



STATE OF THE
**AFRICAN
DIASPORA**

NEWSLETTER

STATE OF THE AFRICAN DIASPORA
NEWSLETTER N° 9 : OUR HEROES, OUR SHEROES

STATE OF THE AFRICAN DIASPORA

presents

PAN-AFRICAN WOMENS' DAY

FACING THE CHALLENGES AND CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF PAN-AFRICAN WOMEN

**-PAST
-PRESENT
AND
-FUTURE**

**SATURDAY
31 JULY, 2021
2.00PM GMT
9.00AM EST, USA**

PAN-AFRICAN WOMENS' DAY

Congratulations

OLAMIN OJINA

CHRISTIANE FAYARD

WENDY HENRI

NATALIE KAMEN

ELLEN JOHNSON BRLEAF


FRANÇOISE HENRISSON

RICHIELLE JEAN

OPPI CAMPBELL


MARCUS GARVEY

Sculpture




A BRONZE BUST OF THE FATHER OF PAN-AFRICANISM TO BE PLACED AT THE AFRICAN UNION HQ IN ETHIOPIA

AFROGLOBAL TELEVISION APPLAUS AND SUPPORTS THE INITIATIVE



MARCUS GARVEY



DR. JULIUS GARVEY, SON

Contents :

-Editorial.....p.01

-Our National Calendar.....p.02

-Celebrating our Heroesp.03

-Celebrating our Sheroes.....p.05

-Celebrating the IDAD (July 1st).....p.08

-Preparing our future Exhibitionp.09

-Celebrating the Parafrican Women’s Day (July 31st).....p.10

-Working Against the Salary Gap.....p.13

- Celebrating the Marcus Garvey Day (August 17th).....p.15

-Going back to Africap.16

EDITORIAL



*By Dr. Louis-Georges Tin
Prime Minister of the State of the African Diaspora*

Memory and Action

All over the world, from year to year, commemorations take place, and are repeated, more or less identically. One sometimes comes to ask : but in fact, what is the point of all these ceremonies ? Certainly, it is necessary to know one’s past. Yes, but so what ? The problem is that commemorations were originally conceived by our predecessors as a springboard for action, and very often, they have become a substitute for action. This development is in fact a perversion.

Indeed, we are very concerned by our memory for if we do not tell our history, others will do it for us. By distorting the facts, of course. But we must evoke the past to better prepare the future. Commemorating is good; repairing is better. We do not want commemoration without action.

In July and August, in the State of the African Diaspora, we have many commemorations. They are important, and we are talking about them here, but they must be extended by action: that is what this special issue is all about !



Our National Calendar



for example, for the anglophone countries, Toussaint Louverture and Haïti for the francophone regions, Carlota and Cuba for the Hispanic speakers, Zumbi and Dandara, the Brazilian heroes, for the Lusophones.

Commenting on this calendar which is now official, the Prime Minister said : « We do not want to celebrate memory for the sake of memory. That is why I urge all our Ministers, Ambassadors, Members of Parliament, brothers and sisters to celebrate these heroes, these heroes and these days, not only by remembering the past, but also by preparing the future through the actions we need to implement. Pan-Africanism in action, this is what we are and what we have to be », Dr Tin concluded.

The State of the African Diaspora (SOAD) was launched on July 1st, 2018. That is why July 1st is now the International Day of the African Diaspora (IDAD). However, it cannot be the only official date in our calendar. Of course, May 25th, Africa Liberation Day, is also on our agenda and many other days could, or even should be celebrated. This is why the Government launched a consultation among the leaders of SOAD to identify which day, which event or which hero has to be commemorated.

After this consultation, the leadership announced the official calendar of the State of the African Diaspora :

- 7 April, Toussaint Louverture Day,
- 25 May, Africa Liberation Day,
- 1 July, International Day of the African Diaspora, SOAD National Day**
- 31 July, Panafrikan Women Day
- 17 August, Marcus Garvey Day,
- 23 August, International Day of Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition
- 21 September, Kwame Nkrumah Day,
- 19 October, Nanny Day,
- 5 November, Carlota Day
- 20 November, Zumbi and Dandara day

This calendar refers both to Africa (for example the Africa day) and the Diaspora (for example the Diaspora Day), which makes it truly Pan-African. There are 4 days to celebrate our great men, but also 4 days to celebrate our great women, which is very important for us. The main linguistic areas of the Diaspora are represented : Kwame Nkrumah and Ghana,

