

Jamaica-Connecticut Partnership: Cultural, Business, Educational, Technology Exchanges



Honorable Leslie Campbell, Minister of State
Jamaica Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Foreign Trade



Andrew Wynter, Chief Executive Officer
Jamaica Passport Immigration & Citizenship Agency

By Mark Milward

The Honorable Leslie Campbell, Jamaica's minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade made his first official visit to the Jamaican Diaspora visiting New York and Connecticut.

Hartford, Connecticut, which maintains the 3rd largest population of Jamaicans in the United States, received the minister at a gathering of community leaders at the West Indian Social Club (WISC) of Hartford, along with Consul General Alston Wilson.

Minister Campbell with portfolio responsibilities for Diaspora Affairs met with representatives from the medical sector, business community, and Diaspora organizations to further promote Jamaica's development agenda Vision 2030 National Development Plan.

A highlight from the visit was the signing of a "sister city" agreement between Kingston and Groton, New London and Mystic Connecticut, putting in action opportunities for both sides to gain in cultural, business, educational, and technology transfer exchanges.

The Global Jamaican Diaspora (i.e., US, UK, Canada) contributes greater than 40 percent towards Jamaica's GDP in the form of Remittances, Investments, Tourism and Exports. Campbell's visit included a Jamaica Emancipation Independence message during the 59th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service hosted by Consul General Wilson in Queens, New York on August 1, 2021.

Campbell was accompanied by Senator Councilor Delroy Williams, the mayor of Kingston, Mr. Robert H.P. Hill, town clerk of Kingston & St. Andrew Municipal

Corporation (KSAMC) who were returning to Connecticut to formally sign and finalize the "sister city" agreement (See Page 3 of this publication) that was embarked upon two years ago.

Passport Immigration & Citizenship Agency (PICA) Bloomfield, Hartford Visits

In attendance at the WISC Meet-and-Greet was Mr. Andrew Wynter, CEO of PICA who made the trip in coordination and preparation for a return visit to Hartford and Bloomfield to hold a citizenship drive for Connecticut Jamaicans who are interested in renewing their

Jamaican passports and those of Jamaican descent who wish to obtain a Jamaican passport and Jamaican citizenship.

Mr. Wynter announced plans to visit Connecticut October 5-12 for the citizenship drive through its "Access Jamaica" program, which is to include other services such as birth certificates, banking information, and passport services. A one-day event will be held in Bloomfield, Thursday, October 7, 2021, followed by a 3-day event in Hartford.

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ULGH Hosts 2021 Back-To-School Community Event: Free School Supplies, Entertainment, Wellness Resources, Vaccines Available

HARTFORD, CT: Families in the Hartford area are invited to the "2021 Back-to-School Community Day" on Sunday, August 29, 2021, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The free outdoor event will take place; rain or shine, in the parking lot of the Urban League's office located at 140 Woodland St. (corner of Woodland St. and Sargeant St.) in Hartford, CT.

Free parking is available. Vaccines will be available at this

event through St. Francis Hospital—no appointment needed.

According to David Hopkins, president and CEO of the Urban League of Greater Hartford, "This important event will help families prepare children for a productive, healthy school year by offering free school supplies and a variety of community and wellness resources, while hosting lots of fun activities at the same time.

The programs and operations of the ULGH impact more than 3,000 individuals and their families

every year in the areas of youth development, adult education, workforce development, housing, community health, and social justice.

"This is another demonstration of our commitment to the Urban League's ALL IN! Campaign to encourage members of the community to get vaccinated so that our schools, businesses, and neighborhoods can be healthy and safe as we get back to interacting in shared settings," Hopkins added.

Also featured will be a

live DJ, ice cream truck, Double Dutch demonstrations, painting on canvas for children, hands-on painting with Posh Paint, and the distribution of produce grown indoors in the Urban League of Greater Hartford's indoor Aeroponic Garden."

People of all ages who have not been vaccinated are requested to wear a mask (masks will be available for those who need). Social distancing will be employed.

No reservation is needed to attend this free event. For more infor-

mation about the "Back-to-School Event," go to: www.facebook.com/ULGHYP/ [1], or call 860-527-0147.

The event is hosted by the Urban League of Greater Hartford Young Professionals (ULGHYP), an auxiliary group of the Urban League to support the regional organization's mission to reduce economic disparities in the region's communities by convening volunteers, ages 24-39, and hosting events and activities to promote empowerment among young adults.

Jamaica-Connecticut Partnership

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The “Access Jamaica” visit to Hartford will be accepting applications for:

- Passports (i.e., new/renewals/lost/stolen/replacement/special cases)
- Unconditional landing
- Citizenship

Participating organizations with “Access Jamaica” extending their services include Jamaica National, Grace Kennedy, National Housing Trust, Tax Administration, and the Registrar General’s Department.

