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Special Edition on The NHRC's First Annual Symposium on Human Rights

Business and Human Rights: From Corporate Goodwill to Accountability

By Ms Melany NAGEN - Deputy Chairperson

The Commission's First Annual Symposium on Human Rights held on 1 August 2026 in collaboration with Middlesex University Mauritius, convened distinguished representatives from public institutions, academia, business and civil society. Through rigorous deliberations on Business and Human Rights, Reparations and Reconciliation, it sought to translate principled dialogue into meaningful legal, institutional and societal reform.

Central to the discussions was the recognition that economic development cannot be assessed solely through growth, investment and innovation. Its legitimacy must also be measured by its capacity to safeguard human dignity, protect fundamental rights and ensure that no individual or community is left behind. Reflecting this principle, the Business and Human Rights panel united perspectives from academia, trade unionism, education and the Commission. It examined a question of importance, i.e. how Mauritius can advance economic progress while ensuring corporate accountability to workers, communities and society.

Dr Amar Mahadew, Associate Professor at the University of Mauritius, recognised the contribution of businesses to economic development and society, including through corporate social responsibility (CSR). However, he drew a crucial distinction between voluntary corporate goodwill and enforceable human rights obligations. While CSR can positively support education, health and social inclusion, voluntary commitments may change according to corporate priorities. Human rights protection cannot depend solely on goodwill. Mauritius should progressively strengthen legal duties, oversight and access to effective remedies where business activities adversely affect workers, communities or vulnerable groups. Central to his intervention was the right to development. Referring to Articles 21 and 22 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, Dr Mahadew advocated stronger domestic recognition of the right of people to participate meaningfully in development and seek redress where development causes harm. He also emphasised transparency in the relationship between corporate and political power as essential to democratic confidence.

From the perspective of organised labour, Mr Radhakrishna Sadien, President of the Congress of Independent Trade Unions, stressed that rights on paper must become rights in practice.



Melany Nagen

Fundamental labour rights, including freedom of association and collective bargaining, freedom from forced and child labour, non-discrimination, and safe and healthy working conditions, all, require effective enforcement. For Mr Sadien, institutions responsible for protecting rights need adequate resources, competence, independence and public confidence. Sustainable reform also requires genuine social dialogue. Workers and trade unions must not merely be informed of decisions affecting them but meaningfully involved in shaping them.

Ms Melany Nagen, Deputy Chairperson of the Commission, shifted attention towards young people as governance actors rather than passive beneficiaries of policy. Young people are already employees, entrepreneurs, consumers, researchers and innovators, yet their voices are too often sought only after policies have substantially been designed. This is particularly significant for artificial intelligence and emerging technologies. Young people interact daily with AI, robotics and digital platforms and often possess expertise directly relevant to policymaking. Their participation should extend from agenda-setting and drafting to implementation, monitoring and evaluation, including in any future National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights and AI legislation. Her message was unequivocal, i.e. consultation is not co-creation if the important decisions have already been made.

Mr Neel Raamandarsingh Purmah, Lecturer in Law at Middlesex University Mauritius, further examined AI-assisted decisions affecting employment, credit and access to services. Algorithms can reproduce historical discrimination, obscure responsibility and profoundly affect lives without adequate explanation. His central proposition was equally clear: “the algorithm decided” cannot become an escape route from accountability. Responsibility remains with businesses and individuals that develop, deploy and rely upon AI systems. Human rights due diligence must therefore extend throughout the AI lifecycle, i.e. from pre-deployment risk assessment to continuous monitoring, meaningful human oversight, explanation, contestation and remedy.

In her synthesis, moderator Ms Cynthia Radert, Head, National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Unit, OHCHR, highlighted the panel's common thread which is Mauritius has an opportunity to move from broad commitments towards clear responsibilities, effective human rights due diligence and meaningful accountability.

