

STATE OF THE BLACK WORLD CONFERENCE V

APRIL 19-23, 2023, BALTIMORE, MD

The Baltimore Declaration

Action Agenda Outlining the Way Forward
and Synopsis of Selected Speeches and Presentations



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Overview



Day 1 of SOBWCV: Dr. Ron Daniels

April 19 – 23, 2023, people of African descent, Black people gathered in Baltimore, Maryland, USA from Black America, the far-flung regions of the Global Black Diaspora and the Pan African World for State of the Black World V. Convened by the Institute of the Black World 21st Century under the leadership of **Dr. Ron Daniels**, President with **Dr. Julius Garvey**, the son of the iconic Marcus Garvey as the Honorary Chairman, the Conference was organized around the Theme: **Global Africans Rising, Empowerment, Reparations and Healing**. As such, State of the Black World Conference V (SOBWCV) was envisioned to be one of the great gatherings of people of African descent in the 21st Century; an opportunity for IBW to model and firmly establish its role as a good faith facilitator and convener of results-oriented summits, symposia and conferences grounded in its mantra of “promoting a culture of collaboration to heal and empower Black families, communities and nations.”

The highlights of this unique gathering of people of African descent are too numerous to catalogue in this Declaration. However, the informational and inspirational speeches and presentations by a formidable array of leaders from the Pan African world were instructive, edifying and memorable. A few among the numerous speeches and presentations are cited in a Synopsis to illustrate the power and significance of SOBWCV.

As notable as the incredible speeches/presentations were, time and time again Dr. Ron Daniels, Convener of the Conference, reminded the amazing assembly of Participants that as people of African descent, Black people, we are each other’s best teachers. Imbedded in the collective mind, spirit and “soul of Black folks” are all the essential assets and tools required for the survival and development of Black families, communities and nations. To maximize our collective potential, however, we must break out of our individual, self-imposed, protective silos to engage in a learning/sharing process and experience with each other.

This learning/sharing process and experience was the vital centerpiece of the State of the Black World Conference as reflected in the Eight Issue Areas selected for deliberation and action. Every Participant had the opportunity to be exposed to and learn about the key content and concerns for each Issue Area during the eight Issue Area Plenary Sessions. This was followed by a full day in which Participants selected one of the eight areas to engage in a deep-dive for qualitative learning/sharing experience with an emphasis on models, best-practices and/or formulating projects, programs, initiatives and strategies to constitute the way forward as an outcome of State of the Black World Conference V. Recommendations for the way forward were also derived from the Special Sessions, which were powerful, highly informative aspects of this global gathering.

As the Co-Facilitators finalize and submit the recommendations and proposals from the deliberations in each Issue Area, they will be posted on the IBW website at www.ibw21.org. IBW makes no claim of having the capacity to implement the totality of recommendations and proposals submitted. Instead, we look to other organizations, institutions and agencies attending/participating in the Conference to select and implement action items which align with their mission in the collaborative spirit of collective work and responsibility. What follows are the priority action items which will be evaluated by IBW for implementation.



Action Agenda

Priority action items which will be evaluated by IBW for implementation



Addressing/Resolving the Crisis in Haiti: The First Black Republic

The Haiti Support Project is an arm of the Institute of the Black World which is committed to building a constituency for Haiti among African Americans to collaborate with Haitians to advance democracy and development in the First Black Republic. As an outcome of the Special Session on Haiti, the Haiti Support Project (HSP) is committed to collaborating with the Haitian American Foundation for Democracy to mobilize/organize a formidable coalition in the U.S. in support of the Montana Accord Movement as the inclusive, comprehensive, people-based movement which offers the greatest promise for resolving the current crisis and advancing a process to create an authentic Haiti-based democracy and sustainable development in the First Black Republic.



Day 4 of SOBWCV: Crisis in Haiti session



Building Support for Reparatory Justice for Afro-Descendants in Colombia and Beyond

IBW is committed to increasing public awareness of the struggle for full freedom, dignity, equality and reparatory justice for the millions of Afro Descendants in Colombia. To that end, IBW has established relationships with key social justice, human rights, reparations advocates and officials of the new government in Colombia. While **Hon. Francia Marquez**, the first Afro-Descendant Vice-President of Colombia, was unable to attend the Conference, we were delighted to receive **Senator Dorina Hernandez Polomino** as our Special Guest and Legacy Award Recipient and **Helmer Quinones**, Advisor to the Vice-President. **Senator Polomino** was



Vicepresidenta Francia Márquez

the featured Presenter for the Global Black Women's Summit Breakfast Special Session where the topic was **Supporting the Struggle for Justice and Reparations for Afro-Descendants in Colombia**. **Senator Polomino** was warmly received.