Joining with Mr. Wynter, Minister Campbell urged Connecticut Jamaican diasporans

to come out in large numbers for the scheduled events coming in October and praised Bloomfield Mayor Suzette DeBeatham-Brown for her leadership, vision and efforts in organizing and coordinating the PICA citizenship drive for Bloomfield.



Bloomfield Mayor DeBeatham-Brown (left) with Honorable Leslie Campbell, Minister of State in Jamaica’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade

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Errorl Smith (right) chairman of WISC presents Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade with book that details the history of the National Association of Jamaican and Supportive Organizations, the premier Jamaican Diaspora organization in North America known for its impact in the US, Jamaica, and Jamaican communities worldwide.

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Jamaica Passport Immigration & Citizenship Agency



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Dates, Times & Locations to be announced soon:
For more information write to info@westindianfoundation.org

On September 5, 2021, PICA will conduct a VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING from 3-5pm to answer any questions in preparation for the October visit. Register on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ja-pica-ga-session-tickets-167635513333>

THOSE WITHOUT ZOOM ACCESS CAN ATTEND THE MEETING BY GOING TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

- Jamaica Progressive League	1120 Albany Ave. Hartford, CT 06112
- Rehoboth Church of God	1170 Blue Hills Ave. Bloomfield, CT 06002
- West Indian Social Club of Hartford, Inc.	3340 Main St. Hartford, CT 06120

Accepting Applications for

- o Passports (new / renewals / lost / stolen / replacement / special case
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- o Citizenship

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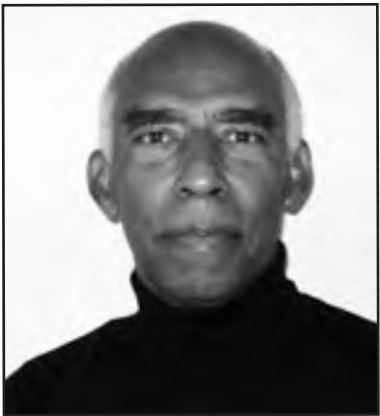
Reparations And Hypocrisy

If there is any thought regarding where the issue of reparations is heading, please allow me to give it a suitable analysis. It is not going to just go away. There is no question that there were enormous benefits that this struggling nation accumulated because of free labor. Economists do a fairly good job in presenting a credible picture.

Two of the most recent publications, *From Here to Equality* by Professor William K. Darity and A. Kristen Mullen, and *How the Word is Passed* by Clint Smith, are well worth reading for those interested in this topic.

But you would be misled if you believed that the economic perspective is the one on which to place the rightness of reparations as the most persuasive. One that is far more persuasive, understandable, and relevant is what the Bible says. Why the Bible? It is moral issue and the “most moral nation on earth” cannot run away from it. It is the right thing to do.

Turn on your TV on any



Jim Z. Daniels

given day at any given time and you’ll hear someone, lauding the country’s Judeo-Christian origins and heritage or engaged in outright reinforcement of them. They roll call the founding fathers by name, as if they were your neighbors, who invoked God’s name as they make the rightness of their case during the design of a constitutional framework for the nation.

Although I have not yet heard it, I am sure there is a Bible teacher somewhere who will invoke opposition to the Bible’s position on

reparations. How so? That was done for justification for the very act of enslavement. God designed it, they say. Some were destined to serve others, and black people were selected.

Today, there are people we call racist or bigots who propagandize that black people are inferior to them purely because they are black. Some Bible teachers are afraid and silent on this canard. They twist their justification from the Bible.

There was a time when Bible teachers ripped from the Bible pages that taught the equality of every person—the “neither Jew nor Greek” principle. They deny that all Christians are members of the same spiritual family.

Reparations advocacy for a \$15-minimum wage began as a trickle around 2010—some 11 years ago. Today, some aspect of it is everywhere. Evanston, Illinois has implemented a plan for their black residents. Amherst, Massachusetts has done the same. Glasgow University in Scotland

has committed over \$255 million to Jamaica for the wealth that benefited that institution because of the free labor of slaves. The Jamaican government filed a petition in Britain to recover the millions that they are owed because of free labor at the expense of Jamaica’s persistently weak economy. How was the universal right to vote achieved? This had a much longer timeline both for women and Blacks. But it inevitably became law.

The point is that what seems as foolhardy today invariably becomes generally accepted and usually the law of the land. This is an attribute of democracy—the prevailing of the people. So-called evangelicals are caught in a dilemma of their own design and have not yet figured out a way to oppose reparations without being hypocrites. They would have to go overboard to deny the plain and simple teaching of the Bible.