Celebrating our Heroes

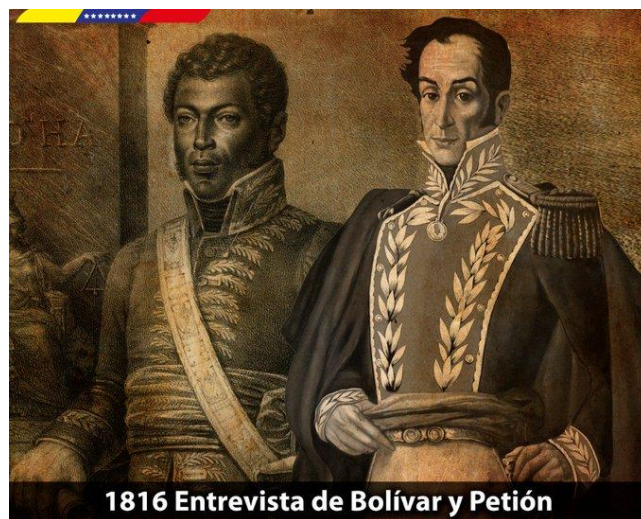
This official calendar is mostly based on our Pan-African Heroes. Unfortunately, they are not known enough, and that is why we need to promote them. Though the western heroes are internationally celebrated, the Black heroes remain often unsung.

That situation is striking for all of them, even the most famous of our great men, Toussaint Louverture. The leader of the Haitian Revolution is relatively famous, but less than what should be the case. It is not just because of time passing : in France, some people cry every year about Joan of Arc as if she died yesterday, while she passed away in 1431.

Toussaint Louverture is not just a national hero for Haïti, he is or should be a hero for the world. According to the United Nations, the Haitian Revolution is one of the 5 biggest revolutions in the world along with the French Revolution, the American revolution, the Russian revolution and the Chinese Revolution. All these revolutions have had international consequences. Though it is obvious for all of them, many people do not realise why it is so for the Haitian Revolution.



After Toussaint Louverture's death, the Haitian Revolution became a model for many other countries in the world. Simon Bolivar and his friends came many times to Haïti, where they received a military, logistical and financial support for their fight against the Spanish Colonisation. Haïti had even created a « Patriotic Relief » fund for all the peoples who were fighting for their freedom on the continent. Symbolically, the first time the new Venezuelan flag was raised is in fact in Haïti. It is something that 200 years later, Mr Chavez, former president of Venezuela, never forgot.



Picture celebrating the meeting between Bolivar, the Venezuelan leader, and Petion, the Haitian leader, shared on twitter, two years ago, by Mr Maduro, President of Venezuela.

But bearing in mind Toussaint's legacy, the Haitian leaders always insisted : there is no freedom for the country if there is no freedom for the citizens. Therefore, according to the Haitian leaders, the objective is not only to free the colony from the European leaders, but also to free the black slaves from their white masters in the colony. It is something that was not necessarily on the agenda of the Venezuelan leaders, especially Francisco de Miranda, who was white himself. And even Bolivar, originally, was not against slavery. But Haïti made it very clear, and finally Bolivar and his team adopted the Haïtian model which is twofold : freedom for the State, freedom for the people. Or, to put it in another way, independence and abolition.



Through Bolivar, the Haitian model became the new norm in Central and South America. Gradually, all the countries from Panama to Peru, Colombia, Equator, Venezuela, and Bolivia, that even bears Bolivar’s name, adopted the same model, and then the whole region abolished slavery, the last country being Brazil. But even in Brazil, abolition and independance were connected. All of that is the legacy of Toussaint Louverture and of the Haitian Revolution.

Being a model in the Americas, the first black Republic was of course a model in Africa, and even in Asia. Hô Chi Minh, the leader of the Vietnamese independance and first President of the Republic of Viêt Nam, learnt a lot from Toussaint Louverture, and is often refered to as the « Asian Toussaint Louverture ». As a matter of fact, his strategy was similar to the one developed by Toussaint, as they were both trying to defeat the French armies. Toussaint knew it was impossible for him to overcome the French troops, the cavalry, the cannons, on the battlefield, while his army was mostly composed of infantrymen and small arms. However, being Haitian, he had an advantage against the armies of Napoleon: he knew the terrain. He lured the heavily armed troops into the swamps, where their advantage became a serious handicap ; stuck in the mud, the enemies were an easy target -Toussaint Louverture had just invented the guerrilla.

This is how Toussaint could defeat Napoléon, supposedly the most powerful man at this time. This is exactly what Hô Chi Minh did in his country, against the French, and then against the American troops, defeated in the jungle. It is exactly what almost all the southern colonies did against the colonial powers of the north. The military strategy of the guerrilla (in the swamps, in the jungle, in the mountains, or even in town as there are urban guerillas) changed the face of the world, because it allowed the victory of the « weak » against the « strong », gradually putting an end to 5 centuries of colonisation. The beginning of the rebalancing between South and North had begun. That is also a political and military legacy left by Toussaint Louverture.



Article by Paul Robeson, « Ho Chi Minh is Toussaint L'Ouverture of Indo China »

Given that incredible achievement, you might expect Toussaint Louverture to be a world class hero. On Google, if you compare his name to Napoléon, you will find 6 millions items for Toussaint and 23,5 millions articles for Napoléon. If you compare the books including their names in the titles : a few dozens for Toussaint, 18 000 for Napoléon ! It means that since Napoléon died 200 years ago, 90 books every year as an average include him in their title (not to mention all the other ones that speak about him, but not in the title), which means almost two books every week !

