



**SUPPORT LETTER FOR OLASUBOMI IGINLA AINA'S NOMINATION FOR ROYAL HONOURS.**

I am pleased to express my full support for Olasubomi Iginla Aina MBE's nomination for Royal Honours. After I met Olasubomi, I was convinced that our government should partner with her organization to combat the problem of irregular migration. We currently have over 650 residential centres for young irregular migrants from Africa. We were impressed by her dedication and passion for addressing the issue of irregular migration, particularly in the aftermath of the Melilla border tragedy and the riots that followed. Her efforts in engaging with the Catalanian government and advocating for improved care for young irregular migrants have been truly commendable.

Olasubomi's impactful work led to a partnership with the government of Catalonia. Her relentless commitment and advocacy have brought significant attention to this pressing issue. We have assisted her and her team – Lightup Foundation - towards the production of a documentary which they are currently using to create awareness on the dangers of irregular migration. The successful launch of the Creating Awareness and Alternative Mission (CAA Mission) on Irregular Migration in October 2023 is a testament to her unwavering dedication. We were part of this event as active partners of the CAA Mission.

Due to her unwavering commitment, our government had decided to assist in funding this initiative but due to the recent political crisis which affected the release of funds within our Directorate, we were unable to provide funding. However, despite facing challenges in securing funding, Olasubomi's determination has seen the CAA Mission project make a global impact.

Her ability to recruit volunteers and drive awareness in multiple countries is commendable. As at today, the CAA Mission has representation in 25 African countries already, just less than one year since it was launched in October 2023. She is really moving fast with this initiative. We are also aware that during the United Nations Civil Society Conference in May 2024, the first in Africa, 6 major side events took place in different countries to create awareness on the dangers of travelling irregularly. No doubt this showcases her exceptional leadership and influence.

Olasubomi's work has garnered support from key figures and organizations, including Gonsel Cars, African Citizens Development Foundation, Near East University, Cyprus International University, and influential leaders across the world. She has been knocking on every door to seek opportunities for African youth development. For the past few months now, Olasubomi and a team of researchers have been doing a thorough research on the subject of Irregular Migration and the lasting solution to this crisis. The Catalanian government is currently working with her and her team on this research, and we have started seeing the sense behind her approach. So, we are closely working with her on this research work which we believe will provide us with practicable solutions to this migration crisis.



With Olasubomi, it has not been business as usual; our government has provided a team of stakeholders working with the young Migrants to work with her to gather enough data and relevant information to support this research initiative. Currently, we have started gathering the analysis of her research which we consider very useful in making decisions on our work in this area. Her tireless efforts and significant achievements make her truly deserving of recognition and celebration.

We are proud to endorse Olasubomi and believe that her continued promotion and recognition will bring positive change to those in need. If further details are required, please refer to the contact information on this letterhead.

Yours Sincerely,

Ester Cabanes Vall

General Director

General Directorate of Child Care of Catalonia