

NEWSLETTER

DRF Delivers Record Breaking e-Conference

Widespread viewership of the conference via social media (Instagram, Youtube) exceeded 9,200 views. This is the **7th** staging by the DRF however the **1st** virtual conference which featured international speakers stretching across **3** continents: Africa, Europe and North America.

Here are **10** highlights from the conference:

1. The conference commenced on the birthday of Jamaica's first National Hero the Rt. Hon. Marcus Mosiah Garvey, with Mr. Steven Golding, President of the UNIA-ACL, offering greetings that effectively set the tone for the week's upcoming riveting discussions.

****click play to watch clip below****





2. The main speaker was Hon. Delroy Chuck, who brought greetings for Prime Minister Andrew Holness and himself. He praised the DRF for their pioneering work in providing mediation training for persons, including the JCF, and promoting the practice of Mediation, Arbitration, and Restorative Justice in Courts islandwide. Minister Chuck also raised the need to provide payment to mediators to enable greater access to justice through the Parish Courts.

****click picture to play****



3. Dr. Zaza Johnson ElSheikh spoke of her experiences as a female Muslim Mediator residing in the United Kingdom and cited the value of culture and listening for mediators. Dr. ElSheikh, during her interview with Mr. John Bassie, also spoke to the ethical conduct of mediators and the usefulness of conducting mediation early in Domestic Violence cases.

****click picture to play****

Other distinguished speakers from day 1



****Click link to view day 1 of*

conference: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aa8IXbhML2Q&t=3s> *****



4. A panel, moderated by Mr. Andre Earle- Mediator, Attorney & Talk Show Host (first left), featured intriguing discussions from Ms. Jennifer McDonald- DRF Consultant CEO (second left), Ms. Karen Wilson-MOJ (center), Ms. Shauna Trowers- MNS (second right) and Mr. Richard Troupe-MOEYI. Mr. Troupe, Director of Safety in Schools (first right), supported the use of ADR in schools and proposed a formal partnership with the DRF to promote the training of educators along with student leaders in ADR practices; the creation of a directory of mediators for schools as well as reporting standards were also suggested.

click link to view day 2 of conference: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kYJb38booCg&t=5s>

5. The Caribbean was the focus of 2nd session on day 2 with the topic “Benefits and Challenges of ADR in the Future” and

was chaired by Ambassador Aloun N'Dombet Assamba-CEO, COK Credit Union, Mediator and Trainer. Top moments of each presentation are listed below:



I. Hon. Justice Vasheist Kokaram from Trinidad & Tobago raised a number of interesting points:

- a. Alternative/Appropriate Dispute Resolution had matured and needs to be transformative;
- b. The core function of the judicial system should lead to dispute reconciliation and peace making;
- c. What should be the standards for Certification for the Caribbean Mediators;
- d. ADR is relatable, based on compassion, collaboration and consensus;

- e. Shared a video on Youth Court- a peer resolution project in which a teen is judged by his/her peers in what would normally be a criminal matter before the court.

click play and watch clip above



II. Hon. Justice Courtney Abel (retd.) from Belize stressed the use of the term 'appropriate dispute resolution' instead of 'alternative dispute resolution'.



III. Dawn Shields Searle-QC & Mediator from Barbados challenged the DRF to review and action the Memorandum from the 2014 conference, which proposed electronic means of communication and management etc. across territories, as a resolution coming out of this present conference.



6. Conference Day 3 was dedicated to Youths and was moderated by Media Personality, Youth Advocate and Entrepreneur Mrs. Emprezz Golding. In a thought-provoking and informative presentation, Mr. Rodje Malcolm, Executive Director JFJ, focused on "Actualizing Youth Rights." He underlined the dismal circumstances that Section 24 of the Child Care and Protection Act can create, as it allows for a child, who has committed no crime, to be placed in a facility with others who have committed offences. Currently, close to 1,000 children are under this Correction Order.

Session 2 dubbed "Preparing for the Future: Back to School Edition" was presented by Social Media Personality, Educator, Author and

Entrepreneur, Mrs. Nicole McLaren Campbell. With over 7,500 views, the session was geared to helping parents who were furnished with practical steps.

***Click link to view day 3 of

conference: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p5ZpxTMFprY> ***



7. Day 4 was recognized as International Day and rightfully so as the sessions featured presentations from representative(s) from Nigeria, Sierra Leone, France, United States, Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago. The first session, under the topic: “Online Mediations Across Jurisdictions”, was moderated by Ms. Fae Ellington- Media & Communications Consultant and participants were introduced to Global Online Dispute Resolution (G.O.D.R) through Mr. John Bassie’s introductory presentation.

Mrs. Millicent Lewis Ojumu, in offering more information about the initiative, highlighted that GODR platform will feature registration of accredited mediators and arbitrators and offer the opportunity for members to train their own people. She explained that will be a resource library containing a wealth of ADR information and will be governed by established rules, whilst ensure training for established practitioners involved.

In adding to the discourse, Chief Gbola Akinola mentioned how befitting the GODR platform is due the current COVID-19 pandemic and highlighted that it will promote transparency as a board of directors will be appointed and persons will be allowed to select their mediator/arbitrator.

Dr. Clay Phillips introduced the web-based application, ‘Mediation Suites’, to conclude the session’s discussions about GODR. He explained that this platform is built on a media server incorporating the most current technology and as such, it’s unlike other mediation platforms, with its great sound and video quality. Mediation Suites, which helps to further extend the borders of ADR, is host controlled and ensures privacy for all parties involved.