Ultimately, economic growth, technological innovation and investment are essential, but they cannot come at the expense of dignity, equality, participation or justice. Hence, the future of responsible business in Mauritius must be built not merely on what companies choose to do, but on what human rights require.

Facing Our Past Together

NHRC Hosts Its First-Ever Panel on Reconciliation and Reparatory Justice

By Deepti Thakoor, Barrister-at-law, moderator for Panel 2

For the first time in its history, the Commission opened its doors to a panel dedicated to reconciliation and reparatory justice – a conversation that, judging by the engagement in the room, Mauritius has been waiting to have.

The panel brought together four well-known voices in the field. Dr Vijaya Teelock, a historian currently working with regional partners under the SLAFNET project to build an interactive map tracing the slave trade across the Southwest Indian Ocean. Mr Stéphan Karghoo, a historian and researcher who now directs the Nelson Mandela Centre for African Culture. Mrs Diana Bablee, an independent heritage preservationist and horticulturist, and current chairperson of the Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund. And Dr Stephanie Tamby Lai Kong Ling, a historian whose work looks at the relationship between reparatory justice and human rights and currently the director of the Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund.

The conversation unfolded in two parts: a first round of individual interventions, roughly ten minutes each, tracing that arc (Truth ® Memory ® Place ® Justice), followed by a dedicated discussion on transgenerational trauma.

Dr Teelock opened by insisting that reconciliation cannot begin without confronting the parts of our history we would rather not look at directly, including, she argued, the uncomfortable thread connecting today's low-wage labour to the plantation economy of centuries past. Mr Karghoo picked up the theme of memory, arguing that repairing historical injustice is not only, or even mainly, a question of money, proposing instead six distinct pillars of cultural reparation, starting with memory itself. Mrs Bablee then grounded the conversation in a single, powerful place: Le Morne, and the long, patient work of turning the maroon from a criminalised figure into a recognised symbol of resistance. Dr Tamby Lai Kong Ling closed the circle, naming slavery plainly as a human rights violation, and reparatory justice as something built from truth, recognition, dignity, and the guarantee that it must never happen again.

A question emerged during the discussion on transgenerational trauma and lingered in the room long after it was asked.

“Colonialism may have formally ended - but have the attitudes it produced?”



Panellists spoke candidly about the sexual violence inflicted on enslaved women, about patterns of alcohol dependency traced back to the sugar estates, and about the idea that history does not stay in the past – it is carried, quietly, from one generation to the next.

What was, perhaps, most striking was not what was said on stage, but what happened in the room. Audience members did not simply listen – they participated actively, through comments and questions that extended the discussion well beyond what the schedule allowed. Few sessions at this year's Symposium generated that kind of sustained engagement.

A few ideas for future panels next emerged directly from the discussion:

1. A panel on indentured labour, framed around today's patterns of labour migration.
2. A dedicated session on transgenerational trauma, potentially drawing on narrative therapy and other trauma-informed approaches.

It was also felt that it was time for a more decolonised history curriculum – one that makes room for the untold aspects of our history, and teaches human rights and trauma alongside it.

For an institution built to protect rights, this panel was a reminder that Conversations around history, memory, and identity are difficult but there is an appetite, perhaps even a need, for more conversations like this one.

The NHRC looks forward to holding more conversations like these.

IN A NUTSHELL – THE FOUR INTERVENTIONS

SS	Panelist	Focus
1	Dr Vijaya Teelock	Truth, Reconciliation, Reparations – the difficult truths Mauritius avoids; transgenerational trauma across all communities (oppressed and oppressor descendants alike); need for psychological reparation
2	Mr Stéphan Karghoo	Beyond Financial Compensation – heritage, memory & cultural institutions as reparatory justice; his six-pillar “Mauritian Model of Cultural Reparation”
3	Diana Bablee	Rehabilitation of the Maroon Figure – Le Morne's UNESCO journey, institutional milestones, unfinished work (site protection, access, management)
4	Dr Stephanie Tamby Lai Kong Ling	La justice réparatrice et les droits humains – reparatory justice as human rights; transgenerational trauma; recognition/dignity; balanced view on financial reparation; collective responsibility (state, business, civil society)

