

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Garifuna Heritage Foundation Inc.

In collaboration with

UWI Global Campus of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Presents The

13th INTERNATIONAL GARIFUNA CONFERENCE

IGC 2026 will be conducted in HYBRID Modality (Face to Face and Virtually)

Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

March 11th-13th 2026

“Sacred Grounds, Strategic Goals: Inclusion , Reparations, Balliceaux and the 2030 Pathway to Garifuna Empowerment”

The Garifuna Heritage Foundation (TGHF) in collaboration with the University of the West Indies Global Campus – St. Vincent and the Grenadines will be hosting its Thirteenth International Garifuna Conference in Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines from March 11th – 13th, 2026 . In March 2012 the First International Conference resulted in the Yurumein Declaration which specifically made a call for Reparations for the Garifuna people.

This 13th International Garifuna Conference is framed by the historic announcement of March 2025 by the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, that the Island of Balliceaux has been acquired for the benefit of future generations. The Conference is intended to focus on continuing the conversation regarding the sacred space – how it should be used, maintained and supported not just by Vincentians at home and abroad but by the Garifuna Diaspora and the international community. It also seeks to build on the work carried out over the years by the Garifuna Heritage Foundation (TGHF) as well as regional organizations, indigenous communities and others particularly Garifuna communities in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Central America, the United States and elsewhere in the structuring, development and promotion of the Garifuna Component of an Indigenous Peoples Development Plan by 2030. The Indigenous Peoples Development Plan forms part of the Ten Point Agenda developed by CARICOM in 2013.

TGHF, through its Garifuna Reparations Working Group (GRWG) launched in 2023, 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 this broader Indigenous People’s Development Plan. Of particular significance is the theme of Communication and Inclusion with special reference to the Garifuna Diaspora outside CARICOM. It is expected that through the work of the GRWG, recommendations will be made which ensure that the Indigenous People’s Development Plan is inclusive of both Spanish, English and Garifuna communities both within and outside CARICOM.

This Conference follows upon the work commenced in our previous Conferences. 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 encourage presentations which identify and strengthen elements of the Garifuna Indigenous culture that, in a practical sense, allowed the Garifuna to survive and thrive. Finally, it is hoped that the Conference will contribute to the construction of the Road to Reparatory Justice for Garifuna Communities in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Central America.

As part of the process of identifying historical and current strategies for survival and sustainability participants are invited to submit proposals for workshops on various aspects of the Garifuna Heritage and Culture. 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:

- Role of Balliceaux in preserving the Garifuna Heritage & Culture;
- Capacity building within St. Vincent and the Grenadines in policy making, programme management and project development in relation to the Island of Balliceaux;
- Opportunities/ Challenges in accessing documentation, information, artifacts and other intellectual materials for the retrieval process in relation to the Island of Balliceaux;
- 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 and other Issues in relation to the Island of Balliceaux;
- Organising Garifuna Communities in the non-English speaking Garifuna Diaspora – 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;
- 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;
- Language as a barrier: 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 TGHF Conference Secretariat, at yurumeiconference@gmail.com.

For more information, call 784-433-9244 or email yurumeiconference@gmail.com.

Deadline for Submission January 15th, 2025