



Activities of the VII Inter-American Week for People of African Descent in the Americas

March 18-25, 2024

The Organization of American States (OAS) will celebrate the **Seventh Inter-American Week for People of African Descent in the Americas** under the theme, "*Global Freedom: Emancipate Yourself from Mental Slavery*," which was inspired by the words of Jamaican Pan-Africanist Marcus Garvey and popularized by the legendary Bob Marley in his iconic "Redemption Song." The activities will address the psychological and mental impact of the legacy of slavery by raising awareness about negative perceptions of African/Black people and culture, highlighting the societal contributions of persons of African Descent, and challenging preconceived biased notions about African/Black people and culture.

The OAS will host a series of events to celebrate the Week in keeping with the aforementioned theme:

A. Launch of the Week – Monday, March 18, 2024 | 2:00 pm

The Week will be officially launched at an in-person ceremony in the Hall of the Americas, at OAS Headquarters in Washington, DC, with cultural presentations centered around the theme of Afro-descendant culture and history.

B. Special Session of the Permanent Council to celebrate the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade and the Inter-American Week – Monday, March 25, 2024

The OAS Plan of Action for the Decade for Persons of African Descent in the Americas (2016-2025), AG/RES.2891 (XL VI-O/16), provides that the OAS must "*Commemorate every year on March 25, the International Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Slavery*

and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, by focusing on eminent persons of African descent who made significant contributions to the abolition of the slave trade, slavery and in favour of civil rights in the Americas.”

The Special Session, which will include presentations by government authorities from across the Americas, will also commemorate the Inter-American Week and will be structured in a manner which offers a reflective discussion pertinent to the Week’s theme.

C. Profiles of Champions for the Promotion of African/Black Culture and Identity

Member States will submit profiles of individuals who, in their professional and daily lives, and through their body of work, have espoused the virtues of African/Black culture, seeking to depict it from a positive standpoint and striving to eliminate the negative connotations and biases attached to African/black culture. These include renowned personalities that have uplifted and promoted African/Black culture in their respective fields.

Additionally, a Musical Playlist of songs which speak to the Week’s theme will be compiled and disseminated.

Submissions will be featured on a dedicated OAS Website.

D. Webinar on “The Legacy of African Religious Practices and the Societal Biases and Prejudice they face.” – Tuesday, March 19, 2024 | 12:00 pm

The webinar organized by the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity (SARE) will feature a panel discussion on the topic, “*The Legacy of African Religious Practices and the Societal Biases and Prejudice they face.*”

Access webinar at:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85866440926?pwd=IcJQBBbTTKpfCg4FDDea9xxuKduflOn.1#success:>

Meeting ID: 858 6644 0926 Passcode: 343665

E. The Adult, Youth, and Children Reading Corner

Member States will submit works of fiction (poetry, drama, or prose) or non-fiction from their countries that illustrate the fortitude, perseverance and heritage of people of African descent, with a view to promoting the importance and significance of African/Black identify and culture. Submissions will be compiled and featured on a dedicated OAS website.

**F. A Special Edition of the Tea Party Social podcast "*Storytime with Miss Yolande*"
Tuesday, March 19, 2024**

As part of the Adult, Youth, and Children Reading Corner, the podcast will feature readings by Ambassador Yolande Yvonne Smith, Senior Advisor to the OAS Assistant Secretary General, who will present selected works selectively curated for the Inter-American Week for People of African Descent in the Americas. This episode will be released on the YouTube platform @TheTeaPartySoc1.

G. Round Table on "*Strategies for Economic Empowerment of the Afro-descendant Woman*" hosted by the Permanent Mission of Brazil to the OAS and the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the OAS -Thursday, March 21, 2024 | 10:00 AM

The Permanent Mission of Brazil to the OAS and the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the OAS will jointly host a Round Table discussion on the theme, "*Strategies for Economic Empowerment of the Afro-descendant Woman.*" This event, facilitated by "Geledés," a recognized Brazilian Non-Governmental Organization registered with the OAS, is scheduled to be held at the Auditorium of the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the OAS, located at 1724 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, D.C. 20036, ground floor.

H. A Special Edition of *A Chat with the OAS* -Friday, March 22, 2024 | 2:00 pm

A live, online virtual conversation between a high-level official from the OAS Member Countries and a senior official from the OAS/GS on a topic that pertains to this year's theme.

Register at:

https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_LV7rxW8qRR6OTJ2MdKbcLw#/registration

I. Activities in Member States (National Offices)

A series of activities focused on the Week's theme will be organized by OAS Representatives in the Country Offices and will include lecture series, art, photography, and poetry contests.

J. Webinar on "*Why do we need a Declaration on the Rights of People of African Descent?*" - Monday, March 25, 2024 | 2:00 pm

The webinar hosted by the Inter-American Network of High Authorities on Policies for Afro-descendant Populations (RIAFRO) will feature a panel discussion on the topic, "*Why do we need a Declaration on the Rights of People of African Descent?*"