

Indian Diaspora Council International

Shared heritage, aspirations and interests
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PRESS STATEMENT

For Immediate Release

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INDIAN DIASPORA COUNCIL COMMEMORATES JUNETEENTH 2022

The Indian Diaspora Council International (**IDC**) and its global membership commemorate the observance of JUNETEENTH 2022 as a very significant milestone for freedom from slavery in the United States.

The holiday commemorates the Emancipation Proclamation in the U.S. President Abraham Lincoln issued the proclamation to free enslaved African Americans in secessionist states on January 1, 1863, but enslaved people in many places would not learn of their freedom until two years later.



Juneteenth is a day to reflect on both bondage and freedom — a day of both pain and purpose. It is, in equal measure, a remembrance of both the long, hard night of slavery and subjugation, as well as a celebration of the promise of a brighter morning to come. On Juneteenth, we remember our extraordinary capacity to heal, to hope, and to emerge from our worst moments as a stronger, freer, and more just Nation. It is also a day to celebrate the power and resilience of Black Americans, who have endured generations of oppression in the ongoing journey toward equal justice, equal dignity, equal rights, and equal opportunity in America — US President Joseph Biden

"Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed."

— Martin Luther King Jr.

"I prayed for freedom for twenty years, but received no answer until I prayed with my legs." — Frederick Douglass

"Today on Juneteenth, the day we celebrate the end of slavery, the day we memorialize those who offered us hope for the future and the day when we renew our commitment to the struggle for freedom." — Angela Davis

The Indian Diaspora Council International (**IDC**) firmly believes that "denial of human rights at any level as an outright violation of the basic tenets of humanity, and supports human rights and freedoms including a right to education, a decent living, health care and a right to live free from any form of discrimination among others".

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Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC), established in 1997, is an international non-profit organization with global affiliates and membership in 21 countries with the objective to embrace, engage and enhance the shared heritage, aspirations and interests of persons of Indian origin with optimum inclusivity.