As a follow-up to the Conference, we will seek to educate and engage a broad cross-section of elected officials, civil rights, human rights, faith, labor, youth and women's organizations in Black America to support the struggle of Afro-Descendants in Colombia. This will include organizing a Fact Finding and Support Delegation to Colombia in the next 12 months which will include representatives of women's organizations to interact with women's organizations in Colombia. In addition, IBW will invite **Vice-President Francia Marquez** to undertake a multicity tour to share her vision for reparatory justice for Afro-Descendants in Colombia.

IBW's focus on Colombia should be understood as an important dimension of a broader commitment to create greater public awareness of the conditions, interests and aspirations of millions of Afro-Descendants, our sisters and brothers, in Central and South America. Justice for Afro-Descendants must be a priority on the Global Black Agenda!



Honoring the Life and Legacy of Maurice Bishop: A Delegation to Grenada

Under the Leadership of **Maurice Bishop** and the New Jewel Movement, the People's Revolutionary Government of Grenada emerged as a bright beacon of progressive hope for nations of the Caribbean and the Pan African World. **Don Rojas**, IBW's Director of Communications and International Relations, had the distinct honor of serving as Press Secretary for **Prime Minister Bishop**. And, as a member of the tripartite leadership of the National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP), **Dr. Ron Daniels** was privileged to lead a delegation of 100 Party Members and African American Leaders to Grenada where he was a speaker for All Heroes Day.



Maurice Bishop

Tragically, **Bishop** was executed by dissident elements who imprisoned him after an attempt to seize power. The coup attempt and execution of **Prime Minister Maurice Bishop** was the pretext for the U.S. invasion of Grenada to crush the revolution. These tragic events marked a set-up for progressive, revolutionary forces and Grenada lost its place as a leading force for progressive change in the world.



Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell

Fortunately, the spirit of **Maurice Bishop** and the revolution never died. Truth crushed to earth has burst into ascendancy again with the election of **Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell** who has pledged to restore **Maurice Bishop** to his rightful place as one of the great leaders in the history of Grenada and the Caribbean. Plans are in the works for a weeklong commemoration of Life and Legacy of **Maurice Bishop** in October of 2023.

Under the leadership of **Dr. Ron Daniels** and **Don Rojas**, IBW will organize a delegation to attend the Commemoration as part of a concerted effort to establish substantive working relations with the **Mitchell** Government and to solidify ongoing relationships with the reparatory justice movement and other civil society progressive institutions and organizations in Grenada.



Supporting the Polisario Front and Independence for Western Sahara

IBW has long supported the right of self-determination for the peoples of Western Sahara in their just struggle for independence from Morocco. IBW reaffirmed its support by inviting **Sidi Omar**, Ambassador to the UN for the Polisario Front, to address the Conference. Working in collaboration with **Bill Fletcher**, veteran labor and social justice activist and former President of the Trans Africa Forum, IBW will continue to utilize its media platforms to educate and mobilize support for the Polisario Front as the internationally recognized representative of the people of Western Sahara.



Connecting Black Brain Power for Black Development: Hon. P.J. Patterson's Challenge

Hon. P.J. Patterson delivered an historic keynote address at the Opening Session of the Pan African Institute of the Conference in which he criticized western democracy as inadequate as a model for the post-colonial nations of Africa and the Caribbean. In his remarks at the Global Black Leadership Breakfast Special Session, **PM Patterson** spoke to the urgent need to counter the brain drain” in the Caribbean and Africa by tapping the vast intellectual capital in Black America, particularly among Black professionals. He suggested that IBW could be the vehicle to facilitate connecting African American professionals with Africa and the Caribbean. Accordingly, IBW will actively work to connect



Day 2 of SOBWCV: Dr. George Fraser

Dr. George Fraser's FraserNet, the largest network of socially conscious Black Professions in the world, and **Leicester Bill Allen**, Founder of the New Black Wall Street, and similar leaders and organizations with networks with the Center for Africa-Caribbean Advocacy at the University of West Indies Mona Campus in Jamaica, where **PM Patterson** is the Scholar in Residence. The goal is to accept **PM Patterson's** challenge to devise strategies for connecting Black Brain Power for Black Development. IBW will organize a team comprised of leaders and representatives of Black professional organizations to meet with PM Patterson for a working session to begin this process.