Even today, Napoléon who organised a coup, who was a dictator, who committed war crimes all over Europe, and re-established slavery in Guadeloupe, which is a crime against humanity, and tried to do the same in Haïti, even though Napoléon is the only man in the world who re-established slavery in his country after it was abolished, something that never happened anywhere else, still today, this horrible criminal remains the most popular hero in France thanks to this army of writers, journalists and other ignorant or racist people who praise his name regularly -a very powerful propaganda.



In parallel, alongside of the making of memory, often full of State lies, we need to address also the making of oblivion. Oblivion is not a matter of time, but rather a matter of power. Most people forgot about Toussaint, and even more never heard of him. The reason behind is because there was a maritime, commercial, economic, political, diplomatic and even memorial blockade against Haïti. The country was « punished » by the European and American authorities. The northern countries did not want the Haitian Revolution to become a source of inspiration for the other slaves in the Americas. Moreover, Napoléon gave clear instructions to his ambassadors and told them : « I do not want you to mention Vertières, I do not want people to know that I was defeated by a negro. » And it worked.

Even today, all the battles led by Napoléon in France are very well known. Even his defeats are well known, as Waterloo, a British victory. But you will never hear about Vertières (November 18, 1803), the great battle where the Haitian troops were able to defeat France. To be defeated by the British is painful enough, to be defeated by a black slave is totally unbearable. So this is why and how oblivion was organised and structured.

Today, many young people of African Descent may believe they can never win because they never heard of any battle won by their ancestors. They do not have any role model who look like them. They believe they are doomed to failure. But if they knew not only all the challenges, but also all the victories of their ancestors, they would certainly understand all the victories they are also capable of, and they would start to mobilise themselves, something some people may not want, but something we certainly need. And this is why we have to celebrate our heroes.

Celebrating our Sheroes



The role of women in history is very often underestimated; the historiography of black women, especially during slavery is even worse. However, in recent years, several books have made it possible to progressively repair this lack. We now know a little bit more about the status of women in colonial society, and many women played an eminent role in the resistance to slavery, which is worth mentioning, whether in Africa, or in the Americas. This is why we need to praise also our Sheroes.

We must mention some of these profiles, the queen, the princess, the warrior, the mother, the nurse, the trader, the nanny, the spy, the priestess, the maroon, etc. They did not wait to arrive in America: as early as Africa, women began to fight against slavery. The most famous example, but not the only one, is that of Nzinga, queen of the kingdom of Ndongo and the kingdom of Matamba, in present-day Angola. When she came to the throne, she had to oppose the colonial and slavery ambitions of the Portuguese and lead many military battles, not without success. In 1622, during a peace conference in Luanda, with the Portuguese governor, João Correia de Sousa, she signed a treaty intended to

preserve the freedom of her subjects and the sovereignty of her state. According to legend, the governor refused to offer her a seat, and invited her to sit on the ground as a sign of humiliation. Nzinga then ordered one of his followers to get on all fours and sat on her back, talking to the governor as an equal.

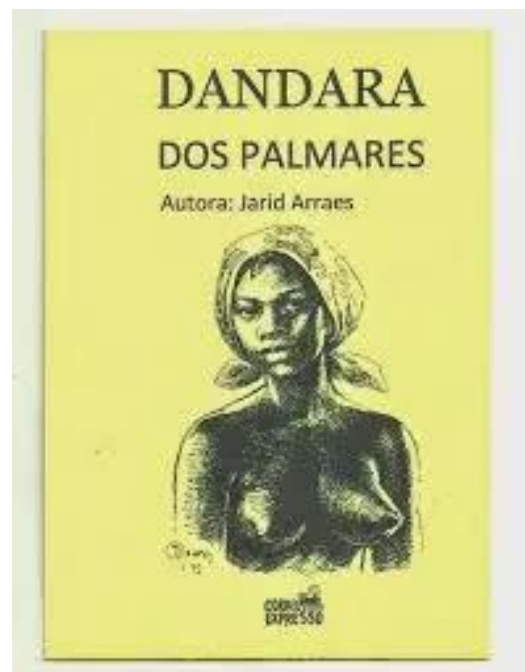
Among these women of the African nobility who fought against slavery, one could mention Princess Aqualtune Ezgondidu Mahamud da Silva Santos. Daughter of the king of the Congo, she led the soldiers of the kingdom during the battle of Mbwila against the Portuguese, in 1665. More than 5000 men died on this occasion, and she was enslaved. Deported to Ghana, then to Recife, Brazil, she became a slave in a breeding farm, destined to be raped, and thus to increase the "stock" of her masters, but she managed to escape and founded the famous Quilombo dos Palmares, one of the most famous places of resistance to slavery.