Quand l'histoire continue de marquer les vies : traumatisme transgénérationnel et dignité humaine

By Vijay Ramanjooloo - Member

« Moi, l'homme de couleur, je ne veux qu'une chose : que jamais l'instrument ne domine l'homme. Que cesse l'asservissement de l'homme par l'homme. C'est-à-dire de moi par un autre. »

- Frantz Fanon, Peau noire, masques blancs

L'histoire de l'esclavage ne constitue pas uniquement un chapitre douloureux du passé. Elle représente une expérience humaine profondément marquée par la violence, la déshumanisation, la perte de liberté, la rupture des liens familiaux et une atteinte profonde à la dignité humaine.

Si l'abolition de l'esclavage à Maurice en 1835 a constitué une étape fondamentale vers la liberté, il demeure essentiel de comprendre comment des expériences historiques aussi extrêmes peuvent continuer à influencer les générations suivantes.

Le concept de traumatisme transgénérationnel nous invite à réfléchir à la manière dont certaines souffrances vécues par une génération peuvent laisser des traces au-delà de ceux qui ont directement vécu l'événement. Il ne signifie pas que les descendants héritent automatiquement d'un traumatisme, ni que leur avenir est déterminé par leur histoire. Il s'agit plutôt de comprendre comment des expériences collectives profondément douloureuses peuvent influencer les mémoires familiales, les représentations de soi, les relations sociales et certains comportements, à travers les récits transmis, les silences, les croyances familiales, les stratégies de survie et l'environnement social.

En psychologie, un traumatisme ne correspond pas uniquement à l'événement violent ou douloureux lui-même. Il désigne également les traces que cette expérience peut laisser lorsqu'elle n'a pas pu être pleinement intégrée psychiquement. Ces traces peuvent se manifester dans les émotions, les pensées, les mécanismes de protection ou certaines façons d'entrer en relation avec les autres.

Les personnes réduites en esclavage ont été confrontées à des traumatismes multiples : l'arrachement à leur terre d'origine, la séparation familiale, les violences physiques et psychologiques, l'exploitation ainsi que la négation de leur identité et de leur humanité. Ces expériences extrêmes ont marqué les individus concernés, mais également les structures familiales et sociales qui se sont construites après l'abolition.



Dans ma pratique de psychologue clinicien, j'ai souvent constaté l'importance d'explorer l'histoire personnelle et familiale afin de mieux comprendre certaines souffrances actuelles. Certains patients portent des blessures dont l'origine n'est pas toujours immédiatement visible : sentiment d'insécurité, difficultés liées à l'estime de soi, peur du rejet, mécanismes de défense ou expériences de discrimination.

Après de personnes issues de la communauté créole, dont une partie de l'histoire collective est liée à l'expérience de l'esclavage, j'ai pu observer certaines souffrances associées aux enjeux identitaires, à la couleur de peau, à la marginalisation et au regard porté par la société. Comme l'a montré Frantz Fanon dans ses travaux sur les conséquences psychologiques du racisme, le regard de l'autre et les discours de dévalorisation peuvent influencer profondément la manière dont une personne se perçoit elle-même.

La reconstruction passe alors par la capacité à retrouver une image positive de soi et à dépasser certaines représentations négatives héritées d'une histoire marquée par la colonisation et l'esclavage.

Cependant, reconnaître ces blessures ne signifie pas rester prisonnier du passé. Au contraire, mettre des mots sur ces expériences constitue une étape essentielle vers la compréhension, la reconstruction et la résilience.

Comprendre les conséquences psychologiques des traumatismes historiques ne consiste pas à rechercher des responsables dans le présent, mais à analyser comment ces expériences ont marqué les individus, les familles et les sociétés. Cette reconnaissance permet de développer davantage d'empathie et de construire des réponses fondées sur la dignité, la réparation et l'inclusion.

