



**Geno-Cost Event Structure:**

It doesn't take a lot to organize the Geno-Cost in your local area. The event can be a simple small gathering of friends, family in a home or a larger community gathering in a venue to choice is yours. You need to find what you are most comfortable doing in your surroundings.



DE GAUCHE À DROIT : MAMAN JEMIMA (EX-BENEFICIAIRE DE L'APPUI DU CAYP UK EN FAVEURS DES SURVIVANTS DES VIOLENCES SEXUELLES), MADemoiselle SAFI (MEMBRE DE L'UFEPROV), MAMAN SIFA (MEMBRE ET AGENT PSYCHO-SOCIAL DE L'UFEPROV), MADemoiselle JOLIE (MEMBRE DE L'UFEPROV), MAMAN KAHINDO (MEMBRE ET AGENT PSYCHO-SOCIAL DE L'UFEPROV) ET MADAME KABONGOLI MUUNDA Rebecca (COORDINATRICE PROVINCIALE DE L'UFEPROV asbl).

If you choose to have a large gathering this document has some guidelines to help you structure it.

There are 4 main parts to the event:  
 The Intro, The Talks, the Lighting of the candle and the Networking/ Discussion total duration 1-2 hours,



## Intro

We usually start with the National Anthem

Host explaining what is a Geno-Cost: 5-10 min  
Why we are gathering to remember, the importance of knowing not forgetting what is happening and to pay respect to those we have lost.  
Short videos (no longer than 10 min) and other supporting materials can be used in the intro or at any other point during the event if needed.  
An example of the into can be found here:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mvVOg86mq7c>

**Speakers:** 10-20 min each  
(1-3) Speaker(s) to talk about empower the community.  
These could be individual working on small or large project e.g. Campaigners, Event organisers, Charity Workers, Activists, Etc.

- This could be survivors of atrocities in Congo who could share their stories and give a first-hand account to the audience of what is going on.
- It could be People who could give a good analysis of the current situation and educate the masses on various issues.
- The speakers don't have to be Congolese but we prefer them to be Congolese as the Geno-Cost is a day where Congolese voices need to be heard to give a Congolese version of the story and try to find a Congolese solution to the problem.
- If you have any artist (musicians or poem they can perform for 2- 5 min between the speakers and the lighting of the Candles to help ease the mood and keep the atmosphere peaceful. Alternatively a bit of music in the background could be used as well.

**Candles:** 2-5 min

We light dandles candles that we dedicate to those we've lost.  
We originally had 6 candles to symbolise the 6 millions we have lost. That number is no longer relevant as those statistics form 2008 are now outdated. It's up to you the organiser to choose the number or candles you will have on the day.



Below are the dedications. We read one of the events after lighting each candles. After the last candles is lit we ask for a minute of silence.

- *1 To the millions we've lost through our long history of genocides, and who have died forgotten by history*
- *2 To the millions we've lost to: starvation and illnesses, unable to feed from our prosperous land*
- *3 To the millions we've lost to displacement and homelessness. All the refugees outside our borders and those internally displaced, forced out of their homes.*
- *4 To the millions we've lost to enslavement and the violent exploitation of our land.*
- *5 To the millions we lost to political oppression because they were bold enough to stands for our rights to equality and freedom.*
- *6 A last candle of hope to the millions who are still struggling in our troubled land and working tirelessly for a brighter future.*
- *Let's have a moment silence for all those we remember on this Memorial Day.*

Feel free to add your own dedication if you have one.

Usually after the minute of silence there will be a short musical break to 2-5 min before moving on to the next part.

## **Networking/Discussions:**

20-30 min



This part should be done with refreshments if possible in a relaxed atmosphere that is family friendly. The aim is to enable young and old to interact connect and share knowledge. If the talks had overrun this section should be shortened to vacate the venue on time.

This could also be done as a round table discussions or having a Q n A with the speaker (Speakers) or giving people an opportunity to share their thought and ideas of a ways to help bring solutions that would help the community.

## **Closure:**

Remind people to fill their contacts on the way out if they are happy to be contacted for future events. (This will be your own database for future events.)

You can also ask them to follow Geno-Cost on our social media platform if they want to find out more. (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)

Ask them to use #Genocost if they are posting about the events on their social media to keep in touch with future events.

## **AVOID TURNING IT INTO A DEBATE!!**

Debates are important for our struggle, however they also tend to be the source of many tensions especially on a topic as sensitive as the genocide of our people. For those reasons we urge the host to always avoid letting tempers get high. Instead encourage positive exchange of ideas and dialogue.

This event is first and foremost is a Memorial Day. People should leave feeling uplifted, or empowered but not angry or frustrated. There are plenty of events where they can vent their frustration the Geno-Cost however should not be one of them.

## **Avoid Religious High-jacking:**

We are not against prayer or religion. We understand that most Congolese are Christians but we are not all of the same religion. Therefore all talks should be done in respect of other religions and be kept as inclusive as possible to Congolese and non-Congolese.

## **Avoid Racist or Xenophobic attack:**

Non Congolese are welcome to stand in solidarity with us at this time. Our aim is to win support of the Congolese community first but also to positively influence people around us to bring change to the Congo. We encourage the invitation of non-Congolese as guests (not host) to all Geno-Cost event irrespective of race gender sexual orientation, etc...

## **Extra bits you may want to consider**

### **SET UP:**

- **Use of a projector** to be able to project slides on the walls for any presentation. Many venues come with their own built-in facilities.
- **Refreshment table:** Somewhere to serve non-alcoholic drinks keep the guest comfortable.
- **Collection jar for donations:** You will need those to cover your costs and make the event sustainable. Be clear and honest about this people who support the campaign will always donate. Usually the funds collected are insufficient. We rely on fund raisers prior to the event to help cover most costs. If profit is made, the organiser can use it for charitable causes or re-invested into future events.
- **Merchandise** or other goods to sell. This will help toward the cost covering.
- **Volunteers:** to sit people in, set up and tidy up and promote the event.
- **Music:** Old Classics and uplifting Congolese songs perhaps arrange a playlist.

- **Host suggestion:** If possible someone who can speak English as well as fluent Lingala or French.
- Microphone and Speakers ( if the venue requires one)
- Geno-Cost logo to project as a backdrop (if projector available) this can be found on our website or Facebook page.