However, in spite of the usual conceptions, heroism is not necessarily the work of kings or queens, generals on horseback, saber or rifle in hand, defeating the enemy or saving soldiers on the battlefield. Many other acts, more modest in appearance, have been just as important in fact, just as courageous, but have not been told as they should have been told. Slavery is not one story, it is thousands, millions of different stories, and particularly women's stories, most of which have been forgotten. However, it is appropriate to evoke the domestic and discreet heroism of these women, which has hardly been celebrated.

The primary concern of enslaved women was often to protect their children. While men, sold here or there, could no longer ensure the protection of their family, they remained the only ones able to provide the youngest ones with the material and emotional resources they needed. It was not without risk, it was not without sacrifice. Such slave traveled every night in secret during tens of kilometers to go, and as much to return, to kiss her child, torn from her breast, and to make sure that he could benefit from the necessary tenderness, even if it was only for a few minutes. Another slave had to accept the sexual blackmail of her master, to prevent her baby from being sold to another owner and thus separated from its mother.

Harriet Tubman's mother saw several of her children sold and taken away from her. Another trader came to the plantation one day, intending to buy her youngest son, Moses. Harriet hid him for a month to prevent the sale. The master came back a few weeks later to get the child back: she threatened to cut open the head of the first man who would have the idea of crossing the threshold of her house, a word that could have cost her her life, but which was taken very seriously.

It is often the domestic resistance that leads women to resistance at all. Often it is not for themselves that they fight, but for their children, and beyond, for the whole community. It is then as mothers that they get involved. They participate in small-scale marronage, but also in collective actions leading to large-scale marronage. They constitute the pillars of the servile community of the colonies and are often, as such, the driving forces behind important undertakings. Enslaved women and free women of color use new forms of resistance, acts of sabotage, disguises traps, various ruses. They sometimes resorted to infanticide and suicide, notably by drowning, by throwing from the deck of slave ships. Or they use other means, like Dandara who, captured by the colonial authorities in Brazil, threw herself into the void.

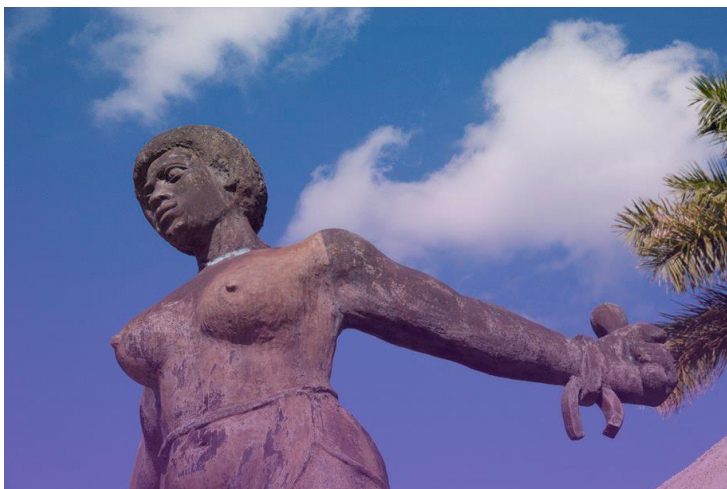




Because of their proximity to the masters, the servants, cooks, and housekeepers had easy access to foodstuffs - they sometimes worked on poisoning. The women participated in a parallel economy in favor of marronage, by facilitating the larceny and theft of livestock, linen, and clothing. They smuggled food, manioc, vegetables in a clandestine manner.

Throughout the period of slavery, women were often involved in the burning of bagasse huts, sugar cane fields and sometimes in the burning of the houses of the masters. They often initiate plots, and may urge individuals to revolt and to forest marronage, as testified by the mixed tales of legend surrounding the Mulâtresse Solitude in Guadeloupe, Heva in Reunion, Cécile Fatiman in Saint Domingue, or Claire in Guyana. Many of them know the secrets of medicinal plants, a particularly precious resource in this context of violence, torture, wounds and diseases, and this increases their prestige, that of Nanny, for example, Queen of the Marroons of Jamaica, who gave her name to Nannytown.

insurrection in Santo Domingo, Carlota in Cuba or Dandara in Brazil. All of them are our Sheroes, and celebrated as such on our official calendar. And young girls in Africa and in the Diaspora need to know where they are coming from, and what they can also achieve as women.



They also participate actively in the urban marronage by mixing with the floating population of the de facto freemen. They are merchants, laundresses, and washerwomen, and remain on the lookout for strategies for their emancipation. It is often them who animate the assemblies during which the collective decisions are organized, they also animate the religious rituals, the political plots, or the decisions of the daily life. Active in the revolts, they also participate in military battles: we know the decisive role that Sanité Belair had in the



Celebrating the IDAD (July 1st)



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thestateofafricandiaspora.com

Flyer of IDAD 2021

The International Day of the African Diaspora (IDAD) was so intense this year that it did not last one day, as it did last year, but four. Also, the events took place not only online, but also on the ground, in Ecuador, in Burundi and in Sierra Leone, for instance. The whole program was under the authority of Her Excellency Marie-Ange Billot-Thébaud, Minister of Historical Legacy.

