

Learning about contributions of the African diaspora through film



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To mark Black History Month in the United States, the contributions of people of African descent were the subject of a discussion and screening of the film, *Familiar Faces/Unexpected Places: A Global African Diaspora*, on 8 February 2018 at UN Headquarters. The event was organized by the UN Remember Slavery Programme, and the International Decade for People of African Descent 2015-2024.

Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications Alison Smale opened the event and reiterated the Department of Public Information's support of the International Decade for People of African Descent: "Through the Remember Slavery Programme, we are focused on celebrating the gains of people of African descent from slavery to the present, while acknowledging the present challenges on their path towards freedom and equality--our common path."

She was joined by Mauro Viera, Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations. "Half of Brazil's 210 million people are of African descent. Brazil is a nation of deep-rooted liberties that is built on a foundation of diversity from which we draw strength as a nation," he said.

The documentary film, produced by Dr. Sheila Walker, took the audience on a journey across the world and explored the rich cultures and many contributions of African descendants. Following the screening, the panel discussed themes such as the continuity of African culture, understanding the making of the African global

diaspora, racial oppression, and the progress African descendants have made in recent years.

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The panelists included Board Member of the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History Gloria Browne Marshall, University of North Carolina at Greensboro Dean and Professor of African Diaspora History Omar Ali, and University of Chicago South Asian Languages and Civilizations Department Scholar Jazmin Graves. The discussion was moderated by Ramu Damodaran, Chief of UN Academic Impact.

Watch here: <http://bit.ly/2Fe6pFi>