Dans une société plurielle comme Maurice, notre histoire commune doit devenir un outil de compréhension, de rapprochement et de respect mutuel. Comme le rappelle la philosophie africaine de l'Ubuntu : *« Je suis parce que nous sommes. »*

Reconnaître les blessures du passé, ce n'est pas raviver les divisions ; c'est permettre leur transformation. C'est choisir de transmettre aux générations futures non pas le poids des souffrances héritées, mais la force de la résilience, de la solidarité et de la dignité humaine.

THE COMMISSION AT WORK

The Symposium at a Glance



Strengthening the NHRC: Visit of Ms Cynthia Radert of OHCHR

The Commission welcomed Ms Cynthia Radert, Head of the National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Unit of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), for a programme aimed at strengthening the capacity and effectiveness of the Commission from 27 to 30 July 2026.

The visit took place at an important stage in the development of the NHRC, following the appointment of new members and as the Commission continues to strengthen its institutional framework. Mauritius' NHRC has held "A" status under the Paris Principles since 2002. The programme therefore provided an opportunity to reflect on how this status can be consolidated and further strengthened.

The programme included meetings with national stakeholders, followed by an intensive induction programme at the NHRC. Discussions focused on the practical functioning of an independent National Human Rights Institution and on measures to make the Commission's mandate more effective. Particular attention was given to institutional effectiveness, including the management of resources, staffing and organisational structures.

An important aspect of the programme was the relationship between the NHRC and national stakeholders. Engagement with the Executive, Parliament, the Judiciary and civil society remain essential to the promotion and protection of human rights, while safeguarding the independence of the Commission. Good practices from other National Human Rights Institutions, including the Belgrade Principles, were also considered.



The programme further examined the complementary dimensions of the NHRC's mandate: the promotion and protection of human rights and the prevention of torture. Emphasis was placed on the importance of a proactive institution capable not only of addressing individual complaints, but also of identifying emerging human rights concerns, reporting publicly on significant issues and engaging constructively with the authorities.

The NHRC's engagement with the international human rights system was also discussed, including its interaction with United Nations human rights mechanisms and opportunities for greater participation in the work of the Human Rights Council.

The final session focused on the NHRI accreditation process and the preparation of a tentative roadmap for legislative reform and the next accreditation process.

The programme was followed by the NHRC's **First Annual Symposium on Human Rights** on 1 August 2026, where Ms Radert moderated the panel on "Human Rights and Business."

Ms Radert's visit provided valuable guidance for strengthening the NHRC as an independent, effective and proactive National Human Rights Institution committed to advancing human rights in Mauritius.

NPMD meets the Commissioner of Prisons

On 4 August 2026, the NPMD met the Commissioner of Prisons, Mr R. A. Beekun, and his team for a wide-ranging exchange on the pressures the prison service absorbs on behalf of the wider criminal justice system. The Commission considered that a significant proportion of detainees could be diverted through alternatives to remand, alternative sentencing, and addiction rehabilitation programmes. Progress on this front depends on all stakeholders adopting a common approach, and the absence of sentencing guidelines and the awaited setting up of the Criminal Justice Committee were noted in that connection.

The exchange further covered issues from the situation of remand detainees, illegal stays, to food and rehabilitation as well as staff training and staff wellbeing. It was a constructive and open discussion, and both institutions reaffirmed their commitment to keeping channels of communication open and to working together in the interest of persons deprived of their liberty.



Chairman addresses Youth Parliament on peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16)

On 14 August 2026, the Chairman addressed the Mauritius Youth Parliament on Sustainable Development Goal 16, telling young parliamentarians (aged between 14 and 23 years old) that institutions are not "boring furniture of the State" but the difference between rights that are real and rights that exist only on paper.

