

International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade

Roundtable on Women and Slavery

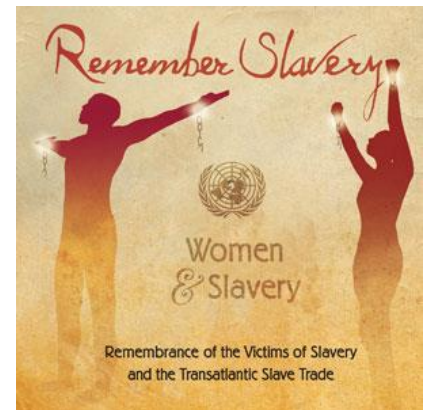
25 March 2015, Wednesday: 0930 - 1300 hours

Conference Room 4, UN Gigiri, Nairobi, Kenya

Exhibition on Women and Slavery

24-27 March 2015, Tuesday - Friday: 0900 - 1600 hours

UN Lobby, UN Gigiri, Nairobi, Kenya



What's going on?

Far from simply being a by-product of a trade in male slaves, in many societies, women were the prime focus of the transatlantic slave trade and slavery. It is estimated that one third of the approximately 15 million people who were deported from Africa through the Transatlantic Slave Trade were women. Enslaved women carried a triple burden. In addition to enduring the harsh conditions of forced labour as a slave, they also experienced extreme forms of discrimination and sexual exploitation as a result of their gender. And yet not much has been highlighted about the impact of slave trade and slavery on women.

This year's theme, "Women and Slavery" is aimed at: paying tribute to the many enslaved women who endured unbearable hardships from forced labour to sexual exploitation; paying tribute to those who fought for freedom from slavery and advocated for its abolition; to celebrate the strength of enslaved women, many of whom succeeded in transmitting their African culture to their descendants despite the many abuses that they endured. It is no surprise that their fight for freedom from slavery also influenced the fight for women's rights which started in the 19th century.

The United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) and UNESCO, in partnership with sister agencies in the UN (UNDP, OHCHR, UNHCR, UN Women, UNEP, IOM, WHO and UNFPA), propose to hold a **Roundtable** and an **Exhibition on "Women and Slavery"** at UNON Gigiri. The Exhibition is expected to run from 24-27 March 2015 at the UN Lobby while the Round Table will be on 25th March from 0930-1300 hours at Conference Room 4. **Both the Round Table and the Exhibition interrogate "Women and Slavery" and help us understand the strongly gendered nature of historical and current forms of servitude suffered by women.**

Why Roundtable?

The Roundtable is to provide a Platform for dialogue and exchange of information, share experiences and lessons learned, as well as stimulate debate around issues on "women and slavery" within the context of the transatlantic slave trade. It is hoped that the Roundtable will not only help raise awareness about the impacts and consequences of the "new contemporary forms of slavery" on societies today but especially identify ways to support young people in Kenya in dealing with modern forms of slavery such as human trafficking, with a focus on women.

The UN and the Int'l Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade

For over 400 years, more than 15 million men, women and children were the victims of of the tragic transatlantic slave trade, one of the darkest chapters in human history. This period represents one of the longest and most sustained assaults on the dignity and self-worth of human beings in the recorded history of human kind. However, in spite of all these dehumanizing experiences, enslaved men and women survived, creating along the way, their own history, culture and political future. Studying and sharing these experiences can teach us about living, surviving and winning in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds.

It is against this background that in 2007, the United Nations proclaimed 25 March as the International Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade to offer opportunities to honour and remember those who suffered and died at the hands of the slavery system. The International Day also aims at raising awareness about the dangers of racism and prejudice today.

UNESCO, as the United Nations agency that is mandated to combat ignorance, promote reconciliation, intercultural dialogue, international understanding, and a culture of peace; and inspired by its moral obligation to ensure that this human tragedy is not forgotten, launched "**The Slave Route Project: Resistance, Freedom, and Heritage**" in 1994. The Project is designed to promote research and documentation of the slave trade and slavery, and create awareness and dialogue among peoples of different continents on the history and consequences of slave trade and slavery today.

UNESCO Regional Officer for Eastern Africa

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- Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Tanzania, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda -



Invited guests, speakers, commentators and audiences

Panellists at the Roundtable will include experts of distinguished backgrounds from academia, policy makers, and civil society organizations, conversant with issues around “women and slavery” within the context of “the Transatlantic Slave Trade and Slavery” but especially those actively working on issues around “modern forms of slavery”. The audience will be made up of primarily university students from universities in Nairobi who have been identified through the Kenya Model UN. The discussion is designed to be interactive, with a highly skilled moderator presiding over the proceedings. Prior to the discussions, a documentary – “*A dangerous journey*” - will be screened.