*****Click link to view day 4 of**

conference: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rEcIGcpEEPI&t=12083s> *******

8. Session 2 on day 4, chaired by Mr. John Bassie, featured discussions about “Vision of ADR: Past, Present & Future.” A few of the panellists' point(s) are captured below:



I. Hon. Justice Adrian Saunders- President, CCJ argued that ADR is less costly and lawyers need not see ADR as denying them fees, because as cases are resolved in a shorter time frame, fees will increase. Also, he cited that lawyers should include an arbitration clause in contracts and stated that the Covid-19 pandemic has presented an opportunity to build boldly and shift attitudes for the court system to be more successful.



II. Dr Marie-Camille Pitton, of the French Arbitration Counsel, presented on OHADAC, which sees legal integration as a tool for economic development. The first phase of the project involved legal harmonization process where model laws were drafted and adopted. The second phase involves arbitration and mediation and involved working with the Chambers of Commerce in various countries.



III. Hon Sir Dennis Byron- Past President of the Caribbean Court of Justice raised the point of the serious delays in the judicial system due to the increase in court cases exceeding the court infrastructure. Thus, he posited the need for the judicial system along with the legal professionals to adopt a culture of Mediation and Arbitration.



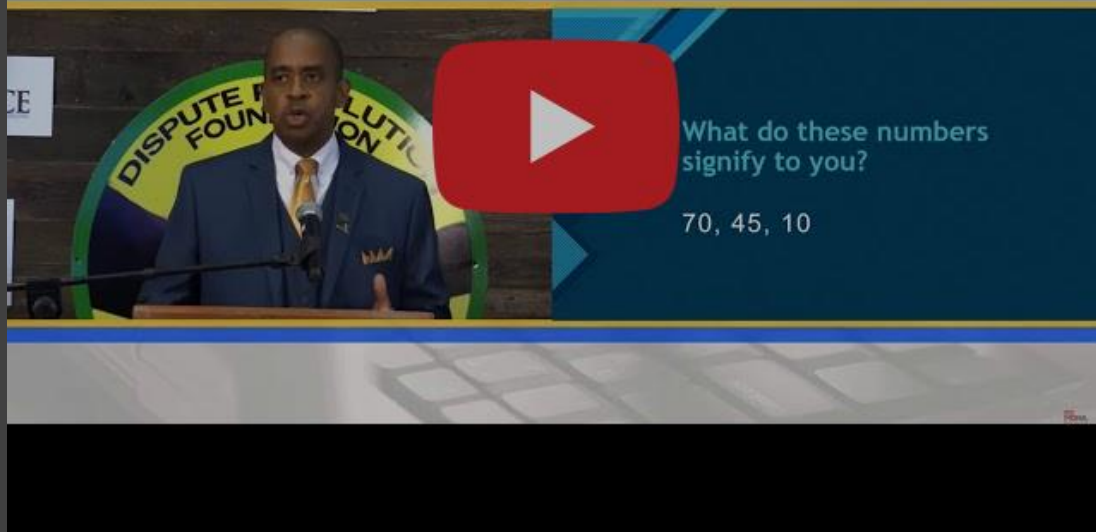
IV. Mr. Tijani Christian- Chairman of the Commonwealth Youth Council posited that punitive measures were a quick fix to resolve disputes and in many instances ADR tools are needed to treat the issues of conflicts in communities. He envisioned more investment in ADR training at the community level as well as more coordination of public and private initiatives to ensure optimal use of resources when addressing issues.

9. Day 5 started with discussions about “Understanding Your ADR Tool Box (Mediation, Arbitration, Restorative Justice and Conciliation).” Listed below are the session’s takeaways:



GLOBAL ADR ONLINE CONFERENCE 2020

"ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL"



Mr. Andre Earle, presenting on Mediation, made compelling reference to number of judges and the difficulties presented when this small number of judges are faced with many cases. He revealed that there are approximately 70 judges in the Parish Court, 45 in the Supreme Court and 10 in the Appeal Court, which totals 125. The benefits of mediation cited were: improved pace of conflict resolution, reduction in cost and expenses, no criminal record and restoration of relationships.



I. Ms. Dianne McIntosh, Permanent Secretary of the MNS brought greeting on behalf of Hon. Dr. Horace Chang and called for more public and private sector capacity for ADR, especially in inner cities. She reminded conference participants that the MNS believes in Mediation and Arbitration and wanted Jamaica to be considered as a hub for ADR practices.



II. Mr Miles Weekes made his presentation on arbitration and pinpointed the appropriate times to use this tool. Two of the many examples are: in commercial and trade disputes involving breaches of contract or liabilities in tort and also when the right to appeal can be waived or where multiple parties are involved.



III. Miss Gillian Corrods of Ministry of Labour and Social Security alluded to the need for greater access to conciliation through a public education programme and pointed that the MLSS has a cadre of Conciliation Officers.



IV. Mr. Paul Hines spoke to Restorative Justice and emphasized the importance of early intervention and highlighted that the process was most suitable at the community level and with family matters.

10. The conference ended with a concert, organised by Tuff Gong Studios featuring locally and internationally recognized artists such as George Nooks, Lutan Fyah, Jah

Izrehl, Mackeehan and Kelissa with big-ups from Kabaka Pyramid. The 55-minute concert dubbed "Peace Concert" was intended to encourage peace through music.

******Click link to view day 5 of***

conference: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WQvznL8Tjm4&t=12708s> *********



e-Conference Survey Responses via Survey Monkey:

OVERALL CONFERENCE



**FIVE STAR RATING
VIA SURVEY MONKEY**

1. *The presentations were very relevant and the presenters were well chosen."*
2. *"The wealth, depth and clarity of information provided great insight."*
3. *"Loved the diversity of the presenters featured in the conference and the comprehensive nature of their presentations."*
4. *"Wonderfully planned and executed; this is definitely a model for future e-Conferences."*

5. *"It was well organized and transitions between speakers were well done; the insight that each speaker shared was good."*

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