

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

*The Garifuna Heritage Foundation Inc.*

*In collaboration with*

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

*Presents The*

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

**This IGC 2025 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> 2025

**“Embracing our Legacy : Strategies for Constructing the Garifuna Component of a 2030 Indigenous People's Development Plan”**

The Garifuna Heritage Foundation (TGHF) in collaboration with the University of the West Indies Global Campus - SVG will be hosting its Twelfth International Garifuna Conference in Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines from March 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025 . In March 2012 the First International Conference resulted in the Yurumein Declaration which specifically made a call for Reparations for the Garifuna people. The Call for Reparations has been supported by CARICOM as well as the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. As is stated by CARICOM on its website :

“The governments of Europe committed genocide upon the native Caribbean population. Military commanders were given official instructions by their governments to eliminate these communities and to remove those who survive pogroms from the region. Genocide and land appropriation went hand in hand. A community of over 3,000,000 in 1700 has been reduced to less than 30,000 in 2000. Survivors remain traumatized, landless, and are the most marginalized social group within the region. The University of the West Indies offers an Indigenous Peoples Scholarship in a desperate effort at rehabilitation. It is woefully insufficient. A Development Plan is required to rehabilitate this community.

This 12th International Garifuna Conference is intended to continue to engage indigenous communities and others in the Caribbean, particularly 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.

TGHF through its Garifuna Reparations Working Group (GRWG) continues to work on defining Reparatory Justice in a pragmatic and practical manner to underpin a program of framing the Garifuna Experience as part of a broader Indigenous People’s Development Plan. In this regard, we wish to ensure that the design of the 2030 Indigenous Peoples Development Plan is responsive to the needs of the Garifuna Communities who often are marginalized in the countries where they reside. It is expected that recommendations will be made which ensures 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.

Our approach to the Call for Reparatory Justice must be strategic. On the one hand we intend to encourage continued theoretical exploration of Reparation as a legal, economic and social construct focusing on the impact of the Colonial process on our Garifuna communities in particular and Indigenous People in general. On the other hand we support processes which identify and strengthen elements of the Garifuna Indigenous culture that, in a practical sense, allowed the Garifuna to survive and thrive. As part of the process of identifying historical and current strategies for survival and sustainability the Conference will include workshops on several aspects of the Garifuna Heritage and Culture. This latter element will specifically contribute to the design of the 2030 Indigenous Peoples Development Plan. Conference organizers invite all researchers, scholars, practitioners, activists and students to submit proposals for Papers and Workshops.

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

- The role of Garifuna people in shaping a culture of resistance in the Caribbean;
- Garifuna Spirituality and resistance –
- Garifuna Traditional medicine and the transition to Modern Health practices;
- Initiatives to promote the Transfer of Technology to Garifuna and other Indigenous people ;
- The Garifuna Food, Language, Dance, Music, Spirituality – preserving the Garifuna Heritage & Culture;
- Capacity building within Indigenous communities in policy making, programme management and project development;
- Supporting the development of Museums, Language Training and Educational Materials on the History and culture of Indigenous People;
- Informational material, Films and documentation on Garifuna Peoples’ History, Cultural heritage and way of life;
- Opportunities/ Challenges in accessing documentation, information, artifacts and other intellectual materials for the retrieval process;
- Assessment of Land and other Natural Resources appropriated from Garifuna communities;
- Land Rights claims of the Garifuna resulting from historical legacies;
- Preservation of land rights and rights to Sacred Places - Land Issues in relation to the Island of Balliceaux;
- Organising Garifuna Communities – Experiences of Advocacy around the issue of Reparations;
- Reparation for the Garifuna – Legal and practical Issues relating to establishing a case for Reparation for the Garifuna;
- Exploring Practical modalities for providing Education and Training on Rights of Indigenous Peoples and their Institutions on Legal Systems;
- Strategies adopted by Indigenous Peoples Worldwide to obtain Reparations;
- Developing capacity building for Advocacy within Indigenous Communities at the Regional and International levels in relation to the Reparatory Justice;
- Regional and International Experiences, challenges and opportunities of Advocacy around the issue of Reparations for Garifuna Peoples;
- Engagement of Garifuna from the Diaspora in the Reparations process - Potential conflicts/alliances and challenges;

#### **GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS & WORKSHOP PROPOSALS**

- 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). For workshops there is maximum presentation time of 2 hours.
- Workshop Proposals should indicate, Name and Bio of Facilitators, number of intended participants , Title of Workshop and Learning Objectives .
- We welcome submission of video presentations (max 30 minutes)
- Papers may be presented in English, or Spanish however a written translation of the Paper into English should be provided.

Please submit to 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 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025**