

THE National Symposium on Understanding and Reconciling Race Relations in Trinidad and Tobago – August 30, 2020

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A TIME FOR HEALING

In recent times, we have witnessed a display of race hostilities that enveloped Trinidad and Tobago during the election period and is continuing. It is certain that these incidences of racist conduct have deep underpinnings in our diverse society. If not managed properly, racial tensions could deteriorate and have far-reaching, damaging impact on our pluralistic society.

A national conversation, focussing on understanding and healing, is sorely needed and this should be hosted in an empathetic, balanced and objective environment. In response, the Faculty of Law, UWI and the Catholic Commission for Social Justice, (CCSJ) will collaborate to host a Virtual National Symposium- ***A Time for Healing – Understanding and Reconciling Race Relations in Trinidad and Tobago***. It will be held on **August 30 at 1 p.m. and can be accessed** through the [UWI St Augustine Facebook page](#)

The National Symposium will bring together scholars and thought-leaders on the subject of race. Importantly, a safe space to actively involve the public has also been created. This is through a **special web-link** to harness contributions from the public, both **before** the event. Persons who have personally experienced racism or discrimination are **asked, before August 27**, to send their responses using this web-link

<https://sta.uwi.edu/law/newsfeatures/RaceRelations2020.php>

Panellists include Prof. Rhoda Reddock, UN CEDAW Committee, Justice Donna Prowell-Raphael, Judge Equal Opportunity Tribunal, Kwasi Mutema , Chair, NJAC, Dr. Bishnu Ragoonath, UWI, Council for Responsible Political Behaviour, Mr. David Abdullah, activist, Dr. Raymond Ramcharitar, writer and cultural historian, Dr. Sheila Rampersad, Dr. Kadija Khan, psychologist and Prof. Rose-Marie Belle Antoine, Dean, Law and former Rapporteur, Persons of African Descent and Against Discrimination, OAS. The event will be moderated by CCSJ Chair, Ms. Leela Ramdeen. Various faith communities will participate through prayer.

The Symposium is open to the public and is free of charge.

Play your part in healing the nation and moving forward in Unity.

Yours sincerely,
Professor Rose-Marie Belle Antoine
Dean, Faculty of Law, UWI