Supporting Hon. Mia Mottley's Global Reparatory Justice Initiatives

IBW commends **Hon. Mia Mottley**, the first woman Prime Minister of Barbados and a recipient of the Legacy Award, for her bold leadership in promoting South to South relationships, reaching out to African heads of state and the African Union to encourage more vigorous engagement in the global reparations movement and demanding major reforms of western dominated financial institutions like the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. **PM Mottley** has also called for a Global Reparations Summit to maximize coordination between the various regional and national reparations commissions.



Hon. Mia Mottley

It is IBW's intent to develop a working relationship with **PM Mottley** to support these important reparatory justice initiatives and encourage the National African American Reparations Commission (NAARC) and the Global Circle for Reparations and Healing Commission (GCRH) to do likewise.



Providing Administrative Support for Global Circle for Reparations and Healing

Expanding the Multifaceted U.S. and Global Reparations Movements to empower and heal Black families, communities and nations was a major goal of State of the Black World Conference V. Therefore, reparations was a major focal point of the Conference as reflected in the National/International Town Hall Meeting and the Issue Area Plenary and Working Sessions. As the Convener and Administrator for NAARC, IBW participated in the milestone Reparations Summit in Ghana in August of 2022 as a member of the emerging **Global Circle for Reparations and Healing**. The **Accra Declaration** from the **Ghana Summit** calls for ongoing efforts to strengthen the capacity of existing reparations Commissions and organizations as the centerpiece for a growing global reparations movement. The Global Circle for Reparations and Healing has a unique role to play in this crucial process. Accordingly, as an outcome of deliberations at SOBWCV, IBW is committed to offering ongoing administrative support for the Global Circle for Reparations and Healing.



Kamm Howard and Dr. Amara Enyia



Expanding the Pan African Unity Dialogue: Practicing Pan Africanism Wherever We Are

The growing diversity of Black America with an infusion of millions of immigrants from Africa, the Caribbean and Afro-Descendants from Central and South America demands that we find ways to work together to enhance the collective power of people of African descent, Black people in the U.S. We must not assume that commonality of skin color will automatically translate into unity of purpose and action. National, cultural and ethnic identity are powerful unifying factors among “Black people.” We may live in the same cities without actually working together for the common good. Therefore, IBW advocates that we practice Pan Africanism wherever we reside as people of African descent, including in Black America.



February 22, 2020 Pan African Unity Dialogue Meeting.

To that end for more than a decade, IBW has been developing the Pan African Unity Dialogue (PAUD) in New York City as a model for practicing Pan Africanism among Continental Africans, Caribbean Americans, Afro-Latinos and African Americans. PAUD’s membership is composed of influencers within these communities who are interested in resolving crises, identifying issues of mutual concern and developing strategies for joint work/action.

PAUD has emerged as a highly influential body with the impact of its deliberations and actions reaching far beyond New York. PAUD was a Sponsor for the Pan African Institute which opened the Conference. Given the rise of anti-immigrant nativism in Black America, IBW is convinced that structures like PAUD are more important than ever before. As an outcome of the Conference, IBW will explore the feasibility of establishing Pan African Unity Dialogues or similar structures in Baltimore, Washington, D.C. and Atlanta. These are cities where IBW has relationships which can be leveraged for this exploratory process.



Building Relationships with Black Mayors Associations in the Pan African World

Black Mayors throughout the Pan African world can play a vital role in advancing a local and global agenda for the socio-economic development and empowerment of Black communities and nations. The Global Black Mayors and Elected Officials Roundtable Breakfast Special Session was designed to facilitate fulfilling this objective. Accordingly, IBW invited **Hon. Johnny Ford** and **Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi**, Secretary of the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa, as Special Guests and Legacy Award Recipients to share their perspectives on ways to strengthen relationships between Mayors and civil society organizations as



Day 4 of SOBWCV: Dr. Ron Daniels and Hon. Johnny Ford

a practical dimension of Pan Africanism. **Mr. Mbassi** was not able to attend, but **President Ford** commended IBW for playing a major role in connecting the World Conference of Mayors with **Secretary General Mbassi**. He urged IBW and its President, Dr. Ron Daniels, to continue facilitating the relationship between the World Conference of Mayors and United Cities and Local Governments of Africa and other associations in the Pan African world. Dr. Daniels has agreed to attend future meetings of both organizations as recommended by **President Johnny Ford**.



