

The Catholic Commission for Social Justice (CCSJ) calls on citizens to demonstrate respect for all life

Leela Ramdeen, Chair of CCSJ, says: "All around us there are signs that many have lost respect for human life - at all levels of society. If we are to make any progress, we must take urgent action to stem the tide. Let's build a nation of which we can all be proud; a nation that is worthy of the struggles and sacrifices of our forebears; a nation in which the sanctity of life and the dignity of the human person are paramount."

The Catholic Church will be observing *Respect For Life Week* from Sat 12 Nov - Sat 19 Nov, 2011. CCSJ has lead responsibility for organising the week's activities.

The theme this year is: *Respect Life: Promote Justice*. CCSJ will be observing the 40th Anniversary of the 1971 Synod of Bishops document: *Justice in the World*. The document and comments on it can be read via a link on CCSJ's website:

[Catholic Commission for Social Justice www.rcsocialjusticett.org/](http://www.rcsocialjusticett.org/)

A key quotation from the document reads as follows: "Action on behalf of justice and participation in the transformation of the world fully appear to us as a constitutive dimension of the preaching of the gospel."

All are welcome to attend the various events which include:

Sat 12 Nov:

Sir Ellis Clarke Memorial Conference 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. at Living Water Community, 109 Frederick Street.

Theme: What is the relevance of "*Justice in the World*" today?

Speakers include:

Archbishop Edward J. Gilbert C.Ss.R who will open the Conference.

Coadjutor Archbishop Joseph Harris C.S.Sp.

Mr Victor Scheffers, President of the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace, Netherlands, and Executive Member of Justitia et Pax, Europe, and

Brother Emrol Gould, President of the Inter Religious Organisation

FREE ADMISSION. Refreshments will be served.

Sun 13 Nov:

Interfaith Service at St Benedict's RC Church, 14 Alice St., La Romaine 3.00 p.m. – 5.00 p.m.

Leading the Service will be:

Brother Emrol Gould, President of the Inter Religious Organisation

Otun Iyalode Awo Agbaye, Ifa/Orisha

Brother Stephen Burriss, Baha'i Faith

Deacon Mike James, Catholic

Pundit Bramdeo Maharaj, Pundits Parishad

Imam Haji Abzal Mohammed, ASJA

Sister Nandi, Raja Yoga Centre

Parish Priest of St Benedict's, La Romaine, will welcome participants.

ALL ARE WELCOME. Refreshments will be served.

Tues Nov 15:

CCSJ's Ask Why **TV Programme** on TCN, Channel 10 from 8.00 p.m. - 9.00 p.m.
Theme: *Why should we respect life?*

Panellists: Fr Martin Sirju, Sr Christine Walcott, and Deacon Mike James.

Moderator: Leela Ramdeen

Wed Nov 16:

Panel Discussion to observe **the UN's International Year for People of African Descent**

Venue: Our Lady of Fatima RC Church, Bushe St., Curepe: 5.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.

Theme: *Respect Life: Respecting the contribution of People of African Descent in our multi-ethnic society.*

Panellists include:

- Dr Rita Pemberton, Senior Lecturer, former Head of the Department of History, and Deputy Dean, Student Affairs in the Faculty of Humanities and Education at UWI
 - Brother Emrol Gould, President of the IRO
 - Mr Rubadiri Victor, President of the Artist Coalition of T&T
- Moderator: Leela Ramdeen, Chair, CCSJ.

FREE ADMISSION. Refreshments will be served.

A full list of activities is available on CCSJ's website.

For further information contact Leela Ramdeen on 299 8945.