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), Ndidi worked on the FCA's wholesale conduct agenda, leading the FCA's supervisory review of MIFID. Ndidi has held several other advisory positions and is the MD of Markets4Development (M4D), a philanthropic company which facilitates entrepreneurs, market development and trade to African countries.



**Prof. Gibril Faal - Visiting Professor in Practice,  
LSE & Director, GK Partners & AUC Lead  
Consultant**

Prof. Gibril Faal is a multi-disciplinary business and development executive, and visiting professor in practice at the Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa (FLIA), London School of Economics (LSE). He is the co-founder and director of GK Partners, specialising in special responsible models sustainable development and programme implementation. He is a member of the advisory

council of the Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program; the founder of RemitAid™, a programme to transform remittances into sustainable development finance; and international consultant to several governments and international institutions across the world. Prof. Faal previously served as vice chair of Bond, the platform of UK NGOs working on international development; chairman of African Foundation for Development (AFFORD), which pioneered concepts and practices on diaspora-development; and the founding director of Africa-Europe Diaspora Development Platform (ADEPT). He served as technical expert on negotiations for the UN Agenda 2030 and the Global Compact for Migration, and delivered keynote addresses at the UN General Assembly at the 2013 High Level Dialogue and the 2016 UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants. He previously served as co-chair, grand rapporteur and common space moderator at summits of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), and chaired the Entrepreneurship Committee of the GFMD Business Mechanism.



*Credit: Ben F. Jones (Artist), Lewis Patrick (Photographer)*

**Ra Hendricks - Founder,  
Jazzmo'thology**

Ra Hendricks is a Cultural Activist and Founder of Jazzmo'thology, a platform promoting and staging live music created and performed by African peoples. Now in his sixth decade of residence beyond the borders of Guyana, the land of his birth, he is resigned to reflecting on sobering lessons learned along the way. His French language in Bradford in the mid-70s afforded him a greater understanding of the world the sodden histories of the two European

empires, France and the United Kingdom, which have most under-developed the modern world and the noble resistance of 'the poor and the powerless'. It has also resulted in firm life-long friendships. Ra's learning curve would best be described as PanAfrican socialist. His professional experience of over thirty years was in the domain of community development. This led to Ra's connection with the music entertainment industry. From his involvement in the first Carnival Development Committee of the Notting Hill Carnival to his current live concert presentations in a beautifully-constructed space, Queen of the South, in Tulse Hill, a lot of water has flowed under the bridge. Ra continues to sit under the Tree of Learning, inspired by the potential and possibilities of Africa and the peoples of Africa wherever we may happen to find ourselves!



**Onyekachi Wambu – Associate, Special  
Projects, former Executive Director at  
AFFORD**

Onyekachi Wambu is a Former Co-Executive Director at AFFORD, a pioneer and innovator in the field of policy and practice of 'diaspora-development'. AFFORD's advocacy work under his leadership, has contributed to UK and international recognition of the role of the diaspora in Africa and international development.

Since 1990 Onyekachi has taken a leadership role on issues of African cultural heritage, especially focusing on the impact of slavery and colonialism, by making high level presentations and recommendations to the UN and African Union on the issue. He currently coordinates AFFORD's Return of the Icons Programme for the restitution of human remains and African artefacts. He is also a former newspaper editor and television producer for the BBC and PBS. He holds degrees from the University of Essex and Selwyn College, Cambridge. Onyekachi has written widely on Africa and its diaspora. His latest book, the anthology, *Empire Windrush: Reflections on 75 Years & More of the Black British Experience* was published on 22 June 2023.

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