Convening a Global Summit on Water as a Human Right

Environmental justice, global warming, climate change, and clean, accessible and free water must rise to the top of the global agenda for people of African descent. Black people are universally vulnerable and disproportionately impacted by these issues. Therefore, with the concurrence and support of collaborating partners like Corporate Accountability and Corporate Accountability Participation Africa, IBW renews the call for a Global Summit on Water as a Human Right in Jackson, MS in conjunction with Earth Day, 2024. IBW is committed to playing a facilitative role in planning and convening this critically important Summit.



Day 2 of SOBWCV: Environmental Justice session



Combating Gentrification as a State of Emergency in Black America

Gentrification, the displacement of Black people and Black culture, is a State of Emergency in Black America. As an outgrowth of the 2019 National Emergency Summit on Gentrification, subsequent formation of the National Community Restoration Initiative and the deliberations at SOBWCV, IBW will continue to facilitate the formation of a National Network or Alliance of anti-gentrification activists/organizers and the development of National Resource Center to provide technical assistance and other forms of support for the Network or Alliance. In addition, IBW will continue its effort to enlist the support of the Association of African American Mayors for this initiative. **Assata Richards**, Director of the Sankofa Research Institute, and **Damien Goodmon**, Director, Liberty Ecosystem/Downtown Crenshaw Rising, have agreed to collaborate with IBW to advance this Initiative.



Assata Richards and Damien Goodmon.



Advancing Paradigms for Reimagining Public Safety and Law Enforcement

Abolishing the criminal injustice system in the U.S., including ending the War on Drugs in all of its insidious vestiges, is a major priority for IBW. Consistent with this goal, under the leadership of **Ronald Hampton**, one of the world's leading experts and advocates on these issues, IBW convened two major National/International Symposia on Reimagining Public Safety and Law Enforcement in 2022. The results of these very productive Symposia were the centerpiece of the Plenary and Working Sessions on these issues at the Conference. With the input of participants at the Conference, IBW is prepared to move forward with the creation of a National Network and Resource Center and National Police Justice and Accountability Task Force to provide assistance to local communities to develop and implement new paradigms of public safety and law enforcement. IBW will also utilize the composite of best practices derived from the Symposia and sessions at the conference to establish one or more models of community-based, community-controlled public safety and law enforcement working at the behest of residents, community-based organizations and agencies. A neighborhood in Washington, D.C. will be selected for the first pilot.



Day 2 of SOBWCV



Supporting the Live Free Initiative as a Model for Movement-Building

Live Free is a social justice network dedicated to ending gun violence, mass incarceration, and mass criminalization through education, advocacy and direct action. Under the visionary leadership of **Pastor Michael McBride**, Live Free has arguably emerged as the most innovative, comprehensive and effective model for addressing issues threatening the survival of our communities. Live Free is a major non-sectarian collaborative, facilitative force for transformative change in Black America. As such, IBW will continue its collaboration with Live Free and will actively encourage other organizations, agencies and institutions to join in this collaborative effort to build a formidable, coordinated movement to end gun violence, fratricide/murders, mass incarceration and mass criminalization in Black America.



Day 3 of SOBWCV: Pastor Michael McBride



Supporting Black Lives Matter Grassroots to Regain Funds for the People’s Struggle

IBW reaffirms our commitment to support Black Lives Matter Grassroots in its righteous struggle to regain millions of dollars illegally seized from the Black Lives Matter Global Network Foundation by **Shalomyah Bowers** and the Bowers Consulting Firm. These funds were donated to the Foundation to support BLM Grassroots’ commitment to advance people’s struggles for transformative racial and social justice. These funds should be returned to BLM Grassroots to fulfill the intended mission. IBW stands with BLM Grassroots for this righteous cause.



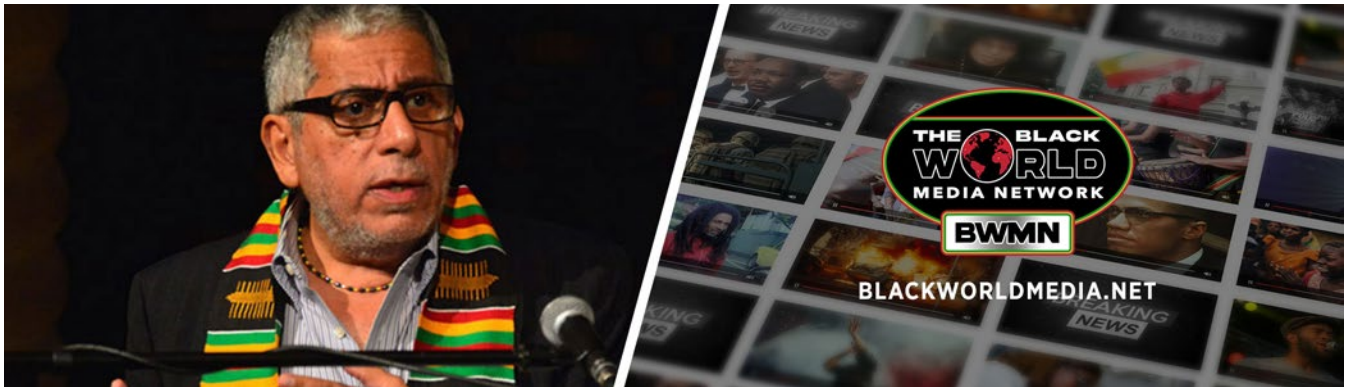
Day 3 of SOBWCV: Making Black Lives Matter session

