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CALL FOR PAPERS

*The Garifuna Heritage Foundation Inc.*

*In collaboration with*

*UWI Global Campus of St. Vincent and the Grenadines*

*Presents The*

**11<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL GARIFUNA CONFERENCE**

**This IGC 2024 will be conducted in HYBRID Modality ( Face to Face and Virtually)**

Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

March 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> 2024

**“Promoting Reparatory Justice: Towards the Development and Implementation of a 2030 Indigenous People's Development Plan”**

The Garifuna, who once dominated the island of Yurumei/St. Vincent in the Eastern Caribbean, now live displaced in many countries, particularly in Central America, a consequence of the 1797 forced removal from St. Vincent by the British. Notwithstanding, the Garifuna Heritage and Culture has become one of the more important symbols of resistance in the Caribbean, informed and formed as it has been by the history of resistance to European Colonial domination. As a unique hybrid culture, it captures the African, as well as the Kalinago experience, forged together through the crucible of colonial expansionism. In 2001 UNESCO proclaimed the Garifuna Heritage and Culture a Masterpiece of the Intangible Heritage of Humanity. The Garifuna are also represented in, and supported by, the 2007 United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and form part of that Indigenous struggle as well as the struggle of people of African Descent.

There are still significant challenges and opportunities for scholars, activists and practitioners to engage in the work of understanding, conceptualizing and creating policy dialogues in relation to the Garifuna experience and the issues of Historical Land Rights, Cultural Retrieval and Reparations.

The Garifuna Heritage Foundation in collaboration with the University of the West Indies Global Campus - SVG will be hosting its Eleventh International Garifuna Conference in Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines from March 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 . The First International Conference was held in March 2012 in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and resulted in the Yurumein Declaration which specifically made a call for Reparations for the Garifuna people. CARICOM has since established a Commission to secure Reparations for Native Genocide and Slavery. Our 10<sup>th</sup> International Garifuna Conference was held in 2023 under the theme: **“From Reaction to Action: Challenges and Opportunities for promoting Reparatory Justice for Indigenous Peoples in the Caribbean”**. This Eleventh International Garifuna Conference is intended to further contribute to the development of a Research and Action Project Proposal which will directly engage indigenous communities and others in the Caribbean, including Garifuna communities in Yurumei, Central America, the United States and elsewhere in the structuring, development, promotion and implementation of an Indigenous Peoples Development Plan by 2030.

The challenge faced by Indigenous People of the Caribbean is how do we define and utilize the complex theoretical framework of Reparatory Justice in a pragmatic and practical manner to underpin a program of framing an Indigenous People's Development Plan? How do we ensure that any plan designed is responsive to the needs of Indigenous People who are often the most marginalized in the countries where they reside? In addition, what measures are to be put in place to ensure that the Indigenous People's Development Plan is not just a token response to the national, regional and international pressure being brought to bear on former colonial entities?

Conference organizers invite all persons to submit proposals for Papers. We convene researchers, scholars, practitioners, activists and university students. We encourage proposals related to the study of indigenous communities by professionals and other persons within the community.

Papers can include but are not limited to the following topics:

**1. Continuing Challenges of Indigenous Communities: from Colonialism to Post-Independence**

- How are Indigenous and Tribal Peoples included in the official histories of the Caribbean?
- Assessment of Stigmatization by Colonial Powers and their successors of Indigenous Communities, Language and Folkways;
- Are Indigenous and Tribal Peoples included in National Constitutions in the Caribbean Region?
- What is the impact of environmental degradation and Climate change on Indigenous Peoples;
- The nation vs the Nation State – Collection of Anthropological and other materials to support traditional ownership of land by Indigenous People;

**2. Elements of Reparatory Justice for Indigenous People in the Caribbean**

- Proposals for Developing Theoretical frameworks for Reparatory Justice;
- Exploring Practical modalities for providing Education and Training on Rights of Indigenous Peoples and their Institutions on Legal Systems;
- Proposals to support research into strategies adopted by Indigenous Peoples Worldwide to obtain Reparations;
- Proposals to support renewal of Environmental Degradation and assess the Impact of Climate Change on Indigenous Communities.
- Reflections on the CARICOM REPARATIONS COMMISSION – critique of a work in progress;

**3. Structuring an Indigenous People's Development Plan**

- Developing capacity building for Advocacy within Indigenous Communities at the Regional and International levels in relation to the Reparatory Justice;
- Methodological tools for the Assessment of Trauma experienced by Indigenous Peoples;
- Capacity building within Indigenous communities in policy making, programme management and project development;
- What data is being collected on Indigenous People in Caribbean Countries?
- Proposals for supporting the development of Museums, Language Training and Educational Materials on the History and culture of Indigenous People
- What informational material and documentation are being prepared regarding Indigenous Peoples' History, Cultural heritage and way of life?
- Proposals for assessment of Land and other Natural Resources appropriated from Indigenous Peoples;

**4. The Garifuna: Yurumein to St. Vincent and the Grenadines - Retrieval, Exile, and Reparations**

- Regional and International Experiences, challenges and opportunities of Advocacy around the issue of Reparations for Garifuna Peoples;
- Legal and Practical Issues relating to establishing a case for Reparation for the Garifuna;

- The Garifuna within the context of the Indigenous Peoples Movement and the Afro-Descendant movement regionally and internationally –: network, dialogue and the issue of reparations;
- Engagement of Garifuna from the Diaspora in the current political/social/economic framework of St. Vincent and the Grenadines - Potential conflicts/alliances and challenges;
- Land Rights claims of the Garifuna resulting from historical legacies;
- Regional and International Experiences relating to redressing land rights Claims and rights to Sacred Places;
- Preservation of land rights and rights to Sacred Places - Land Issues in relation to the Island of Balliceaux;
- Addressing Opportunities/ Challenges in accessing documentation, information, artifacts and other intellectual materials for the retrieval process;

### **GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS**

- Please submit electronically an abstract/proposal of no more than 250 words;
- Individuals must also submit a half page biography, Email address(es) Telephone/cell phone contacts;
- Kindly indicate the Presentation Format. Papers must keep to a reading time of 15 - 20 minutes (approximately 7 – 8 pages). Participants can submit Papers that have a Practice focus, which describes exemplary practices or programs in the community, and which may take the form of a case study, demonstration, or technical report.
- We welcome submission of video presentations (max 20 minutes)
- Papers may be presented in English, or Spanish however a written translation of the Paper into English should be provided.

Please submit to Ms. Sherise Browne, IGRC Conference Secretariat, at [yurumeiconference@gmail.com](mailto:yurumeiconference@gmail.com).  
For more information, call 784-433-9244 or email [yurumeiconference@gmail.com](mailto:yurumeiconference@gmail.com).

**Deadline for Submission January 5<sup>th</sup> 2024**