During IDAD 2021, the official calendar was announced. Also, during the following panels, the Royal Chamber was launched, and different programs were introduced such as the SOAD University, or the Pan-African Olympic Games. Here is the program of the 4 days :

PROGRAM July 1-4, 2021 English version	
<p>Thursday July 1st (1 p.m. GMT)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening Prayers 1st Panel : Dates and Memory <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of the official calendar of the African Diaspora State Exhibition on our archives 2nd Panel (15h GMT) : Lancement de la Chambre Royale <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of the Royal Chamber Royal words Friday July 2 (1 p.m. GMT) 1st Panel: Pan-African Olympic Games <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of the Games Our sports disciplines 2nd Panel: University State of African Diaspora <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of the University Presentation of some Faculties 	<p>Saturday July 3 (1 p.m. GMT)</p> <p>1st panel (: The Diaspora</p> <p>History of the African Diaspora in the world</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> African Diaspora in India Les Mascareignes: inventory of fixtures Malaya: the richness of a family heritage <p>2nd panel (4 p.m. GMT) :</p> <p>women, youth and repatriation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empower women The future of youth in Africa and the Diaspora Repatriation: how, where and when ? <p>Sunday July 4th (1 p.m. GMT)</p> <p>1st Panel: Coronation</p> <p>2nd Panel (1:15 p.m. GMT) :</p> <p>National Conference of Burundi</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> About SOAD and IDAD <p>3rd Panel: (3 p.m. GMT)</p> <p>Sierra Leone National Conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development and human capital (3 p.m. GMT) Restitution (17h GMT)

Flyer for the IDAD in Ecuador, organised by our two MPs, Edison Marquez and Luisa Ortiz



IDAD 2021, Burundi, around Appolinaire Majambere, Member of Parliament

Flyer about the IDAD event, organised by Ambassador Jasmin Rowe, Ambassador Florence Akpokodje and MP Merline Ulysse

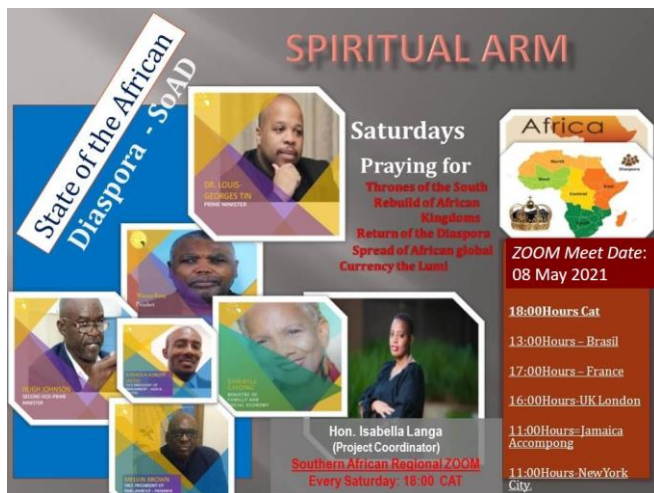
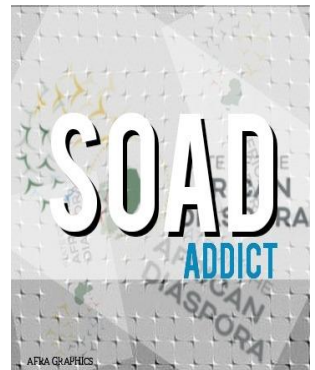
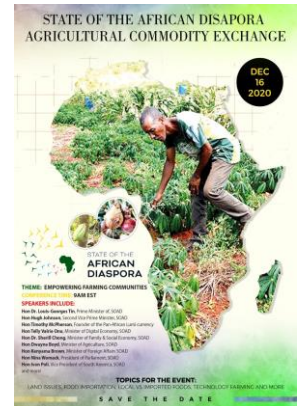


STATE OF THE AFRICAN DIASPORA

Preparing our future IDAD Exhibition

During the IDAD 2021, Her Excellency Marie-Agè Thebaud sent a strong message to prepare IDAD 2022, and also to prepare our future archives. As a matter of fact, if in 30 or 50 years, we start to look for souvenirs and documents, it will be too late : most of it will be lost. So if we want to be remembered, and be a base and an inspiration for future accomplishments, we need to create our archives as of today.

Even if SOAD is only 3 years old, we can see that there is a lot of material. Here are some of the flyers that were used to promote our actions, and next year, we will make a whole exhibition about them. So whoever has some flyers regarding the State of the African Diaspora should send them to the Minister of Historical Legacy.



