

## Pan-African view

A new African librarians' organisation has been launched to further 'an anti-imperialist and pan-African world outlook'.

PaliAct (the Progressive African Library & Information Activists' Group) believes that 'current "leaders" in the African information field have done little to break colonial and imperialist policies and practices in meeting the information needs of working people in Africa, or to make the profession more relevant to the needs

of African librarians and information workers'.

The group plans to set up an alternative information service 'run and managed by/on behalf of workers, peasants, pastoralists, fisher people and other marginalised individuals' in order to show 'what our "official" libraries and information workers should be doing'.

It also aims to 'influence syllabi and teaching programmes in African universities'. Currently 'African heroes' such as Cabral,

Kimaathi, Lumumba, Nyerere and Pinto are barely known.

According to PaliAct's vision statement: 'The opportunity for making fundamental changes created as a direct result of the political victories in the early period of struggle for liberation was lost. The classes who were served by the colonial library service continued to be served...'

Membership is open to all who agree with PaliAct's aims. Contact: shirazdurrani@gmail.com