He explained why guarantor institutions such as the Commission and the Ombudsperson are essential, since human rights are not self-enforcing, and drew on his own experience as DPP to show how quickly institutional independence can be eroded. He urged participants to reject corruption, demand evidence and resist cynicism, reminding them that peace requires justice, and justice requires strong institutions.

The Chairman closed with Nelson Mandela, whom he called the world's most inspiring example of fortitude, magnanimity and dignity in the face of oppression. Recalling, as a lawyer, Mandela's speech at the end of the 1964 Rivonia trial, where he faced possible execution yet held fast to the ideal of a democratic and free society, the Chairman quoted his final words to the court:

"But, My Lord, if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die."

The full speech may be accessed at [\[https://mnacloud.govmu.org/index.php/s/DcG8XFBxgyZSYPy\]](https://mnacloud.govmu.org/index.php/s/DcG8XFBxgyZSYPy)



Youth Voices for Gender Equality

The Commission participated in the National Dialogue on Youth Voices for Gender Equality: Shaping a Gender-Equal Mauritius, organised at the Octave Wiehe Auditorium, University of Mauritius.

The keynote speaker, H.E the President of the Republic, Dharambeer Gokhool powerfully put the conversation right where it belongs: beyond slogans and towards dignity, evidence, accountability and action, in the context of UN International Youth Day 2026, organised by the University of Mauritius and the Gender Equality Foundation.

President Gokhool encouraged the audience to question the assumptions that shape everyday life: from what boys are taught about toxic masculinity, to the stereotypes imposed on women, and the messages reinforced through films, music, social media and popular culture.

He stressed that gender equality cant be reduced to a “women versus men” battle. Patriarchal expectations can constrain everyone, and dismantling them requires women and men to work together as partners, he also raised questions regarding inequalities persisting even when laws, policies and awareness already exist.

Welcoming the Youth Charter for Gender Equality, the President stressed that it must become more than a statement of principles - but a framework for evidence-based, measurable action.



Meeting on the case of old inmates reaching their end of life

At the initiative and request of Cardinal Maurice, Bishop Emeritus of the Catholic Diocese of Port Louis, the Commission convened a meeting gathering all stakeholders on the cause of old inmates and those reaching their end of life. The purpose of the meeting, which regrouped representatives of Mauritius Prison Service, the Almoner for prisoners and other stakeholders, insisted on the necessity to enable on a case to case basis the possibility to allow those inmates to have a dignified end of life be it amidst their family or in specific homes or institutions specially designed and destined for this purpose. All participants recognised that such steps should be taken within the parameters and protocol specially designed for that purpose in collaboration with the relevant authorities. Of this initial meeting all agreed to meet again for a follow-up update after one month.



SHARING MINDS initiative: session with Mr. Ponsamy (Sam) Poongavanon

The least one can say is that nobody can be insensitive or leave untouched following an encounter with Sam Poongavanon. The latter a former inmate in the death row, he saw his conviction commuted to 20 years penal servitude after years of legal battles.

During a Sharing Minds session at the Commission on 19 August 2026 Sam shared his journey, his transformation fuelled by faith and a sincere desire to amend. He converted his imprisonment into an educational journey making the most of correspondence courses available at the time and imposing to himself a rigorous self-discipline. He found the mental resources and discipline to educate himself and since his liberation is now a writer, journalist, motivational speaker and Pastor.

He remitted a copy of his latest publication titled “Ne condamnez pas deux fois” to the Commission.



Mauritius Champions Environmental Justice on the African Stage

Ms Melany Nagen, Deputy Chairperson of the Human Rights Division of the Commission, represented Mauritius at the Regional NHRI Climate Change and Environmental Justice Workshop in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 2–3 September 2026.

Under the theme *“Advancing Climate Justice and Environmental Rights in Africa”*, the workshop assembled African national human rights institutions to advance rights-based responses to escalating environmental challenges.

Ms Nagen situated Mauritius’ waste-management crisis firmly within the discourse of human rights, highlighting rising waste generation, persistent dependence on landfilling, inadequate recycling and composting, and the consequences of pollution and methane emissions for public health, vulnerable communities and environmental sustainability.

