



Indian Diaspora Council

Indian Diaspora Council International

Shared heritage, aspirations and interests

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Press Release

EMANCIPATION DAY 2025 – COMMEMORATION OF 1834 ABOLITION OF SLAVERY IN BRITISH COLONIES

The Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC) and its global affiliates join with communities across former British colonies, the United Kingdom, and beyond in commemorating **Emancipation Day 2025**, marking the 190th anniversary of the British abolition of slavery.

The **Slavery Abolition Act of 1833**, which came into effect on **August 28, 1834**, ended slavery throughout the British Empire. This historic milestone



brought an end to the abhorrent, dehumanizing, and exploitative system that subjected millions to brutal physical and psychological oppression for profit.

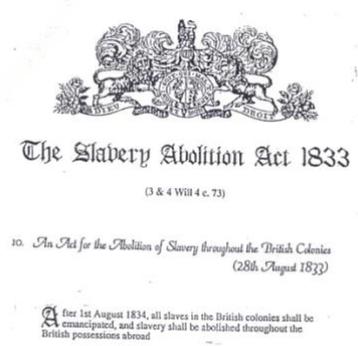
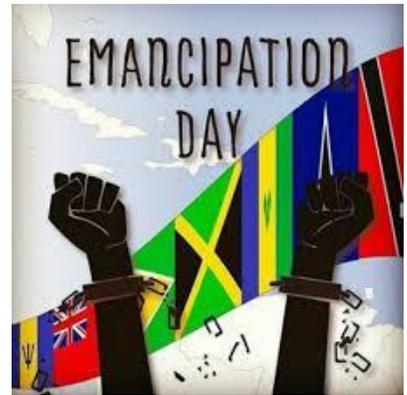
Also known as **Freedom Day** in many countries, Emancipation Day is widely observed during the first week of August in former British colonies across the Caribbean, South and East Africa, and other regions. It also serves as a broader reflection on the abolition of serfdom and other forms of servitude

globally.

Emancipation also marked the beginning of a new chapter: the **indentured servitude of Indian laborers**, who were brought to former British colonies between 1834 and 1920 to replace freed African slaves on plantations. The IDC recognizes the profound historical significance of Emancipation Day—not only as the end of slavery, but also as a reminder of the continued struggles faced by Indian indentured laborers who endured many of the same injustices.

The IDC encourages ongoing efforts—both individual and collective—with the same spirit of resilience and justice, to strive for freedom from poverty, disease, war, inhumanity, economic inequality, and social injustice.

– Dr. Nicole Bissessar, Director of Community Cultural Affairs, IDC & Queens General Assembly, 2025 Delegate.



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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.