Scenes from SOBWCV



For more photos visit ibw21.org/sobwcv

Special Initiatives



Supporting the Black World Media Network (BWMN) as a Legacy Project for Don Rojas

Don Rojas, IBW's Director of Communications and International Relations is one of the great progressive leaders of our time and a brilliant communications visionary. His credentials are too numerous to cite in this brief introduction, but they include serving as the Communications Director for the NAACP under the administration of Dr. Ben Chavis; Editor of the New York Amsterdam News; General Manager of WBAI, Pacifica Network, NY; General Manager of Free Speech Television and most notably Press Secretary and Advisor to Prime Minister Maurice Bishop of the People's Revolutionary Government of Grenada. We are all indebted to Comrade Brother Rojas for his life of revolutionary service.

Some will recall Don's pioneering launch of The Black World Today (TBWT) years ago on the Internet as a new medium of communications. TBWT was ahead of its time and ultimately did not succeed, but his vision for thirst for innovative, purpose-driven media has not subsided. Hence, with the support of IBW, Don conceived and launched the Black World Media Network as an ambitious multi-media digital platform that airs positive music and critical news from around the Pan African World 24 hours a day, coupled with video documentaries, podcasts and commentaries on the major issues of the day!

There is nothing like BWMN anywhere. This is Don's gift to the Global Black Community and his legacy project. In the spirit of Ujima and Ujamaa - Collective Work and Responsibility and Cooperative Economics - IBW is appealing to interested parties around the world to contribute your time, talent and resources to make BWMN a Pan African success! www.blackworldmedia.net



Establishing a Dr. Leonard Jeffries and Dr. Rosalind Jeffries Appreciation Fund

As friends and supporters of Dr. Leonard Jeffries are aware, our Paramount Chief recently experienced some health challenges. At 83 years young, his tireless commitment to the education and liberation of African people was such that he has made an amazing recovery. One of the highlights of SOBWC was his unexpected arrival with his lifelong partner and distinguished scholar Dr. Rosalind Jeffries. When his entry into the auditorium was announced, the audience erupted in thunderous, sustained response, a fitting indicator of the high esteem in which this Master Teacher is held.

Dr. Jeffries illness and the high cost of medical care exposed the absolute duty, the imperative that we as African people do whatever is necessary to provide, take care of our servant leaders. Dr. J. and Queen Rosalind have devoted their lives working tirelessly for the survival, restoration and development of the race, including contributing their financial resources time and time again.

Therefore, as an act of Ujima and Ujamaa – Collective Work and Responsibility and Cooperative Economics – it is only fitting that leaders and organizations come together to sponsor a Pan African Day of Appreciation (or it might be days or a week of Appreciation) with the goal of raising substantial resources to establish a Dr. Leonard Jeffries and Dr. Rosalind Jeffries Appreciation Fund. The sole purpose of such a Fund is to ensure that our esteemed leaders' basic living costs are met, and resources are available for them to continue their service for the race.

Unless such an effort is already underway, IBW commits to convening a cross-section of leaders and organizations to develop a plan to fulfill this most worthy goal.



Assessment and Call to Action



Dr. Ron Daniels

These are the Action-Items derived from the deliberations at State of the Black World Conference V. They constitute the Action Agenda, the way forward from the vantage point of the Institute of the Black World 21st Century as the convener/facilitator of this extraordinary gathering of Black Brilliance from the Global Black World. As previously stated, IBW acknowledges that there are other suggestions and recommendations that will be forthcoming from the Facilitators of the Issue Area Working Sessions. Within the limits of our capacity, we are committed to collaborating with a range of organizations, institutions and agencies to advance all of the Action-Items as the composite Action Agenda for the Conference.

