

Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Foreign Trade

Press Release

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**JAMAICAN ARTISTS ENCOURAGED TO ENTER UNESCO'S
INTERNATIONAL MEMORIAL DESIGN COMPETITION TO HONOUR
VICTIMS OF THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE**

(MFA&FT Kingston: July 22, 2011)

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has declared August 23 the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition. In that month also, UNESCO will launch the international competition for the design, construction and erection of a Permanent Memorial in remembrance of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade.

Today, however, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade announces the competition, with the expectation that Jamaican artists, whether here or in the Diaspora, will take advantage of the one month jump start to begin creating appropriate designs for the Permanent Memorial.

Originating from a Caribbean Community (CARICOM) proposal, the Permanent Memorial which will be prominently displayed at the UN, New York headquarters, should reflect the theme, "***Acknowledging the Tragedy; Considering the Legacy; Lest We Forget.***"

It is the vision of the Permanent Memorial Committee (PMC), chaired by Ambassador Raymond Wolfe of Jamaica that the Memorial will serve as a reminder of the legacy of the slave trade, providing future generations with an understanding of the history and consequences of slavery. It is also expected that the memorial will serve as an educational tool to raise awareness about the current dangers of racism and prejudice and the consequences that continue to have impact on the descendants of the victims today.

Conducted over an eight-month-period, the competition will first seek to disseminate information and make a shortlist of 16 applications/applicants. The second phase of the competition will see an international panel of independent judges convening in New York to review the applications. A further shortlist will then be made, and the winner chosen.

Ambassador Wolfe recently participated in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Permanent Memorial Committee, the UN Office for Partnerships (UNOP) and UNESCO. While underscoring UNESCO's capacity to host the competition, Ambassador Wolfe encouraged Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Culture worldwide to "become actively engaged in the selection process, so that a rich and diverse pool of applications can be submitted to UNESCO for consideration."

Jamaican, artists you have the charge. Go forth, produce. Let the Permanent Memorial in remembrance of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade be done by a Jamaican!

Please see www.unslaverymemorial.org for more information.

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