She advocated a transition towards a circular economy, anchored in waste prevention, source separation, recycling, composting, extended producer responsibility and enhanced methane capture. She also emphasised environmental monitoring, governance, institutional accountability and community participation. Her intervention affirmed that effective waste management is an imperative of justice, dignity and the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.



Making Rights Legible: the NHRC with NGO DIS-MOI

In August, NGO DIS-MOI launched its free course in human rights and citizenship education. Thirty-five participants, among them students, professionals, association members and retirees signed up for five Saturday sessions, plus a visit to Parliament. The aim: to make rights accessible to all.

The Commission delivered two of the sessions. "The Republic, the Constitution and the Rule of Law" was presented by Najah Ahmed, Deputy Chairperson of the NPMD, with Ms Deepti Thakoor, barrister on the 22 August. Working from their own copies of the Constitution, participants examined what a constitution does, why section 2 makes it supreme law, how the 1968 settlement balanced majority rule against minority protection, and how power is separated, and deliberately fused, between Parliament, Government and the courts. It closed on the independent offices and the NHRC's place among them: rights on paper need institutions able to make them real.



On 5 September, Vijay Ramanjooloo, Member of the NPMD led a session on the Commission's role and the NPMD's mandate in prisons and other places of detention. The discussion turned on citizens' duties and the paradigm shift needed in how detainees are seen: the human being before the detainee. Deprivation of liberty is not deprivation of dignity. Most detainees return to their families, making rehabilitation a concern for society as a whole.



Sensitisation Campaign at Citizens Advice Bureau

On 1 September 2026, the Commission participated in an outreach exercise destined for the inhabitants of Bois des Amourettes in the South East of the island. Represented by investigator Sgt Kavi Boodhun and HRD member, Jean Marie Richard the meeting hosted by the Citizen's Advice Bureau also comprised a comprehensive presentation ensured by representatives of the Independent Police Complaints Commission.

The NHRC representatives shared the fundamentals of human rights as per the actual legislations and international treaties and conventions Mauritius is part of. They also insisted on the necessary obligations in the balance exercising rights as citizens in a democratic society.

In so doing the NHRC relentlessly pursues its objectives to generate awareness on human rights especially at the grass roots, as specified in its attributions and mission.



SHARING MINDS: Meeting between the Commission and the NADC on Drug Control Strategies

The Commission welcomed on the 17th of September 2026 the CEO of the National Agency for Drug Control (NADC), Mr Kunal Naik. The latter started by introducing the agency's vision, mission and organisational chart. He then elaborated on the challenges the NADC was facing with regard to drug control in Mauritius and Rodrigues. The matters arising from the ongoing debate regarding the proliferation of synthetic substances, abuse and trafficking into Mauritius were addressed during the Q&A session following the initial presentation. It clearly appeared that there was a global trend regarding the continuous upgrading of the traffickers methods, which impacted on the ways and means of control by law enforcement bodies. It appeared essential to constantly assess and review the latter's modus operandi, taking them into consideration by lawmakers. During the meeting, collaboration was explored between the two institutions in the near future.



Chairman urges young people to help shape the Republic's constitutional future

On 18 September 2026, the Chairman participated in a talk, entitled “*Shaping the Republic: Why Constitutional Law matters to you?*”, organised by Transparency Mauritius for the youth. Quoting **Matadeen v Pointu 1997 PRC 14**, he explained that the Constitution was “*an attempt, at a particular moment in history, to lay down an enduring scheme of government in accordance with certain moral and political values*”.

He traced the Constitution's history, starting with the early attempts at having a legislative council in 1885, to the London conferences culminating in the 1968 settlement, reconciling majority rule with minority rights.

The heart of his address was the Constitutional Review Commission Act 2026, which he described as a historic moment. The CRC will examine new generation rights and consider the need for a Senior Officials Appointments Committee, an Electoral College for the President, public interest litigation, and a reinforcement of the powers of the DPP, if necessary, amongst others.



