



# FROM CHAINS TO FREEDOM: JOURNEYING TOWARDS RECONCILIATION

PRODUCED BY THE CANADIAN ECUMENICAL ANTI-RACISM NETWORK

Sunday, March 25th 2007 marks the 200th anniversary of the ending of the slave trade in the British Empire. The abolition law brought to an official end the forced transportation of millions of Africans from their homeland, across the Middle Passage, to the Americas. Canada was part of the British Empire and participated in the practice of slavery.

In 2001, the United Nations World Conference Against Racism declared slavery and the transatlantic slave trade “appalling tragedies in the history of humanity not only because of their abhorrent barbarism but also in terms of their magnitude, organized nature and especially their negation of the essence of the victims...” Slavery’s impact continues at the same time as modern forms of slavery are appearing. The struggle is far from over.

Enslaved Africans and people of faith led the movement to abolish the slave trade. But the modern form of racism which developed to justify the enslavement of Africans remains a reality in too many of our churches and societies. People of faith need to commit anew to addressing the racism in our churches, our country and our world. CEARN invites churches to commemorate this anniversary by participating in the ongoing journey we must take towards healing, reconciliation and the transformation of our relationships. We offer this Racial Justice Kit as Resource.

## WHY FOCUS ON RACIAL JUSTICE IN THE CHURCHES?

Racism is a violation of what it means to be human—and of what it means to be the Church. The book of Genesis tells us of a time when God saw the diversity of God’s creation and called it “very good”. As Christians, Christ’s body in the world, we are called to work to eradicate the sin of injustice and exclusion and, with each other in God’s Spirit, to transform broken relationships and to create loving communities in which all are affirmed for our common humanity and all enabled to participate fully.

Last year we designated a Week for Racial Justice. Churches requested more time to address the issue, so in 2007 we invite you to join this journey of learning and transformation throughout the year.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO SUPPORT RACIAL JUSTICE?

Plan to give time throughout the year to engage in learning, discussion and outreach — especially with communities that experience racism. Find ways to journey together as you confront the reality of racism and explore how racial justice can be achieved. Organize activities for all ages. Plan opportunities for worship and study.



# RACIAL JUSTICE RESOURCE KIT 2007

**From Chains to Freedom: Journeying Towards Reconciliation**, a packet of materials for parishes, congregations and study groups, will be available in February 2007. It will include worship materials, biblical reflection, educational materials on the slave trade, and the practice of slavery in Canada, children's resources and much more.

## WHERE TO FIND THE 2007 RESOURCE

Just fill in this form and send it to the Canadian Council of Churches (CCC). There is no cost. You can also download the packet from the Canadian Ecumenical Anti-Racism Network page on the CCC web site.

PLEASE let us know if and how you use the packet. Send in the Evaluation Form found in the packet and on the website. Your feedback is very important. It also helps us know who is doing racial justice work locally and regionally.

The Canadian Ecumenical Anti Racism Network (CEARN) is part of the Undoing Racism in Canadian Churches Program of the Canadian Council of Churches. All members of the CCC are involved; the network also includes other ecumenical bodies such as the Women's Inter Church Council of Canada, the Churches' Forum on Global Ministries, and KAIROS.

We invite your use of Journeying towards Reconciliation, and we want to hear about other racial justice work you are doing. CEARN aims to be a connecting point between different churches involved in this work. The work is best shared and supported together, so please be in touch with us.

<http://www.ccc-cce.ca/english/justice/racism.htm> or [noteboom@ccc-cce.ca](mailto:noteboom@ccc-cce.ca) or Toll Free: 1-866-822-7645

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## JOURNEYING TOWARDS RECONCILIATION: RACIAL JUSTICE RESOURCE KIT 2007

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CHURCH/ ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

PROVINCE/STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL/ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copies of the 2007 kit  
**Journeying Towards Reconciliation**

Please indicate the denomination or community to which  
you belong: (religious and non-religious)

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Send form to:

Canadian Council of Churches  
47 Queen's Park Crescent East  
Toronto, ON M5S 2C3

Toll Free: 1-866-822-7645

Fax: 416-463-5569

Website: [www.ccc-cce.ca](http://www.ccc-cce.ca)

Pour des renseignements disponibles en  
français, veuillez contacter notre bureau.