

50. District Resolution

The London District Synod (R) (Present: 184; Voting: for: 184 against: 0) agreed the following resolutions:

1. The Synod welcomed the work being done by the Connexional Team of the Methodist Church, in planning an event to mark the 225th Anniversary of the Haiti Uprising and the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition, and commits to work with the Team in organising an appropriate activity.
2. The Synod committed to working to create awareness of the Day and the Decade and to celebrate the contribution and participation of Methodists from across the world in the life of the British Methodist Church.
3. The Synod agreed to send these resolutions to the Methodist Conference.

The night of 22 to 23 August 1791, in Santo Domingo (today's Haiti and Dominican Republic), saw the beginning of the uprising that played a crucial role in the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade. Slaves on the island of Santo Domingo, driven by their desire for justice and freedom, rose up against their oppressors. This uprising radically and irreversibly shook the slave system. It gave the impetus for the process which eventually led to the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade. The slaves' fight for justice is remembered on the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition, on 23 August. This year not only marks 225 years since the uprising – it also falls within the International Decade for the people of African Descent (2015-2024).

To commemorate both the year and the decade, nations are encouraged to:

- Remove all obstacles to equal enjoyment of all human rights
- Comprehensively review domestic legislation to identify and abolish direct or indirect discrimination
- Review and repeal all laws that discriminate against people of African descent. Provide effective protection from multiple, aggravated or intersecting forms of discrimination for people of African descent
- Promote racial equality, with the participation of representatives of civil society
- Establish and strengthen independent national human rights institutions, to conform to the Paris Principles, and/or similar mechanisms, with the participation of civil society.
- Adopt measures to enable the full, equal and effective participation of people of African descent in public and political affairs without discrimination, in accordance with international human rights law

The London District has led the way in the integration of all members into a community of faith where everyone feels welcome and affirmed. It is thus entirely consistent that we should play a visible role in promoting the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition.

***RESOLUTION

50/1. The Conference welcomed the commitment of Methodists in the London District to work towards an event to mark the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition.