

Remember Slavery Day in Ghana

STUDENTS RECOUNT THEIR EXPERIENCE



A cross section of the students at the event

In our contemporary world, it is very difficult to catch the attention of the youth outside the screen: mobile phones, computers and even the internet. Our love for music, movies, social media and the internet is undeniably record breaking.

I attended the UN Information Centre, Accra event held at Ashesi University College in observance of Remember Slavery 2018. A presentation on this year's theme, "Slavery: Triumphs and Struggles for Freedom and Equality" was delivered by Eli Tetteh, a lecturer at the Ashesi University College. Considering the attendees, Eli Tetteh used the perfect method in getting our attention and also in sending out information to us. He used movies and music videos to explain his points on the triumphs and struggles for freedom and equality. And that made me to learn a lot.

For instance, I am familiar with music videos of Kendrick Lamar and Kanye West. But I have never taken the time to make meaning of the messages contained in their videos as elaborated by Mr. Tetteh. This has made me aware of how to read messages in popular cultures for example.

Another thing I learnt from his lectures, is the interconnectedness of the struggles, challenges and triumph of Africans in the diaspora and Africa. The film "Familiar Faces, Unexpected Places" by Dr. Sheila Walker gives me joy

because I learnt that as a people we must not shy away from who we are and what we can contribute to the world. We have a unique culture which transcends beyond borders and unites us. The exhibition was very educative.

The lesson learnt is that "As Africans, we should never be intimidated by our skin colour or by people of different race. We are all equal in dignity and rights" as noted by UNIC Accra's Cynthia Prah.

BY: Benjamin Bernard Ndubuaku, African University College of Communication

We must unite to preserve our cultures

Slavery continues to exist in diverse and complex ways and these are sometimes difficult to understand.

On this Day when we commemorate the International Day of Remembrance of Victims of Slavery and the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, I celebrate the resilience, steadfastness, courage, and the toil of all who fought for the abolition of Slave Trade around the world and those who continue to fight against modern forms of slavery.

Young as I am, I understand that the fight for



ture, and their way of life. As I watched the film “Familiar Faces, Unexpected Places” by Dr Sheila Walker, I was very surprised to have learnt that Africans in India, Turkey, Brazil among other countries still hold on to their core cultural practices which most of us here in Africa can relate to.

The lesson from such commemoration is that Africa must unite to uphold its cultural heritage. **It is my hope that African countries will co-operate**

the abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade has not been an easy one. The ending of the Slave Trade did not come on a silver platter. This is because of the economic benefits of free labour provided by the slaves. The mere fact that slaves were sold, in my candid opinion, was the greatest act of objectifying humans.

with nations around the world to promote these cultures and establish strong governance and cultural institutions for this purpose. Indeed, Africa is Great, Africa is Unique and Africa is a Conqueror.

By: Sadat Issah, Ashesi University College

Lets stop the blame game



Sadat Issah, Ashesi University College

For about twenty-one (21) years of living in Ghana, there have been a few instances where white people would walk over to my family and I in a public place to apologise for what their ancestors did and how they treated us. In all those moments there wasn't much emotional attachments probably because I had also been told that our very own people started the process.

However, post slavery effects have strengthened both indigenous Africans and Africans in the diaspora. It can also be argued that, these effects have also made us insecure in terms of being brain washed to either think everything African is of less quality or to continue blaming another for our predicament.

I have done some readings about Slave Trade and, today I am glad to have participated in UNIC Accra briefing, exhibition and film-screening events held at Ashesi University College. In all these, what stood out for me is “RESILIENCE”. Africans all over the world have been able to maintain their identity, cul-

I believe it is good that the genesis of slavery is taught and remembered because apart from

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the fact that it is our history, it makes us (AFRICANS) worldwide see each other as one. This is why events in commemoration of the victims of the slave trade, supported by the United Nations such as the one held at Ashesi University College, organised by UNIC Accra, is worthwhile.

What I don't believe in is continuing to play the blame game. Should we continue that way, the story of Africa will always begin with the notion of being a deprived continent emanating from years of being bridled by our colonial masters.

We do as citizens of Africa have a charge to keep as there



Yaaba Arhin, University of Ghana



the exhibition UNIC NIO Ms Cynthia Prah briefing the students on



Eli Tetteh making his presentation



Millicent Adjei welcoming students to Ashesi

Thank you UNIC Accra



I have no doubt that Africans are in every part of the world due to the Transatlantic Slave Trade. The exhibition titled "A Legacy of Black Achievement", presented by the United Nations Information Centre in Accra, as part of this year's Remember Slavery events, clearly shows and honours the contributions of Blacks to global development. As an African, I feel proud to have known this fact and it is a reminder to my generation to work at making meaningful contributions to society. Some important African dignitaries who will forever be remembered include Harriet Tubman, Marcus Garvey, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, Nelson Mandela and Kofi Annan, the Former UN Secretary-General. BY: Arnold Korsah, African University College of Comm.

REMEMBER SLAVERY

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The exhibition stand



A distant view of the exhibition stand



A participant making a contribution



A participant making a contribution



Students watching the film "Familiar Faces, Unexpected Places"



UNIC NIO Ms. Cynthia Prah addressing the students

Keep striving for equality and respect

Slavery! Slavery! Slavery!!! This word stirs the emotions of the sons and daughters of great Africa. The great people of Africa exist even beyond the continent. The memories and stories of the period of slavery continue to linger on in minds, and the pain, still felt in the hearts. Hence the March 25, Remember Slavery Day is significant for us youth. The Day helps us to honor the memories of our forefathers and to mark how far we have come as a people. The theme for this year's Remember Slavery is "Triumphs and Struggles for Freedom and Equality".

After going through the event organized by UNIC Accra at Ashesi University to mark the Day, I ask, "Have we triumphed over slavery for freedom and equality as a people?" I say Yes, we have! As a people, we have made our mark and continue to make impact in the world. The likes of Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela and Mbikusita-Lewanika, have proved to us that triumphs and successes are achievable irrespective of our past. You and I



Adobe A. Okyere, University of Ghana

have a role to play in making the triumphs of our forefathers more meaningful and reflective in current times and beyond. It is necessary that the stories on slavery be told in order to remind us of the sacrifices as well as mistakes of our forefathers and to help us strive for greatness.

Are we still struggling for freedom and equality? Again yes we are. There are instances where friends, fortunate to have been overseas, keep complaining about the kind of stares and treatment they receive at parks, train stations and even in classes where they happen to be the only African student.

Indeed, we have come far as a people. Considering the presentation on the theme delivered by Mr. Eli Tetteh of Ashesi University, there are movies, songs, books and poems that depicts slavery in the past and even the effect it still has on us as individuals. Slavery took place and is a huge part of our heritage and legacy as a people. We have come far and we must acknowledge that fact in order to chalk more successes. However, more importantly, we must avoid complacency and keep striving at all costs as the mental battle we fight on a daily basis is still a long way from over. *By: Adobe A. Okyere, University of Ghana*

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