Indian Diaspora Council International

Shared heritage, aspirations and interests

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PRESS STATEMENT

For Immediate Release

June 19, 2024 (EST-USA)

INDIAN DIASPORA COUNCIL COMMEMORATES JUNETEENTH 2024

The Indian Diaspora Council International (**IDC**) and its global membership commemorate the observance of JUNETEENTH 2024 as a very significant milestone for freedom from slavery in the United States.

The holiday is observed on June 19 annually and commemorates the Emancipation Proclamation in the USA. 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.

"It was testimony of a testament to the resilience of generations of Black Americans who kept their eyes set on the nation's North Star. That North Star was the idea that we're all created equal in the image of God and deserve to be treated equally throughout our lives. While we've never lived up to it, we've never fully walked away from it either. That's because of you and generations before you who led the march from slavery to freedom toward more than a perfect union. A day of profound weight and power. A day to remember the original sin of slavery and the extraordinary capacity to emerge from the most powerful moments and the painful moments with a better vision for ourselves. There are old ghosts in new garments trying to take us back; well, there are taking away your freedoms; making it harder for Black people to vote or have your vote counted; closing doors of opportunity; attacking the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion; if you can believe it, banning books about Black experiences in America; trying to erase and rewrite history. A day that reminds us we have a hell of a lot more work to do" 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.