



PRESS RELEASE

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Africa Caribbean Heritage Alliance (ACHA) Participates in Historic Christianity & Slavery Conference in Curaçao, Dutch Caribbean

The Africa Caribbean Heritage Alliance (ACHA) is proud to have participated in the historic Christianity and Slavery Conference held in Curaçao from November 10–14, 2025. This global gathering brought together scholars, faith leaders, policymakers, community workers, and cultural advocates from the Dutch Caribbean, the Netherlands, the United States, Canada, South Africa, Suriname, and across Europe. Together, participants explored the complex intersections between Christianity, colonialism, African spirituality, and the transatlantic slave trade.

Curaçao was a deeply meaningful location for this dialogue. For hundreds of years, the island served as a major transit point where enslaved Africans were brought, sold, and dispersed throughout the Caribbean and the Americas. Many descendants of those who passed through Curaçao still carry the emotional, spiritual, and cultural weight of that history.

For ACHA's Executive Director, **Okama Brook**, the conference was especially significant. From 2010 to 2012, she lived and worked in Curaçao as the UNDP Officer supporting the transition of the former Netherlands Antilles and helping to develop the island's first Millennium Development Goals Report. During this period, she witnessed firsthand the lingering effects of colonialism, structural inequalities, colorism, and the deep yearning among Afro-descendant communities to reconnect with Africa.

It was these lived experiences—and the conversations filled with longing, resilience, and hope—that inspired the founding of the Africa Caribbean Heritage Alliance. ACHA was established to rebuild the bridge between Africans and Afro-Caribbeans, to strengthen

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socio-economic and cultural ties, and to promote healing rooted in shared ancestry and collective memory.

During the conference, Okama Brook presented a paper titled:

“Addressing Justice for Africans and People of African Descent Through Reparations: The Role of Christianity in the Americas, Africa, and the Dutch Caribbean.”

In her address, she invited participants to reimagine what meaningful reparations could look like and highlighted the need for intentional partnerships with the African Union, the Dutch government, and national governments across Africa and the Caribbean. She also emphasized the relevance of the Human Development Index (HDI) as a framework for understanding and improving quality of life—health, education, and standard of living—in the Dutch Caribbean. As a development and sustainability expert, she noted that HDI provides a valuable tool for tracking progress beyond GDP alone.

The conference reaffirmed ACHA’s vital role in advancing a comprehensive reparatory justice agenda—one that includes historical acknowledgment, documentation, financial redress, land restitution, cultural restoration, policy reform, and community empowerment. The Caribbean Reparations Commission’s 10-Point Action Plan remains a key reference point for shaping meaningful, long-term change.

ACHA remains committed to strengthening connections across continents, uplifting Afro-descendant communities, advancing reparatory justice, and fostering healing, unity, and transformation between Black and White communities worldwide.

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