



66 Peter Rose and Anira Streets, Queenstown
Georgetown, Guyana
Tel: 231-6265, 231-6281, Tel/Fax: 231-6246
Email: peau@erc.org.gy Website: www.erc.org.gy

PRESS RELEASE

ERC Commemorates International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination & 2nd Anniversary

The Ethnic Relations Commission (ERC) hosted an event on March 21st, 2025 at Umana Yana, Kingston, to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Commission's second anniversary.

The current Commission was reconstituted on March 21, 2023 which coincides with the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

The event brought together ERC's local and international partners, constituency bodies and other stakeholders to reflect on the progress made in fostering unity and combating racial discrimination in Guyana.

The evening commenced with opening remarks from Ms. Gomin Camacho, Chief Executive Officer of ERC, who underscored the Commission's commitment to combatting racial discrimination.

The event also saw a performance by the National School of Dance, a dance of unity which visually represented the strength and beauty of Guyana's cultural diversity. In addition to performances from the top three ERC Jingle Competition Winners, Mr. Adaiah Griffith, Ms. Alcesa Grenville Wong and Mr. Bill Rogers showcasing the creative contributions of young Guyanese toward messages of unity and inclusion as they performed their winning renditions to those gathered in attendance.

Shaikh Moeenul Hack, Chairman of the Commission, in delivering the feature address, highlighted major initiatives undertaken by the ERC over the past year, including the Commission's public awareness activities, monitoring and investigative efforts aimed at achieving the mandate of the ERC.

The Chairmain in his address highlighted the major achievements of the Commission, which he noted are geared to towards the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and other ethnic issues. He stated "as we reflect on the past year, we are deeply proud of the progress we have made. Yet, our journey is far from over. As we approach the 2025 General Elections, the ERC will intensify its efforts to counter racism and foster inclusivity. The fight against racial discrimination is an ongoing one, requiring constant vigilance, adaptability, and collaboration among all members of society. It is not a battle that the ERC can fight alone, it requires the participation of every

citizen...Let us stand united in our resolve to build on our achievements and continue promoting peace, tolerance and ethnic harmony across our beautiful country.”

H.E. Ms. Jean Kamau, UN Resident Coordinator to Guyana, also delivered remarks on the significance of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Her address reaffirmed the importance of collective action and policy implementation in addressing racial inequalities worldwide. According to Ms Kamau, “the United Nations remains committed to supporting Guyana’s efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination. We stand ready to collaborate with the Government, Constitutional and statutory bodies, and all stakeholders to jointly undertake measures so that racism and discrimination have no place in our societies.”

Moreover, Opposition Member of Parliament, the Hon. Ganesh Mahipaul, during his official remarks highlighted the importance of the International Day for Racial Discrimination and emphasized the Opposition’s commitment to racial harmony and national unity. “We remain committed to bipartisan collaboration and coalition building to cultivate racial harmony and national unity. Our fight against racial discrimination, is not just about rectifying historical wrongs, it is about securing a just and equitable future for generations to come, we must act now” he said.

Hon. Gail Teixeira, MP, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance, in delivering official remarks, commended the work of the Commission. According to the Minister, Guyana has made progress in the fight against racial discrimination, and it should be recognised. “we must not disparage the progress we made as a people. We must encourage it and encourage more persons to do better, so that we continue to build a harmonious, culturally diverse, ethnically diverse, religiously diverse society... Let us consciously work together to ensure that prejudices, whether ethnic, religious or race, are reduced and each one of us play a role in stopping it where it comes up, in our society and our communities, even in our families.”

The event showcased several initiatives of the Commission and recognized the importance of collaborations in building ethnicity unity. The Commission reaffirmed its steadfast commitment to promoting harmony and good relations in Guyana.

Ethnic Relations Commission
March 22, 2025