The reparations advocates should be able to count on the Judeo-Christians support because of the principles on which their teach-

ings give strong and unambiguous pronouncement. The most fundamental is the passage that says God instructed the Israelites to go and collect “spoil” from the Egyptian women as they fled Egypt and this would make them wealthy. Rightly so because Egypt received 400 years of free, enslaved labor.

What then is the relevance of the instruction that the people of Israel were to follow over 6,000 years ago to the instruction of what appears to be practice during the time of Jesus? Zacchaeus the tax collector is an example. He promised to restore what he had stolen four times over.

In a free enterprise capitalist system, the overarching principle that sustains is that if peoples’ possessions were arbitrarily taken from them, there would be restoration to replace that which was stolen with something of equal value, or sanctions were imposed because what was taken could not be replaced.

This conversation has only just begun. It will as time passes find greater acceptance within the broader community.

“Sister City” Agreement Between Kingston and Groton, New London, and Mystic, CT



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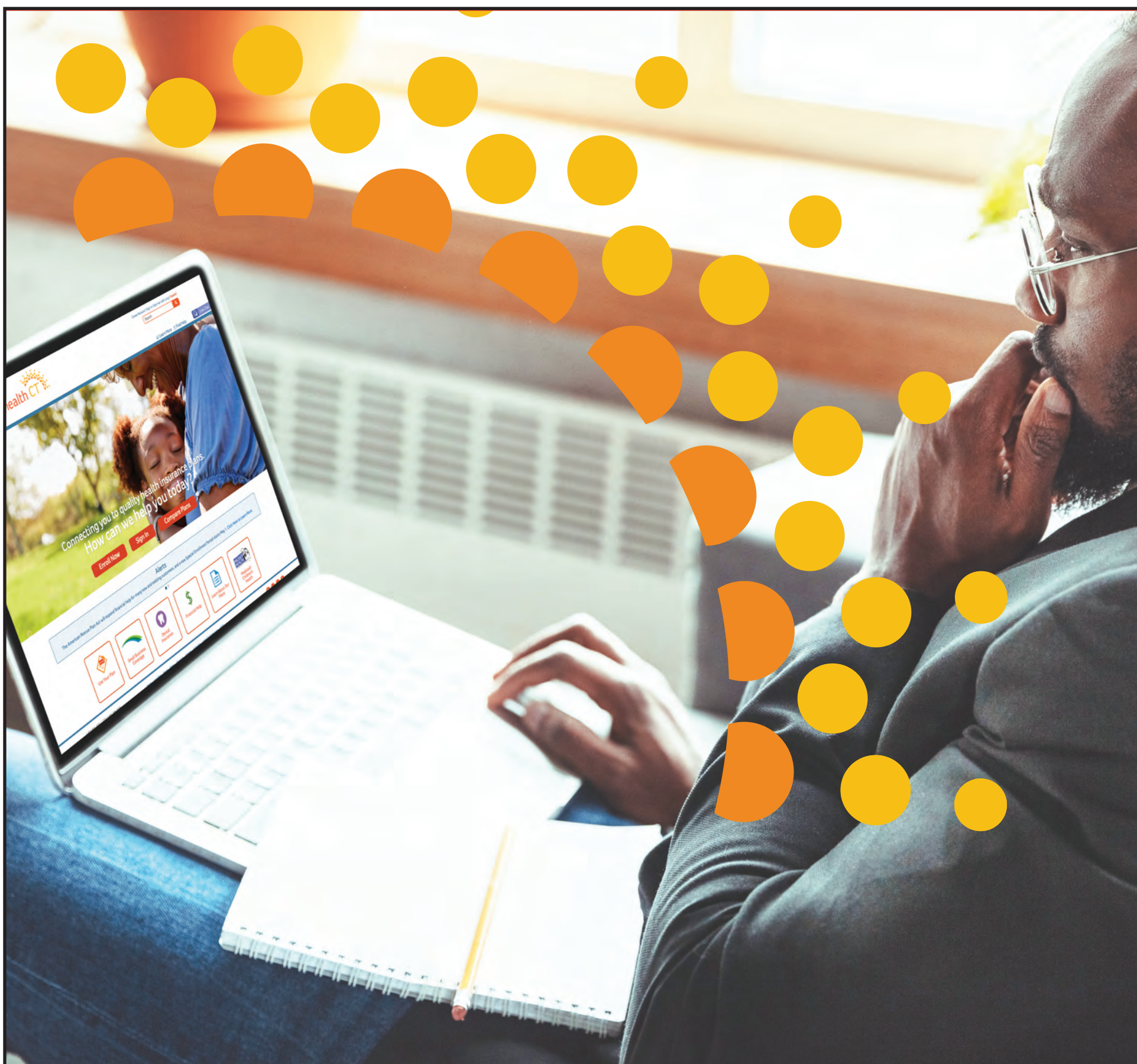
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