The Chairman told participants that they will live with these reforms for at least the next 50 years. Those who do not take part now, he warned, will inherit a system designed by others.



Tribune - Hommage au Dr Maurice Curé (3 septembre 1886 -2 mars 1977)

Un engagement public de la 'retrocession' a la defense des droits des travailleurs

By Jean Marie F RICHARD - Member

Le devoir de memoire nous rappelle la contribution du Dr Maurice Curé à la vie sociale et à son engagement politique de notre pays. Ce dernier fut d'abord l'un des fervents militants du mouvement rétrocessionniste après la Première Guerre mondiale. La défaite de cette cause en 1921 ne mit pas fin à son engagement public. Elle contribua plutôt à une évolution de son parcours politique, qui le conduisit progressivement vers la défense des travailleurs et à la fondation du Parti travailliste en 1936.



Après la Première Guerre mondiale, le Dr Maurice Curé devient l'un des militants les plus actifs du mouvement rétrocessionniste, qui demandait que Maurice, alors colonie britannique depuis 1810, soit rattachée à la France. Le mouvement avait commencé à prendre forme avant 1919, notamment autour d'Edgar Laurent, mais Curé en devint l'un des fervents défenseurs.

Le contexte de l'après-guerre est important. La victoire française de 1918 et le retour de l'Alsace-Lorraine à la France avaient suscité à Maurice un enthousiasme important chez les partisans de la rétrocession. Maurice Curé participa activement à cette mobilisation. Un ouvrage historique consacré à la rétrocession indique notamment qu'un banquet organisé à Port-Louis en l'honneur de la France fut placé sous sa présidence.

Il serait toutefois historiquement plus exact de dire que Maurice Curé n'a pas créé à lui seul le mouvement rétrocessionniste. Le mouvement avait des antécédents remontant notamment à 1909 et à l'Action Libérale d'Eugène Laurent. Curé fut surtout un militant particulièrement actif et visible de la campagne rétrocessionniste.

Avec Edgar Laurent, il devint l'une des figures de la campagne électorale de 1921. Cette campagne provoqua une forte opposition de la part de l'oligarchie sucrière et des milieux favorables au maintien du lien britannique. Le gouverneur Hesketh Bell prit également position très fermement contre ce qu'il considérait comme une menace pour l'ordre.

De la rétrocession au mouvement travailliste

C'est ici que l'évolution politique de Maurice Curé devient particulièrement intéressante.

Après l'échec de la rétrocession, Curé va progressivement déplacer son combat vers la question sociale et la défense des travailleurs. Après sa défaite électorale de 1936, il s'engage davantage auprès des chômeurs et des travailleurs. Le 23 février 1936, il participe à la fondation du Parti travailliste, ouvrant une nouvelle étape de sa carrière politique. Il en fut d'ailleurs le premier président.



Cette évolution est importante pour un hommage consacré aux droits humains, car elle montre comment son engagement politique s'est progressivement orienté vers les questions de justice sociale, représentation politique, liberté syndicale et dignité des travailleurs.

Médecin de profession, homme engagé et défenseur des travailleurs, Maurice Curé a consacré une partie importante de sa vie à la lutte contre les injustices sociales et à l'amélioration des conditions de vie de la population.

À une époque où les inégalités sociales étaient profondes et où les travailleurs disposaient de moyens limités pour faire entendre leur voix, le Dr Curé a choisi de s'engager aux côtés des plus vulnérables. Son action s'inscrivait dans une vision fondée sur la dignité humaine, la justice sociale, la solidarité et l'égalité. Son nom reste particulièrement associé à l'émergence du mouvement travailliste à Maurice. Avec d'autres personnalités de son époque, il a contribué à donner une voix politique aux travailleurs et aux classes populaires.

