



## UNIVERSITY of GUYANA

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### **PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **Public Invited to Attend the Launch of the University of Guyana's International Centre for Migration and Diaspora Studies and to Witness Apology from Gladstone Heirs**

(Georgetown/ Guyana/ University of Guyana/August 21/ 2023/ **Launch of the University of Guyana's International Centre of Migration and Diaspora Studies and Apology from Gladstone Heirs**)

The University of Guyana launches its International Centre for Migration and Diaspora Studies in collaboration with the National Reparations Committee and Heirs of Slavery, on Friday, August 25, 2023, in the George Walcott Lecture Theatre (GWLT) of the Turkeyen Campus, in Georgetown, Guyana, from 8:30 hrs. to 11:00 hrs.

The Diaspora and Migration Centre is set up to pursue five (5) specific areas of research interest including, but not limited to Diaspora and Migration in and around Academia, Youth, Technology and Vulnerable Communities, Indigeneity, Indentureship and Slavery as specific and integral aspects of dispersion.

The research track for Slavery and indentureship is the reason why it was deemed appropriate to launch the Diaspora and Migration Centre (MiDias) in this historically auspicious month in regard to the emancipation of enslaved peoples as well as the 200th anniversary of the 1823 Slave Revolution in Demerara.

The University has been collaborating for several years with several Universities and the Guyana Reparations Committee on specific aspects of the impacts of the plantations' enterprise of Slavery and indentureship as well as indigeneity on native populations, including relations being experienced today.

As such UG and the GRC invited members of the Gladstone family, part of an heirs of slavery grouping to participate in the event since Quamina and his son John, who led the 1823 Rebellions were enslaved on Gladstone Plantations. The University itself is founded on plantation lands upon which part of the revolutions were enacted. The Gladstone ancestor is also recorded as "one of the initiators of schemes for the exporting of indentured labor to the Caribbean" (<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/8961>). It is also indicated their ancestor John Gladstone who died in 1851, might have owned the Whitby and Hesperus, the ships which transported the first East Indian Indentured to Guyana. The Gladstone family, which includes several historians, have today confirmed that they will in fact offer an apology given the role their ancestors would have played here.

Given this development, The University and Reparations Committee have specially invited and continue to invite several elders, the Guyana Reparations Committee and other groups, Students and senior potentates to witness and receive the formal apology at the short formal ceremony which begins at 9:00 hrs. at the GWLT on Friday, August 25, 2023.

*After the formal ceremony, the moment will be marked by an inter-generational dialogue between University of Guyana students and youthful members of the Gladstone family; a linking of the University of Guyana Library with digital archives of the Council of World Missions and an exhibition of scholarly work throughout the day on the subject matter.*

The public is invited to attend virtually or in person. For Virtual registration please use this:

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Ob0sefwYTY-YVypQZPTePA#/registration](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Ob0sefwYTY-YVypQZPTePA#/registration)

The Guyana Reparations Committee also has a series of events and conversations to mark this occasion, including a church service.

NB: See attached and below for Invitations for University of Guyana Events:

Invitation



UNIVERSITY of GUYANA



The University of Guyana  
*is pleased to invite you to*

# "LEGACIES AND THE FUTURE"

**A Special Conversation and  
The Official Opening of our  
International Institute for Migration and Diaspora Studies**

**Date: Friday, 25 August, 2023**

**Time: 09:00hrs – 11:30hrs**

**Venue: George Walcott Lecture Theatre,  
University of Guyana, Turkeyen Campus, Georgetown Guyana**

Please RSVP to (592) 623 3159



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The University of Guyana  
*is pleased to invite you to virtually attend*

# "LEGACIES AND THE FUTURE"

**A Special Conversation and The Official Opening of our  
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**Date: Friday, 25 August, 2023**

**Time: 09:00hrs – 11:30hrs**

**Where: Via Zoom**

**Click here to join this event virtually**

**Webinar ID: 944 4890 6861**

For more information please contact  (592) 623 3159



Diaspora Representative Committee