Topic: Executing the Cooperation Agreement A-Z
 Time: Jul 9, 2021 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)



STATE OF THE
**AFRICAN
DIASPORA**

Celebrating the Pan-African Women's Day (July 31st)



31 July was created by the African Union to mark the anniversary of the Pan-African Women's Organization (PAWO), the Specialised Agency of the AU dedicated to gender equality and women's empowerment. On July 1st, the leadership of the State of the African Diaspora officially declared that this day would also be an official day on the SOAD agenda. So, in 2021, for the first time, SOAD celebrated the Pan-African Women's Day.

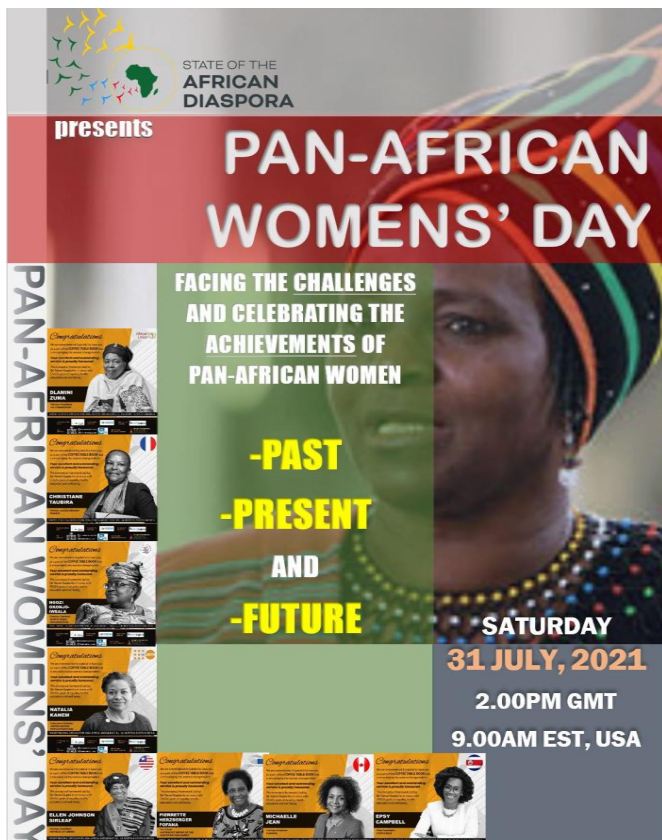
The women identified and rewarded during the conference are the following :



Rosa Campoalegre Septien, Minister of Gender Equality of the State of the African Diaspora, from Cuba,



Dlamini Zuma, former President of the commission of the African Union, from South Africa



During that conference, different awards were given to great Pan-African Women in the context of a partnership between the State of the African Diaspora and VQENA, an Indian NGO, led by His Excellency Varun Gupta, advisor of the Prime Minister of SOAD.



STATE OF THE AFRICAN DIASPORA

Congratulations

We are overwhelmed & grateful to have you as a part of the **COFFEE TABLE BOOK** that is encouraging the women changemakers.

Your excellent and outstanding service is proudly honoured.

The conceptual framework laid by **Dr. Varun Gupta** lies in nexus with UNSDG goals of equality, health, education and well being.

PIERRETTE HERZBERGER FOFANA

Co-Chair
ANTIRACIST GROUP OF THE
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

TARGET REACH & CIRCULATION: ASIA, AFRICA, MIDDLE EAST, EU, UK, NORTH & SOUTH AMERICA



Pierrette Herzbergere Fofana, co-chair of the Antiracist Group of the European Parliament, from Mali and Germany

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NGOZI OKONJO- IWEALA

Director General
WORLD TRADE
ORGANISATION

TARGET REACH & CIRCULATION: ASIA, AFRICA, MIDDLE EAST, EU, UK, NORTH & SOUTH AMERICA



Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director General of the World Trade Organisation, from Nigeria

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MICHAELLE JEAN

Former Governor
CANADA

TARGET REACH & CIRCULATION: ASIA, AFRICA, MIDDLE EAST, EU, UK, NORTH & SOUTH AMERICA



Michaëlle Jean, former Governor of Canada, from Haïti, former Secretary General of the Francophonie

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EPSY CAMPBELL

Vice President
COSTA RICA

TARGET REACH & CIRCULATION: ASIA, AFRICA, MIDDLE EAST, EU, UK, NORTH & SOUTH AMERICA



Epsy Campbell, Vice President of Costa Rica,



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ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF

Former President
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

TARGET REACH & CIRCULATION: ASIA, AFRICA, MIDDLE EAST, EU, UK, NORTH & SOUTH AMERICA



Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former President of Liberia, Nobel Peace Prize Award

