



Be the change  
you wish  
to see in the world.  
-Gandhi

*Conference on*  
**Gandhi Community Empowerment Conference 2016:**  
*Teachings & c*

**Date:** Sunday, October 23, 2016  
**Time:** 2:15pm – 4:30pm  
**Venue:** Queens College Campus, Campbell Dome

**Program:**

- Welcome & Introductions
- Remarks by Asian/American Center of Queens College
- Remarks by Indian Diaspora Council
- Remarks by NYS Assemblyman David Weprin
- Officials & Organization Representatives
- Keynote Speaker
- Other Speakers
- 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration of Abolition of Indian Indentureship
- NextGen Engagement
- Recognition
- Concluding Remarks

*Moderator:* Darrel Sukhdeo, Indian Diaspora Council

**Hosted by:** Asian/American Center of Queens College

**Sponsored by:** Indian Diaspora Council



***Co-sponsored by:***

Indian Diaspora Council (IDC); Indian Jewish Council; American Bengali Hindu Foundation (ABHF); Holi Sammelan & Festival Committee; New York Guyana Medical & Humanitarian Mission; Federation of Hindu Mandirs, Inc. (USA); Indo-Caribbean Alliance; Indo-Caribbean Federation; Association of Artists & Writers; Interfaith Council for Comm. Development; and others  
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***Snacks Courtesy of:*** Bakewell Bakery & Restaurant Tel: 1-718-322-5600/5601

## Gandhi Community Empowerment Conference 2016

The teachings and practice of non-violence by Mahatma Gandhi have had tremendous influence on the US Civil Rights Movement. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. drew inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi's struggle and methodology for social justice and equity. It is generally known that had it not been for Gandhi's leadership, pursuit for social justice, his teachings and influence, Dr. King's civil rights crusade in the United States might have been different.

Gandhi's "satya graha" campaign eventually led to India's political freedom. In a similar manner, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was able to achieve significant advances in the US Civil Rights Movement for people of color. Today, we the immigrants, also enjoy the benefits of Dr. King's and the Civil Rights Movement. While discrimination and inequity still persist in many sectors of US society, these have been reduced to such an extent that opportunities have now been opened in several areas where these were previously closed.

We believe that a discourse on "Gandhi's Influence on the US Civil Rights Movement" is a fitting birthday tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, especially at this time in our history when violence is being used indiscriminately to solve problems or to settle scores. Focus on Gandhi's teachings and philosophy will allow us to approach problems in a humane way. We also believe that our youth must become acquainted with works and philosophy of both Gandhi's and Dr. King's.

In the evolution of the non-violence movement, Indians (both free and indentured) in South Africa constituted the bulk of the protesters between 1907 (when Gandhi launched his first "satyagraha" campaign) until 1914 when he left South Africa. Gandhi provided his mentor Gokhale in the Indian Legislative Council with information on the conditions in South Africa. In 1912, Gokhale called for the complete abolition of indentureship. When this was finally achieved in 1917, Gandhi indicated that "satya graha" had "hastened the end".

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**Dr. Madhulika Khandelwal:** Director of Asian/American Center and Associate Professor in Urban Studies Department at Queens College, City University of New York. Taught Asian American Studies at a number of universities and has conducted research on contemporary Asian American communities. Main interests include immigrants, women, South Asian diaspora, Asian American communities, and multicultural issues. Book: *Becoming American, Being Indian: An Immigrant Community in New York City*. Born in India, educated in India & USA, PhD in History, Carnegie-Mellon Univ. Honored by NYC Comptroller's Office, Queens Women's Center, Elmhurst Hospital Center, and several community organizations.

**Dr. Tyran Ramnarine:** Born in Guyana, graduate of University of Guyana, University of Kansas (Fulbright Scholar), USA and University of Sussex, UK. Completed his PhD in history Univ. of Sussex, UK focusing on growth and establishment of East Indian population in Guyana (1880 to 1920). Was former history lecturer at University of Guyana, assoc. professor Washburn University, Kansas, USA; worked in adult education in NYC Department of Education. Now retired and works part time in adult education. His article "Over a Hundred Years of East Indian Disturbances on the Sugar Estates" in Guyana appears in "India in the Caribbean." Book in progress: A novel about living and surviving on a sugar estate.

**Anand Ahuja, Esq:** Born in India, attorney in New York, Connecticut, Virginia, Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, U.S. District Court; Southern District of NY, U.S. District Court; Eastern District of NY, and U.S. Tax Court. Educated in India & USA: LLM; LLB. (JD); MA, MBA; Postgraduate Diploma in Gandhian Philosophy. Also works as an Arbitrator with NYC Small Claims Courts. Was Adjunct Faculty at Baruch College (City University of New York); Adjunct Faculty International Business at the USDA Graduate School, Washington, D.C.; and Adjunct Faculty at Howard University. More than 150 published papers/articles; appeared in numerous TV interviews/panels including Al-Jazeera TV. Writes and speaks on various socio-political and legal issues. Received awards and honors from several organizations and Bar Associations in USA and India for Pro-bono services Not-For-Profit organizations.

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## Indian Diaspora World Convention 2017 Celebration of 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Abolition of Indian Indentureship

*Shared heritage, aspirations and interests*

[www.IndianDiasporaCouncil.org](http://www.IndianDiasporaCouncil.org)

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**Dates:** March 17 – 20, 2017

**Venue:** Trinidad & Tobago

**Contact:** [IndianDiasporaCouncil@gmail.com](mailto:IndianDiasporaCouncil@gmail.com)