Based on the testimonies of the some 700 or more sons and daughters of Africa whose presence and participation warmed the cold, cavernous halls of the Baltimore Convention Center, State of the Black World Conference V may well have achieved the aspiration and goal of the conveners of being one of the great gatherings Black people of the 21st century. The African-centered spiritual and cultural atmosphere was enriched by the incredible contributions of sisters and brothers from Africa, the Caribbean, Central and South America, Europe, Canada, and Black America.

One Participant called the Conference a convening of the “Black United Nations.” Several Participants cited the opportunity to meet, network with and interface with Black people from all over the world as the most distinctive and inspiring feature of the Conference.

At the Closing Ndaba/Closing session, Dr. Ron Daniels shared the testimony of a sister who said: This conference changed my life.” An events planner, who organizes large conferences and meetings professionally pledged to volunteer her services for future IBW conferences; a brother, who attended a State of the Black World Conference for the first time shared that “I have followed the work of IBW for a long time, but after this conference, I leave committed to becoming an active supporter.” And, of greatest significance for the future of IBW as a global vehicle for Black empowerment, several young people expressed an eagerness to lend their skill, talent and resources to support IBW. It is our hope that this tremendous reservoir of goodwill will be converted into an association of friends and advocates that will substantially enhance IBW’s capacity to advance its vision and mission.

Deep into the winter of his life’s work at 80+1, Dr. Ron Daniels has proclaimed that building the Institute of the Black World 21st Century as a vehicle promoting a culture of collaboration to heal and empower Black families, communities and nations is his legacy endeavor, the culmination of his journey for justice. As such the ambitious scope and scale of State of the Black World Conference V was designed to be a major milestone toward the achievement of this aspiration.

In the African tradition, integrity, your word, your good name matters. As the Elders say, “Your word is your bond.” Can you imagine the tremors of trepidation that

the conveners of State of the Black World Conference V experienced when, through a confluence of “Murphy’s Law” on steroids, one by one the distinguished heads of state who definitively, officially confirmed their participation by official correspondence were unable to attend? After advertising the participation of these esteemed Pan African leaders, how would we explain their absence and how would it be received by Participants who were attracted to and decided to attend the Conference in part because of an opportunity to see and hear these outstanding heads of state?

In the end, our fears proved unjustified. Participants, our people, heard and understood that our word was/is indeed our bond. As unlikely as it sometimes seems, stuff happens. To our relief the absence of the heads of state was hardly mentioned because there was a myriad of prominent personages who did attend and delivered powerful, substantive and useful presentations in the Town Hall Meetings, Opening and Closing Sessions. And, equally important, there were scores of resource persons and facilitators who shared rich and instructive information in the Issue Area Plenary and Working Sessions which resulted in a rewarding learning/sharing experience where each and every Participant brought something to the process; validating the concept that we are each other’s best teachers.

It was an exhilarating revelation to learn that in the hearts and minds of the Participants content, substance, process and an African-centered, family-like environment superseded personality, no matter how prominent or prestigious! This is a lesson learned which will guide our thinking as we plan future gathering of our people.

God and the Ancestors willing and with the support of friends and advocates of IBW, we will return to Newark NJ, the site of State of the Black World Conference IV, for State of the Black World Conference VI in November of 2024 -- to assess the State of Black America and the Pan African World after the presidential election. IBW has adopted Newark as an aspirational model city because of the progressive policies being formulated and implemented by the administration of Mayor Ras. J Baraka. With Mayor

Baraka’s blessing and willingness to serve as our host, we will convene for an even more powerful global gathering of people of African descent, Black people, to measure our collective progress towards “Global Africans Rising, Empowerment, Reparations and Healing!”

**No Struggle, No Progress, Forward Ever!
A luta Continua!**

With Profound Thanks/Appreciation
The Institute of the Black World 21st Century

Dr. Ron Daniels
President

Kareem Aziz
Board Member

Rick Adams
Chairman

Zach Williams
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**Rev. Shirley Gravely-
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Chester Marshall
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Greg Akili
Board Member

Amina Mayazi-Saunders
Board Member



Synopsis of Selected Speeches & Presentations



Day 1 of SOBWC V: P.M. Patterson

Hon. P.J. Patterson, the longest serving Prime Minister of Jamaica and a global statesman, opened the Pan African Institute of the Conference with a Keynote Address that was quickly recognized as an historic statement on the redevelopment of post-colonial nations in the Caribbean and Africa. The former P.M. delivered a searing indictment of U.S. and western dominated global financial institutions like the International Monetary Fund and World Bank that intentionally formulate policies that suffocate rather than aid the development of formerly colonized nations in the Black World. **P.M. Patterson** challenged the Global Black Community to unite and utilize its vast material and human resources to build thriving, sustainable, interdependent nations.