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NATALIA KANEM

Executive Director
UNITED NATION
POPULATION FUND

TARGET REACH & CIRCULATION: ASIA, AFRICA, MIDDLE EAST, EU, UK, NORTH & SOUTH AMERICA



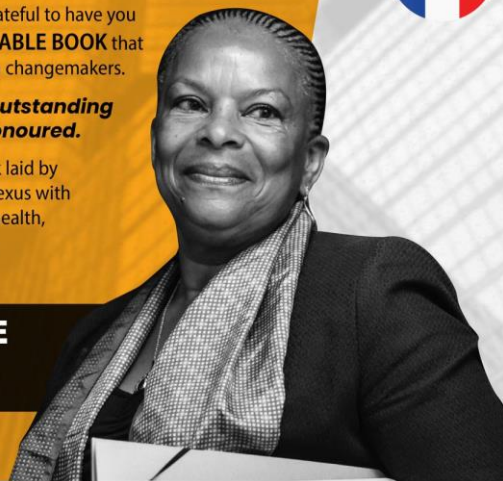
Natalia Kanem, Executive Director of the UN Population Fund, from Panama.

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CHRISTIANE TAUBIRA

Former Justice Minister
FRANCE

TARGET REACH & CIRCULATION: ASIA, AFRICA, MIDDLE EAST, EU, UK, NORTH & SOUTH AMERICA



Christiane Taubira, former Minister of Justice of France, from Guyane,

« Among all these great women, I have to express a particular gratitude to Mrs Zuma, Dr Louis-Georges Tin declared. Alongside with President Aziz, who was then the President of the African Union, and who is the one who gave me a formal mandate, Mrs Zuma was the person who actually gave me the idea, the mission and the inspiration to work on the 6th Region. For the 50th anniversary of the African Union, she accepted to receive me for one hour in her office in Addis, while so many presidents were waiting for her behind the door. She told me the 6th Region is already included in the Constitution of the African Union, but does not have any real structure. That is why she wanted the diaspora to be organised by itself, and she asked me to work on it. Humbled by her confidence, and following her words, I then decided to move forward, and this is how I started to build a team to create and launch the State of the African Diaspora. We owe a lot to her », the Prime Minister concluded.



Mr Louis-Georges Tin, with Mrs Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, president of the Commission of the African Union, discussing about the structures and the missions of the African Diaspora.

Working Against the Salary Gap



As already explained, commemorations cannot be organised only for the sake of commemorations. They have to serve a concrete purpose. That is why, during the Pan-African Women's day, the State of the African Diaspora decided to launch its campaign against the salary gap. When they are in Africa, women are discriminated against because of their gender ; when they are in the Diaspora, they are discriminated against because of their gender *and* because of their race, especially when it comes to salary. In the diaspora, this double discrimination is an invisible burden for all the women of African Descent.

According to an investigation conducted by a French Governmental agency, France Stratégie, at the request of Dr Tin, when a white man earns 100 euros, a Black or an Arab woman in France earns 51 euros, while doing the same job. As money is central everywhere, this huge discrimination can only reinforce the other discriminations that already exist in housing (as you already have less money than what you would get if you were a white man), in education, in health, and in fact in any sector of activity. This discrimination that affects most Black and Arab men, most white women, affects even more African women in the Diaspora. This is why SOAD had to launch this



campaign on July 31st.

Serena Williams, the famous tennis champion, had started to campaign against the salary gap. The State of the African Diaspora is also working on this topic. To celebrate our great women is fine, but to create the best conditions for all women to become even greater is better. This is the context in which the Prime Minister and the President of our Pan-African Caucus of lawyers, Tiphonie Magloire-Traoré, sent that letter to Her Excellency, Mrs Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director General of the World Trade Organisation, the objective being to include more anti-discrimination policies in the businesses and in the business treaties that are signed every day in the world.



Here is an extract of the letter :

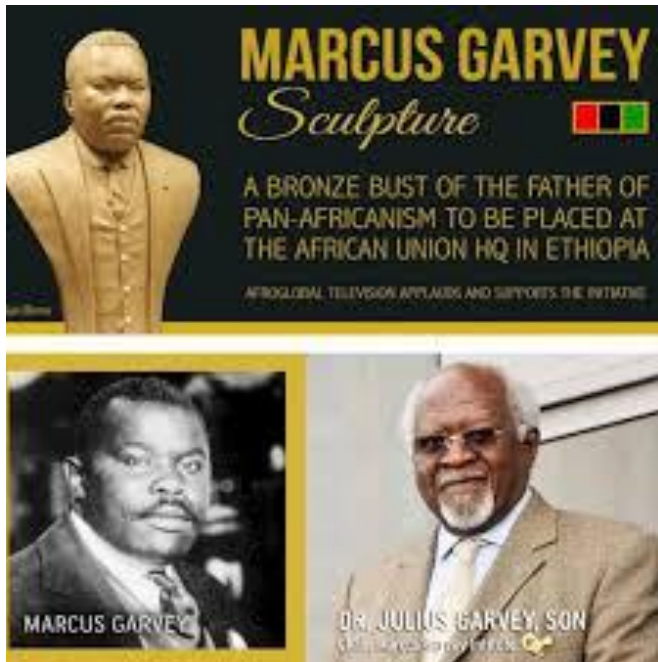
« Your remarkable career has led you to the head of the WTO. Thus, you are both the first woman and the first African to head this crucial institution in the concert of nations. Your journey is a source of inspiration for African-descendant women around the world, who like you, may have been hindered because they share your gender and skin color. This achievement is not only admirable, but it also calls for hope: the hope of having strong allies like yourself in the fight for greater equality of Opportunity worldwide

