

# CARIB CONNECTION

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF WACC CARIBE

OCTOBER 2023  
ISSUE 2

INTERNS  
COME ABOARD

SALUTING MARIE  
GUYRLEINE JUSTIN'S  
ENDURING LEGACY

FAREWELL,  
FAIR CHAMPION



SOCIAL  
MEDIA AND  
GENDER  
JUSTICE

**CULTURAL  
EXCHANGE TAKES  
CENTRE STAGE**





# CONTENTS





## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

SALUTING

# MARIE GUYRLEINE JUSTIN'S

ENDURING LEGACY

It is with mixed emotions that we bring you the second edition of **Carib Connection**, a quarterly publication of WACC Caribe. Our emotions are mixed, because while we have much to celebrate, we are also reflecting on the death of our long-time member, Marie Guyrleine Justin. She died on September 12 in Haiti.

Marie was a champion for communication rights, and was co-founder of REFRAKA, a non-governmental organisation run by women for women. Its vision is for equality between women and men, both in communication and in society. Marie worked tirelessly to ensure that this vision was realised. She will be sorely missed, but her legacy will live on.

In this second issue of **Carib Connection**, we, therefore, reflect on Marie's work and her contribution to WACC Caribe, even as her family remains in our thoughts and prayers.

We also bring you, our members, up-to-date on our activities since our last issue.

We also continue to appeal to you to inform us of potential funding sources. We need people on board who will be able to assist with proposal writing as we seek to spread our net far and wide.

Additionally, we invite contributions from you, our members via email at [caribbean@waccglobal.org](mailto:caribbean@waccglobal.org). Please send articles that you think may be of interest to our readers, as well as letters, suggestions, project ideas and anything else that you think may enhance this regional group.

Finally, we ask that you visit the WACC Global website – <https://waccglobal.org/> – in order to keep informed of what the organisation is doing and how you may get involved to make a difference as we continue to fulfil our vision and mission.

*Corinne Barnes*  
PRESIDENT



Carlysia Ramdeen

# INTERNS COME ABOARD

We are pleased to welcome our two interns, Carlysia Ramdeen and Rochelle Porter. Both are reading for their Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism at the Caribbean School of Media and Communication (CARIMAC) at The University of the West Indies, Mona. They will be assisting with the management of our social media platforms, as well as serving as research assistants, as we seek to publish papers under the banner of WACC Caribe.



Rochelle Porter

## CHECK OUT OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS



@wacc\_caribe

[https://www.x.com/wacc\\_caribe](https://www.x.com/wacc_caribe)  
(formerly Twitter)



@wacc\_caribe

[https://www.instagram.com/wacc\\_caribe/](https://www.instagram.com/wacc_caribe/)



WACC Caribe

<https://www.facebook.com/waccaribbean/>







Msgr. Patrick Anthony (right), founding member of the FRC and former WACC Caribe president, presents a copy of the FRC publication on Flower Festivals to Rawle Gibbons of the Caribbean Yard Campus.

# Cultural exchange TAKES CENTRE STAGE

The Msgr. Patrick Anthony Folk Research Centre (FRC) hosted a partner agency, Caribbean Yard Campus (CYC) of Trinidad and Tobago and Martinique, on a cultural exchange and language immersion tour in St. Lucia, from August 24 to 31, 2023.

The 15-member group included visual and performing artists, Kwéyòl language speakers, people involved in calypso, steelpan playing, and the culinary arts. The tour was also designed to have participants explore historic and cultural sites in St. Lucia, which gave a deep understanding of cultural, social and economic aspects of the evolution of the St. Lucian society.

A major focus was getting a deeper understanding of the indigenous language, Kwéyòl, its applications to business, tourism development, religious worship, and its significance in communication of the values and aspirations of the St. Lucian people.

One of the highlights of the exchange was a series of presentations on artistic murals in the Catholic Church, which was done by the renowned St. Lucian artist and muralist, Dunstan St. Omer. The presentations were made by Msgr. Patrick Anthony, a St. Omer scholar and founder of the FRC. Msgr. Anthony is also the first president of WACC Caribe and WACC honorary life member. In these church murals, St. Omer replaced the traditional images of European people with



Msgr. Patrick Anthony (Paba) discussing the work of Dunstan St. Omer, in front of the mural at the Church of the Holy Family in Jacmel, Roseau, St. Lucia.

images of Caribbean people and scenes of social life and cultural traditions. The murals demonstrate the power of art to communicate culture, history and aspirations of a people. One of the most visited and cited murals is at the Church of the Holy Family in Jacmel, a farming community on the west coast of the island.

During their stay in St. Lucia, the CYC team shared their expertise through workshops on the

themes of Calypso and Emancipation, and also Calypso and Art.

The Msgr. Anthony Folk Research Centre was established in 1973 to research and explore the role of cultural resources in the development of the St. Lucian and Caribbean people. A research advocacy and development programme of the indigenous creole language, Kwéyòl, has been a major highlight of the FRC's work over the past 50 years.



