

The Transatlantic Slave Trade

An International Day of Remembrance

In 2007, the UN General Assembly marked the bicentennial of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade, and created an annual observance devoted to remembering slavery and its victims. Over a period of more than 400 years, it is estimated that between 15 and 20 million Africans were uprooted from their homes and sold as slaves, a tragedy of immense scope and human suffering.

Honouring the Heroes, Resisters and Survivors

The International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is observed every year on 25 March. This year's theme is "Honouring the Heroes, Resisters and Survivors". Activities are carried out throughout the year, to recognize those who fought against slavery in the past as well as those who fought and continue to fight against the lingering consequences of bigotry, racism and prejudice that have plagued our societies.

Why should we talk about the Transatlantic Slave Trade today?

Raising awareness about the transatlantic slave trade is also an occasion to cast a light on the impact it has had on present-day society. Many people of colour today, including youth, are still profoundly affected by the hidden remnants of slavery, manifested through bias, hatred, prejudice and intolerance. Knowing about the history of slavery, and the brave individuals who rose up against it, can provide a valuable perspective and be a source of pride and motivation in overcoming current day challenges.

Remembering Slavery – A Permanent Memorial at UN Headquarters

An important initiative underway is to erect a permanent memorial at United Nations Headquarters to remind the world about the millions of Africans who were violently removed from their homelands and forced into slavery. It is not meant to be merely a silent monument, but one that speaks to the legacy of the past while also making people reflect about prejudice and racial discrimination in today's world. The countries of Africa and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), under the leadership of Jamaica, have taken the initiative in working on the permanent memorial with voluntary financial contributions from Governments, individuals, organizations and the private sector. For an easy way to give, go to www.unslaverymemorial.org/concert.

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The United Nations presents

2012 Annual Gala Concert

In support of a Permanent Memorial to the Victims of Slavery and

The Transatlantic Slave Trade

Come Celebrate the Musical Heritage of the Diaspora!



Concert Programme

15 May 2012 • 7 p.m.

General Assembly Hall
United Nations Headquarters

Concert Programme

Speakers

Mr. Maher Nasser

Acting Head of the Department of Public Information

H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser

President of the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Special Video Message

H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon

Secretary-General of the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Raymond Wolfe

Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations
and Chairman of the Permanent Memorial Committee

H.E. Mr. Ismael Abraão Gaspar Martins

Permanent Representative of Angola to the United Nations
and Chairman of the Group of African States for May 2012

Dr. Sheila Walker

Cultural Anthropologist and Executive Director of Afrodiaspora Inc.

Honouring the **HEROES** **RESISTERS** and **SURVIVORS**

Master of Ceremonies



April Sutton • USA

An award-winning Television Broadcast Pioneer in Hollywood, became the youngest Inductee to the Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 1993 for outstanding television reports on Black Entertainment Television (BET) Network. Ms. Sutton has received many honors for her television work in Hollywood as the Producer and Host of the "April in Hollywood".

Performers



Third World Band • Jamaica

The ten-time Grammy nominated group is one of the most famous reggae groups in the world. With 23 albums to their name, Third World Band has performed in scores of countries on every continent. The group has worked with top artists such as Bob Marley and the Wailers, Stevie Wonder and the Jackson Five.



Mbaye Dieye Faye and Sing Sing Rhythm • Senegal

Well known for being Yousou N'Dour's bandleader, Mbaye Dieye Faye is an internationally famous singer and musician in his own right and is arguably one of the best percussionists in his country. Mbaye Dieye Faye and his group play a genre of music indigenous to Senegal called *Mbalax*, combining an exciting blend of traditional group percussion and synchronized dancing.



Chen Lo and the Lo Frequency Band • USA

Chen Lo and the Lo Frequency is a contemporary hip-hop band that fuses live instrumentation with electronic hip hop elements. They recently toured 10 different countries, performing and conducting workshops sponsored by the US State Department.



Rachelle Jeanty • Haiti, Canada

An accomplished singer, recording artist and backing vocalist for major Francophone acts, she toured the world for two years with superstar Celine Dion. Nominated two years in a row as Best Soul/R&B Francophone artist and Francophone Revelation of the Year at the SOBA Awards, she is Winner of the Rythme FM radio contest.