Discrimination in the workplace is not only a moral, legal and political issue. It is also an important economic issue. Discrimination in the labor market is indeed economically penalizing for the whole community. In other words, today we know, thanks to several studies that have been carried out, that this discrimination generates a financial loss for the company as well as an economic cost for the economy as a whole (level of GDP, consequences on public finances etc.). These reports thus show that discrimination harms both the discriminated and the discriminating parties. The fight against discrimination in the field of work therefore kills two birds with one stone. This fight combines legitimate social justice and economic efficiency. »

In parallel, a campaign on twitter was launched the same day by two professional experts in communication from Publicis Dubai, also on the same topic. They were able to present their media strategy during the conference held on July 31st. In the coming months, the State of the African Diaspora will be able to provide more information about this campaign that is just starting.



Celebrating the Marcus Garvey Day (August 17)



In August, another great man has to be celebrated : Marcus Garvey, who was borne in Jamaica, August 17, 1887. There is no need to tell the story of the hero of Pan-Africanism, promotor of the « Back to Africa » movement. For the State of the African Diaspora, this is certainly a priority. That is why the portfolio of our first Vice Prime Minister includes « repatriation, reparation, restitution, restauration ». And also, the State of the African Diaspora is proud to say that Julius Garvey, Marcus' son, is also one of our Ambassadors at large.

Marcus Garvey is not only a hero for the Diaspora, he should be seen as a hero for all the Pan-African community, as his vision was to unify the Pan-African family. That is why the State of the African Diaspora has accepted to support Julius Garvey's campaign in order to have a bust of Marcus Garvey in the hall of the African Union, in Addis Ababa, where all the portraits of the other founders of the African Union can be seen. In support of Mr Julius Garvey, the Prime Minister of SOAD has written a letter to the AU, and would like this inauguration to happen on August 17, 2022.

During the Marcus Garvey Day, celebrated on August 17th, Dr Tin officially endorsed the campaign, and the day after,

wrote to Chief Charumbira, who is also the co-chair of the Royal Chamber of SOAD. Chief Charumbira's answer to Dr Tin was very quick and very positive. First of all, he paid a tribute to the « Pan-African spirit delivered by the great Marcus Garvey ». Indeed, Marcus Garvey is great not only for his vision that created the movement « Back to Africa », but also for his capacity to mobilise. His organisation had more than 6 millions members in more than 40 countries, in Africa and in the Diaspora. It is the biggest black organisation ever.

Chief Charumbira made it very clear : « Please count me and Pan-African Parliament as having accepted the posting both at AU and PAP of the portrait of Marcus Garvey. »

When Dr Garvey received this beautiful piece of news from Dr Tin, he then declared : « I am very grateful to Chief Charumbira, the President of the Pan-African Parliament, who has accepted this tribute to Marcus Garvey. It is a beautiful present for my father's birthday, and not only for him, but also for all who, like Dr Tin and all the members of SOAD, believe we have to unify our great family beyond borders, beyond oceans. »

Dr Tin, Prime Minister of SOAD, also expressed his deep gratitude to Chief Charumbira, who demonstrated once more that he is a true Pan-African leader, which is exactly what we need. Also, the Prime Minister expressed his congratulations to Sharon Parris Chambers, who organised the conference for the Marcus Garvey Day. Then, he concluded : « As we regularly say, our commemorations are not substitutes for action, as too often happens, but springboards for action. And while we honor Marcus Garvey, we also create actions, inspired by his vision, which is also our vision. »

Going Back to Africa



But because, as we said, commemoration should always come with action, on August 17, 2022, a SOAD delegation will also go to Edina, Liberia, where the first freed slaves went, back to Africa. This is where, with the support of Chief Zanzan Karwa, leader of the Council of Chiefs of Liberia, SOAD will establish a smart city, but also, with Ambassador Garvey, we will inaugurate a bust of Marcus Garvey in Edina. « We can only commemorate the hero of the Back to Africa movement, by actually going back to Africa, and building cities where the Diaspora will be able to live with their brothers and sisters of the Continent », the Prime Minister declared.

Also, another Diaspora delegation will go to Ghana in a few weeks, led by our Second Vice Prime Minister, Mr Hugh Johnson, and our Minister of Tourism, Lady Yaa. This beautiful story will be told a little bit later, after the trip. But it is clear that the best way to commemorate our hero, Marcus Garvey, is actually to implement his dreams, which are also our dreams... Uhuru, Africa ! Uhuru, Diaspora ! », Dr Tin concluded.