# Farewell, **FAIR CHAMPION**

MARIE  
GUYRLEINE  
JUSTIN



**F**rom Uruguay, France, the United States, Morocco, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Jamaica, the Ivory Coast, Suriname, Mexico and many other places on the planet came expressions of condolences following the death of Marie Guyrleine Justin, one of the faithful voices in the Caribbean region of WACC (World Association for Christian Communication) and director of REFRAKA, the Haitian network of women in community radio.

More impressive than the geographical diversity of the condolences on the death of our beloved journalist and defender of communication rights are the quality and dignity of the voices that have expressed their commiseration: representatives of religious organisations, community radio stations, and networks that fight for justice and equity.

Since co-founding REFRAKA in 2001, Marie Guyrleine Justin dedicated herself to weaving networks of solidarity among Haitian women, focusing on rural



**After the 2010 Haiti earthquake, Marie Guyrleine Justin redoubled her efforts to rebuild community radio networks despite devastating losses. In addition to raising resources for the reconstruction, she focused on the training of dozens of people to re-establish community radio stations and strengthen the struggles for communication rights.**





sectors, and international feminist organisations.

She coordinated the Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP) in Haiti (a research project carried out every five years on the representation of women in the news of different countries) in 2010, 2015 and 2020. Her passion for solidarity marked her participation in WACC Caribe, as she worked tenaciously from 2010 to contribute to the amalgamation of the challenging and valuable linguistic and cultural diversity that defines our region.

Possibly, the 2010 earthquake represented one of the most difficult challenges for her aspirations for solidarity and the strengthening of communication rights. REFRAKA and many community radio stations suffered human losses and the almost total destruction of their infrastructure. In this context, Marie Guyrleine Justin redoubled her efforts to rebuild community radio networks. In addition to raising resources for the reconstruction, she focused on the training of dozens of women and men, particularly among the peasantry, to re-establish community radio stations and strengthen the struggles for communication rights.

At the end of 2010, Marie Guyrleine Justin published an essay on the role of women in the reconstruction of Haiti after the earthquake. In that text, she stated that the contribution of Haitian women and the international solidarity of feminist organisations in post-earthquake Haiti had strengthened participatory spaces.

We can affirm that Marie Guyrleine Justin's contributions to WACC Caribe have nurtured our vision of a Caribbean defined by justice, solidarity, and equity.

## HER LEGACY LIVES ON

**T**o the family, friends and colleagues of Marie Guyrleine Justin, we, the Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP) network in more than 100 countries across the world, stand in solidarity with you at this time of loss.

Marie Guyrleine was a dear colleague, friend and courageous sister in three decades of struggle to secure gender equality in and through the media.

She led by example and was deterred neither by the earthquake, nor by the persistent scarcity of resources, nor even by COVID-19, playing her part with grace to ensure the spotlight on Haitian women's communication rights did not veer away.

Her legacy lives on in the body of data on the status of gender in Haitian news media, in the vast collection of radio programmes on issues affecting rural women in Haiti, and in RezoFanm Radyo Kominote Ayisyen (REFRAKA), the organisation she co-founded to support community radio stations across Haiti. We will miss her.

**FROM: SARAH MACHARIA**  
on behalf of the Global Media  
Monitoring Project (GMMP) network

# SOCIAL MEDIA AND GENDER JUSTICE



**S**ocial media is an important platform for promoting gender justice, by raising awareness, amplifying voices, and mobilising activists. Its role in challenging traditional power structures and providing a space for marginalised groups to express themselves is undeniable.



By Michelle Golding Hylton

It transcends geographical boundaries and facilitates discussions on various social issues. One area where social media has had a significant impact is that of gender justice, as the platforms allow advocates a space to disseminate their messages easily and quickly, through hashtags, viral campaigns, and visual content.

Social media has enabled the dissemination of information related to gender-based violence, unequal pay, and other gender-related injustices. The discourse on social media has facilitated greater public engagement and participation in

discussions around those issues.

Social media also allows for ease of communication and the mobilisation of interest groups to join forces to advocate for change with the use of online campaigns and petitions. The platforms have also brought attention to specific cases of gender-based violence and increased pressure on authorities to take action. The international #MeToo Movement has also found a voice on Jamaican social media platforms, increasing the demand for redress in cases related to sexual harassment on the job.

Although social media has contributed to the discussion on gender justice, it is not without challenges. There can be misrepresentation of the facts, cyber bullying, and harassment, therefore deterring individuals from participating in discussions.

The echo-chamber effect can reinforce existing beliefs, thereby limiting the potential for constructive dialogue, understanding, and

decision-making processes. It must also be noted that not everyone has access to the Internet or social media platforms, and that fact can limit the inclusivity of those discussions (Gajjala, 2009).

The reality is that social media is here to stay, and more and more individuals and groups are utilising this space to share information about their programmes of work or to advocate on issues that affect their populations.

The platforms continue to play an important role in raising awareness, mobilising activism, and encouraging discussions around gender justice in Jamaica. However, it is important in utilising the technology that we are cognisant of their limitations, and in the fight for gender justice it is important to use other media along with social media to ensure a more comprehensive reach.

## REFERENCES

Gajjala, R. (2019) **Global media and transnational communication: Negotiating Gender Justice in the digital age**. Routledge.

**Jamaica Gleaner**, (2020). #SayTheirNames Campaign seeks to end gender-based violence