Speaker profiles

Prof. Samuel Nyanchoga: Historian, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and Director of the Institute of Regional Integration and Development (IRID) at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa. He led the IRD international young team on Identities and Heritage of Slavery and in Actual Kenya (ISHAC) from 2009 up to 2012 (in partnership with IRD and the NMK).

Prof. Anne Kisaka Nangulu: Economic historian at School of Arts and Social Sciences, Moi University. Her multi-disciplinary approach include: indigenous knowledge; food security and coping mechanisms; the state; ethnicity and ethnic conflicts; resource allocation and marginalization; urban history; constitution and constitutionalism; development and gender studies; and quality assurance in higher education.

Ms. Teresa Njorge: Social entrepreneur, recently named the 2015 *Spark* Kenya Changemaker* of the year. Founder of “Clean Start” a new corporate cleaning company that seeks to positively impact on the marginalized reformed women inmates and ex-inmates. She is an active Discharge Board member of various Women Prisons in Kenya, through the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Ms. Sophie Achieng’ Otiende: Teacher and social activist working with poor and marginalized persons living in Nairobi informal settlements. Works as a project consultant at Awareness Against Human Trafficking (HAART). As a child, she survived human trafficking and through her work, she particularly support young girls and women faced with similar conditions. She was awarded the Vital Voices’ VV Lead Fellowship Program of 2015.

UNESCO Slave Route Project: Past events in Kenya

Within the framework of the project, UNESCO has also developed a mobile photographic exhibition, “Lest we Forget: The Triumph over Slavery”. The exhibition which has already toured Kenya, having been presented in Nairobi, Mombasa, Lamu and Mauritius focuses less on enslaved Africans as victims and more on the ways in which they reshaped their destinies and place in history through the creation of distinctive cultures in their communities worldwide.



Left: Visitors including students and UN colleagues visit the Slave Trade Exhibition “Lest we Forget: The Triumph over Slavery” at the United Nations Office in Nairobi from 17-24 November 2014 in order to bring about recognition, knowledge, education and foster awareness about slave trade and slavery. © Ngulube, Mulekeni/UNESCO

Right near: Mr. Mohamed Djelid, UNESCO Director engages with academia participating in the International Conference on “Slavery in Africa: History, Legacies and Present” organized at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa in Nairobi on 27-29 October 2014. © Masakazu Shibata/UNESCO

Right far: Participants tune-in to the remarks made by Mr. Mohamed Djelid, the UNESCO Director touching upon UNESCO’s Memory of the World programme, and the importance of research and documentation at the International Conference on Slavery in Africa. © Masakazu Shibata/UNESCO



Left far: Mulekeni Ngulube, UNESCO Programme Specialist engage with the audience at Science Café on 5 June 2014 in Nairobi as Kenya celebrated the 107 years of the abolition of slavery, and UNESCO celebrated 20 years of notable achievements aimed at breaking the silence on the slave trade, slavery and its tragic consequences. © Masakazu Shibata/UNESCO

Left near: Mr Hervé Branyere, Director, Alliance Française, Mr. Mohammed Djelid, UNESCO Director, Stéphanie Seydoux, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of France engaged in an informal discussion at the “Lest we Forget: The Triumph over Slavery” exhibition launched at Alliance Française, Nairobi on 8 May, 2013. © Ngulube, Mulekeni/UNESCO

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Roundtable Event Programme: Women and Slavery

In commemoration of the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade

25 March 2015, Wednesday: 0930-1300 hours
Conference Room 4, UN Gigiri, Nairobi, Kenya

9:30 - 10:00	Registration Moderator: Mr. Marc Patry, UNESCO
10:00 - 10:15	Welcome Remarks and UN Secretary General's Message by Ms. Sahle-Work Zewde, Director-General, UNON
10:15 - 10:30	Introductory Remarks Screening of a <i>documentary – “a dangerous journey”</i>
10:30 - 12:00	Presentations on Women and Slavery: <i>Historical perspectives</i> by Professor Samuel Nyanhoga, Catholic University. <i>Current Global perspectives</i> by Ms. Teresa Njoroge <i>Legal framework/Advocacy for women and slavery issues</i> by Professor Anne Nangulu <i>Modern Forms of Slavery</i> by Ms. Sophie Otiende (HAART) <i>A Victim's Experience</i>
12:00 - 13:00	Q & A
12:50 - 13:00	Wrap up and Closing Remarks
13:00-	Refreshments