In our judgment **Professor Hilary Beckles**, Vice-Chancellor/President of the University of the West Indies and Chairman of the CARICOM Reparations Commission, is the leading public intellectual in the world, the global Guru of the reparatory Justice movement. Therefore, it was only appropriate that he offer framing remarks for the opening National International Town Hall Meeting on the **State of the Global Reparations Movement: The Way Forward**. Consistent with his predication that “reparations will be the human rights issue of the 21st Century,” **Professor Beckles** recounting how corporations, institutions and families who engaged in or benefitted from enslavement are coming forward to confess, apologize, and pledge resources to repair the damages inflicted on Black people. He applauded the **African Union** for endorsing and committing to join the struggle for reparatory justice. This decision engages heads of state as powerful partners with civil society advocates and organizations. **Professor Beckles** urged reparations advocates, organizations and commissions from across the Global Black Diaspora to forge bonds of unity, citing SOBWC V in Baltimore as the beginning of a truly global reparations movement.

During the National/International Town Hall Meeting on **The State of Black America and the Pan African World**, the young Uganda pop star turned political leader **Bobi Wine** demonstrated a grasp of the history of the colonial domination of Africa and the rise of neo-colonial rule imposed with willing accomplices like the brutal, authoritarian, corrupt, U.S. backed would be President for life **Yoweri Museveni**. **Bobi Wine** has mobilized massive opposition to the **Museveni** regime by educating and organizing disaffected and aspiring young people who are fed up with Africa’s “presidents for life.” Indeed, he is widely believed to have won



Day 1 of SOBWC V: Professor Hilary Beckles



Day 2 of SOBWCV: Bobi Wine

the most recent presidential election by a landslide. **Bobi Wine** is the personification of global Africans rising up to challenge and remove neo-colonial leaders from the path towards genuine African liberation! Participants of SOBWCV likely witnessed a brilliant address by the future President of Uganda!

Addressing the same Town Hall Meeting, **Marc Morial**, President/CEO of the National Urban League, applauded IBW for consistently gathering the ecosystem of civil rights/human rights organizations in Black America and the Pan African world to address issues of vital concern to Black people. In a passionate pre-



Day 2 of SOBWCV: Marc Morial

sentation, **President Morial** warned of the existential threat to Democracy and Black people by the rise of white nationalism and white hate groups in America as documented in the National Urban League's recently released State of **Black America Report**. He challenged the Participants to prepare for an all-out struggle to advance voting rights, criminal justice reform and reparations in a hostile environment where hate groups are determined to turn back the clock on Black progress by any means necessary.



Day 3 of SOBWCV: Rev. Lennox Yearwood and Kim Poole

Kim Poole is the visionary Founder and President of the Teaching Artist Institute. During a conversation with **Rev. Lennox Yearwood**, Founder and President of the Hip Hop Caucus, as part of the Cross Generational Panel on **The Role of Hip Hop in the Black Freedom Struggle**, Sister **Kim** extolled the virtue and value of art and culture as the essential foundation of the Black Freedom Struggle; the spiritual, inspirational source of the resistant, resilience and revolutionary spirit of African people. She cited activist artists from throughout the Pan African world who are spearheading the struggle for self-determination and full freedom of Black people. **Sister Kim** unapologetically questioned the value of electoral politics if Black politicians cannot or will not advance policies that meet the basic needs of Black people. The role of the activist artist is to hold elected officials and Black leaders accountable to the people!



Day 3 of SOBWCV: Mayor Shawyn Patterson-Howard

Fresh off her election to the office of President of the African American Mayor's Association, **Shawyn Patterson-Howard**, Mayor of Mt. Vernon, NY, made a surprise appearance at the Opening Ndaba/Opening Session of the Conference to express support for IBW and her appreciation for the outreach to Black Mayors to attend/participate. **Mayor Shawyn**, as she is affectionately known, took the occasion to pay tribute to IBW Legacy Award recipient **Hon. Johnny Ford**, the first African American Mayor of Tuskegee, AL, and Founder of the World Conference of Mayors. **Mayor Shawyn** stressed the critical importance for Black people

engaging in electoral politics to achieve justice, equality and the resources to secure a better quality of life. However, she emphasized the need for Black people to avoid becoming politicians as usual perpetrating politics as usual. **Mayor Shawyn** shared that she is really a social worker at heart and carries her people serving, people-based, people-oriented, people-empowering values and commitment with her as a guide to her administration. Electoral politics should be a participatory process where the people not only hold electoral officials accountable, but the people also work with elected officials to formulate and carry-out public policies that affect families and communities.



