

# COMMEMORATION OF THE 180<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY



## RESOLUTIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR 31 JANUARY – 4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2015, UOM

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#### Comparative Perspectives on Resistance, Resilience and Accommodation in Slave and post-Slave Societies

**Recalling** that the subject of slavery is of international and global importance to humanity and is listed as one of the United Nations major issues of the 21<sup>st</sup> century

**Recalling** the setting up of the Truth and Justice Commission and the submission of 290 recommendations relating to creating a most just society

**Recalling** that the Truth and Justice Commission held an International Scientific Conference on Slavery in 2011 that resolved to hold regular such conferences

**Recalling** that 2015 is the beginning of UN Decade for People of African Descent

**Considering** that 2015 is the 180<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Abolition of Slavery and an International Seminar on Slavery took place in conformity with the Resolution of 2011

**Taking note** that most of TJC recommendations have not yet been implemented

**Considering and convinced** of their continued importance in improving the life of descendants of slaves,

**THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED:**

- 1. On the subject of memorialisation of slavery,**
  - a. that recommendations nos. 1 to 20 of the Truth and Justice Commission report be implemented in the *spirit and manner* recommended by the Commission.
- 2. On the subject of a more inclusive and better understanding of Mauritian history and culture,**
  - a. that TJC recommendations nos. 21-33 be implemented.
- 3. On the subject of reconstituting the Mauritian family and assisting those wishing to reconstruct their genealogy,**
  - a. that TJC recommendation no. 139 be implemented as a priority, given that the bill has already been submitted to SLO for vetting.
- 4. On the subject of valorising heritage for sustainable conservation and community benefits,**
  - a. that TJC recommendations nos. 188-200 be implemented.
- 5. In addition to implementing TJC recommendations nos. 167 to 180 for Le Morne Village and Le Morne Cultural Landscape,**
  - a. that lands be allocated to the inhabitants of Le Morne and its vicinity for social housing, and not be solely used for tourism expansion.
  - b. that government acquires state and private land surrounding Le Morne World Heritage Site to ensure immediate public access to Le Morne Brabant Mountain and ensure better protection of the World Heritage Site.
- 6. On the subject of promoting social and economic equality,**
  - a. that TJC recommendation nos. 93 to 97 concerning the creation of a Land Bank be implemented.
- 7. On the subject of Land,**
  - a. that TJC recommendations nos. 201 to 203 in particular concerning the setting up of (i) a Land Research & Monitoring Unit, ii) a Land Tribunal with a sitting Judge of the Supreme Court, be implemented.
  - b. that a Land Audit Commission be set up and reports be made available.
  - c. that laws on use of public land be properly enforced..
- 8. On the subject of *cités*, in addition to implementation of TJC recommendations nos. 154 to 161**
  - a. that living conditions be improved through, amongst others, access to public transport, land for small scale farming, creation of jobs, and decent housing for low income communities in the region to prevent crises inherent to substandard accommodation.

- 9. In addition to TJC recommendation to create an oral history archive at the National Genealogy Centre,**
  - a. that more research be done, published and disseminated for the preservation of oral history.
- 10. On the subject of gender inequality,**
  - a. that the gender dimension should be reflected in pedagogical and cultural activities.
  - b. that gender research on slavery, post abolition and contemporary period be conducted in line with AU and UN policies.
- 11. On the subject of language,**
  - a. that the Mauritian Kreol language be introduced as one medium of instruction in primary schools.
  - b. that Kreol language be introduced in the National Assembly / Rodrigues Regional Assembly after a public debate.
- 12. On the subject of Rodrigues, Chagos and Agalega islands,**
  - a. that the Republic of Mauritius enshrines the principle of equal opportunity for all Mauritius including Rodrigues, Agalega and Chagos Archipelago.
  - b. that duplicates of archival documents in Mauritius relating to Rodrigues be placed in the custody of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.
- 13. On the subject of bank fishermen, recommend:**
  - a. that scientific research be conducted on the living conditions of the bank fishermen community on land and at sea.
  - b. that governmental authorities empower bank fishermen to become boat owners or self-employed on maritime territories within the paradigm of a sustainable Blue economy project.
  - c. that a literacy and numeracy program specifically adapted to the context of bank fishermen, and with a special focus on their children's learning needs, be set up.
  - d. that a specific work placement programme for fishermen during winter seasons be set up
  - e. that appropriate communication channel be used by stakeholders concerned with bank fishing to disseminate information to the fishermen community.
- 14. We further recommend that adequate budget be allocated for the purpose of implementation of the above recommendations.**