Son engagement nous rappelle que les droits humains ne sont pas seulement des principes inscrits dans les textes juridiques. Ils doivent également être défendus dans la vie quotidienne : le droit à la dignité, à un travail décent, à l'égalité, à la justice et à la participation à la vie publique.

Le Dr Maurice Curé appartient ainsi à cette génération de Mauriciens qui ont contribué à transformer progressivement notre société et à préparer le chemin vers davantage de justice sociale et de démocratie. Son héritage demeure pertinent aujourd'hui. Les défis ont changé, mais les valeurs pour lesquelles il s'est engagé restent essentielles. La pauvreté, les inégalités, la discrimination, l'exclusion sociale et la défense des travailleurs continuent de nous interpeller.

Rendre hommage au Dr Maurice Curé, c'est donc non seulement se souvenir d'un homme et de son époque, mais aussi réaffirmer notre engagement en faveur d'une société plus juste, plus égalitaire et plus respectueuse des droits de chaque personne.

Que sa mémoire continue à inspirer les nouvelles générations et à nous rappeler que le progrès social est le fruit de l'engagement, du courage et de la solidarité.

Dr Maurice Curé : une mémoire, un engagement, un héritage au service de la justice sociale et de la dignité humaine.

Communiqué WPC 11 Sept

La Commission Nationale des Droits Humains (NHRC) a pris connaissance des commentaires et attaques diffusés à l'encontre de la Woman Police Constable (WPC) Mary Jade Catherine, notamment ceux portant sur sa taille, sa corpulence, ses origines et son apparence physique.

1. La Commission condamne fermement de tels propos lorsqu'ils prennent la forme d'humiliations, de moqueries, d'insultes ou d'attaques personnelles.
2. La dignité humaine est inhérente à chaque personne. Elle ne dépend ni de l'apparence physique, ni de la corpulence, ni de la profession, ni de la situation sociale d'une personne.
3. La Charte Africaine des Droits de l'Homme et des Peuples, à laquelle Maurice est partie prenante, affirme en son article 5 que tout individu a droit au respect de la dignité inhérente à la personne humaine et interdit les traitements dégradants. Ses articles 2 et 3 consacrent également les principes de non-discrimination et d'égalité devant la loi.
4. La Commission rappelle également que le Protocole à la Charte Africaine relatif aux Droits des Femmes en Afrique (Protocole de Maputo) reconnaît expressément le droit de toute femme au respect de sa dignité et à la protection contre toutes formes de violence, y compris la violence verbale et les traitements dégradants.
5. Dans ce contexte, la Commission estime qu'il est particulièrement préoccupant que l'apparence physique d'une femme occupant une fonction publique puisse devenir l'objet d'attaques, de commentaires humiliants ou de jugements dégradants.
6. La critique d'une personne, de son action ou de l'exercice de ses fonctions peut relever de la liberté d'expression.
7. En revanche, la liberté d'expression ne devrait jamais servir de prétexte à l'humiliation, au harcèlement ou à la déshumanisation d'une personne.
8. La NHRC souligne également que les femmes qui exercent des responsabilités dans la vie publique doivent pouvoir accomplir leurs fonctions dans un environnement respectueux de leur dignité et de leur intégrité morale.
9. La Commission invite donc les citoyens, les utilisateurs des réseaux sociaux ainsi que les médias à faire preuve de retenue, de responsabilité, de respect et de discernement dans leurs commentaires et publications.
10. Elle encourage un débat public fondé sur les faits, les arguments et la critique constructive, plutôt que sur les attaques personnelles ou l'apparence physique des personnes.
11. La Commission rappelle enfin que la dignité humaine n'est pas négociable. Chaque personne, quelle que soit sa fonction, mérite le respect de sa dignité et de son intégrité.
12. La Commission Nationale des Droits Humains réaffirme son engagement à promouvoir une société fondée sur l'égalité, le respect, la tolérance et la dignité de chaque être humain.



**3rd Floor, Ebene Heights,
Ebene**



+230 460 5148



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