The Ark of Return

A Permanent Memorial to Honour the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade was erected on the United Nations Visitors Plaza at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Titled The Ark of Return, it was designed by Rodney Leon, a U.S. architect of Haitian descent.

This Permanent Memorial invites people to contemplate the legacy of the slave trade and to fight against racism and prejudice today.

Visitors can walk through the Memorial to experience three elements: Acknowledge the Tragedy, Consider the Legacy, Lest We Forget.

Access to the Memorial is free. It is open to the public from March to October
   Monday - Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
   Saturday - Sunday: 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Weekly Briefings: Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

For more information please visit:
Twitter @rememberslavery
Facebook www.facebook.com/rememberslavery
Website www.un.org/en/events/slaveryremembranceday/
Contact: Education-Outreach@un.org
United Nations Department of Public Information

Remember Slavery: Triumphs and Struggles for Freedom and Equality 2018

Programme of Events
The Remember Slavery Programme

The United Nations Remember Slavery Programme is managed by the Education Outreach Section of the Department of Public Information's Outreach Division. It was established through General Assembly resolution 62/122 in 2007 to honor the memory of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade and to raise awareness of the dangers of racism and prejudice today.

Every year in March, the United Nations holds a number of activities to mark the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade. This year's theme is “Triumphs and Struggles for Freedom and Equality”, which celebrates the gains of people of African descent from slavery to the present. It also acknowledges the challenges that have been overcome in the movement towards freedom and equality.

The Programme also organizes educational activities throughout the year, including roundtable discussions, film screenings, an exhibition, tours of the Permanent Memorial, The Ark of Return, and a global student video conference.

The United Nations Information Centres also hold a number of commemorative activities around the world to further understanding of the causes, consequences, lessons and legacy of the transatlantic slave trade.

Commemorative Activities in New York

Thursday, 8 February 2018
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Film Screening: Familiar Faces/Unexpected Places: A Global African Diaspora, Conference Room 4, United Nations
Produced by Cultural Anthropologist and Executive Director of Afrodiaspora, Inc. Sheila S. Walker PhD, this film highlights the countless Afro-communities found in unexpected parts of the world. The screening was held in partnership with the International Decade for People of African Descent.

5 - 28 March 2018 - Exhibit: Remember Slavery: Say It Loud
Visitors Lobby, United Nations
The exhibit, held in collaboration with the National Organization of Minority Architects, features architects of African descent who have gained recognition in this elite profession. Their unique perspective has enabled them to have a voice and an impact on the way public spaces are presented.

Monday, 26 March 2018
International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade (Observed)

3:00 p.m. - General Assembly Commemorative Meeting
General Assembly Hall, United Nations
Keynote Speaker: The Honourable Graciela Dixon, former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Panama
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Culinary & Cultural Experience
Visitors Lobby, United Nations

Thursday, 29 March 2018
3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. - NGO Briefing
Conference Room 2, United Nations
The briefing will highlight the personal stories and gains of people of African descent in the movement towards freedom and equality.

Friday, 27 April 2018
9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. - Global Student Videoconference
Conference Room 3, United Nations
The briefing will link students in New York, the Caribbean and Africa via video under the theme “Remember Slavery: Triumphs and Struggles for Freedom and Equality”.

The International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024) affords an opportunity to showcase the contributions of people of African descent and recognize that they represent a distinct group whose human rights must be protected and promoted. In keeping with these values, the Remember Slavery Programme supports the activities of the International Decade for People of African Descent. To learn more, visit: www.un.org/en/events/africandescentdecade