Day 4 of SOBWCV: Sen. Hernandez Palomino

Hon. Francia Marquez, the first Afro-Descendant woman Vice-President of Colombia, was unable to attend SOBWCV because of a national protocol that prohibits the President and Vice-President to be in a nation at the same time (**President Gustavo Petro** was in the U.S. at the time of the Conference), but participants were delighted to receive **Senator Hernandez Palomino** from Colombia as the Special Guest for the **Global Women's Summit Breakfast** and to receive the IBW Legacy Award. With **Helmer Quinones**, Advisor to **Vice-President Marquez** at her side, during the Legacy Award and Cultural Extravaganza, **Senator Palomino** expressed her appreciation for the Award and her delight for being able to engage with people of African descent from across the Pan African world. A descendant of the region of African Maroons in Colombia who have suffered brutal suppression under various rightwing regimes in Colombia, **Senator Palomino** proclaimed her determination to achieve full freedom for Afro Descendants and expressed appreciation for the solidarity of the Conveners of SOBWC.

The highlight of the Closing Ndaba/Closing Session were the exhilarating presentations of three new generation leaders, **Maurice Mitchell**, National Director of the Working Families Party, **Tarana Burke**, Founder of the #ME TOO Movement, and **LaTosha Brown**, Co-Founder of Black Lives Matter, climaxed by the keynote presentation of **Dr. Julius Garvey**, Honorary Chairman of the Conference.

Maurice Mitchell called on organized labor to vigorously confront organized capital with independent political power. He described the Working Families Party as a multi-racial political vehicle solidly based among Black people and people of color; a multifaceted Party that is committed to utilizing all phases of political power including protests, advocacy, institutional development and electoral politics.



Day 5 of SOBWCV: Tarana Burke

Touting the recent victory of the Working Families Party in aiding the election of **Brandon Johnson** as the progressive Mayor of Chicago, **Brother Maurice** urged Black people not to be afraid to take power to transform the Capitalist system which is oppressing all of us. He invited the audience to join the Working Families Party in the struggle to build political, economic, cultural and spiritual power to create a better society and world!

Tarana Burke, founder of the #METOO Movement, stressed the urgency of addressing the issue of gender violence against Black women. She added that



Day 5 of SOBWCV: Maurice Mitchell



Day 5 of SOBWCV: LaTosha Brown

combatting sexual violence must be a priority for all racial and social justice movements. **Tarana** noted that African American women have the second highest incidence of sexual violence in the USA with Native-American women at the top. You cannot talk about police brutality and not talk about sexual brutality of Black and Brown women. As a community we must address these uncomfortable issues. If Black lives are to truly matter, then the quality of our lives also has to matter. It is critically important that we talk more about healing and repair when we talk about sexual violence in our communities.

When it was her turn to speak, **LaTosha Brown**, Co-founder of Black Voters Matter, started off by singing a moving Negro Spiritual; declaring that the spirit has always carried Black people through from enslavement to the present. She issued a profound challenge for Black people to think deeply about our ultimate mission. We have fought against racism forever, but how many of us have actually asked the question, “what would this nation and the world look like without racism?” Ultimately, we must envision/reimagine an America without racism. What would a society and world look like where people feel valued and respected. If we can’t or don’t imagine a new society, we will never create it. Ultimately, it’s not about our “blackness” or political parties, its about our humanity. We must pay more attention to the twin anchors of our humanity, Black Love and Black Power. Our politics should be an expression of our humanity. There is no Black Power without Black love for ourselves and each other! The audience repeatedly exploded with applause during Sister **LaTosha’s** soaring oration!

As the Keynote Speaker for the Closing Ndaba/Closing Session, **Dr. Julius Garvey** concluded with inspiring analyses, prescriptions and vision for Global Black Diaspora and the motherland that clearly demonstrated that he is not just the son of the **Honorable Marcus Mosiah Garvey**, he has emerged as a Pan African political philosopher and global icon in his own right. In essence, **Dr. Garvey’s** message was/is that neither the European systems of Capitalism or Communism are necessary or sufficient for African people to adopt for our survival, restoration and development. We must embrace and practice the fundamental spiritual and cultural principles and values of the African worldview, African Humanism to rescue and restore the race and in the final analysis the world! People of African descent, Black people must be in the forefront of creating a new world order based on African Humanism.



Day 5 of SOBWCV: Dr. Julius Garvey



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