



SEPTEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup> 2015

# #CYD2015 Infopack

*Caribbean Regional Youth Council*



# Caribbean Youth Day 2015

**"Refocus. Reinvest. Reinforce. Youth Integration for a Stronger and Sustainable Caribbean"**

Since 1985, Caribbean Youth Day has been observed annually on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Under a common theme and banner, the region celebrates the work and achievement of our young people, and to reinforce the contributions and roles of youth for the continued and sustainable development of our countries.

The traditional celebration of this day highlights the creative force of young people that makes up approximately 60% of the region's population and to draw attention to the current youth issues of the region. Additionally, this day reinforces young people's commitment to regional integration. The vision of regional integration shared by our fore parents live within us and will continue to be one of the main thrusts in the work of young people, locally, nationally and regionally.

It is in this regard the Caribbean Regional Youth Council is continuing this tradition, which is also in keeping with the Council's Mission Statement: "The regional youth council is a strategic youth governance and advocacy movement with one voice working towards regional representation, integration and cooperation as a platform for youth development".

Caribbean Youth Day 2015 will be observed under the theme: "Refocus. Reinvest. Reinforce. Youth Integration for a Stronger and Sustainable Caribbean".

Youth integration is responsible for societal changes and the Caribbean Regional Youth Council takes this opportunity to salute the Region's hardworking young people, youth leaders, youth advocates and youth workers, who are all taking their countries, and our region from strength to strength.

The Caribbean Regional Youth Council calls on all young people, youth organizations, Governments, Civil Society and Partners to celebrate and commemorate this day.

## The Theme

*This year's theme is set in the context of conclusions on the UN POST-2015 Sustainable Development Goals. As the world decides on its top priorities for developmental governance and funding, young people are uniting to contribute to the growth and development of their countries and regions.*

*Thousands of young people volunteer each day to build their communities and reinforce political, social, cultural and economic goals. In this same way, young people are committing to the goals of the world, by educating each other and cooperating with partners and stakeholders to strengthen systems, programmes and activities.*

*Young people have a key role in the entire SDG process and it is important that young people remain at the heart of decision making. Young people have been involved in various national, regional and international events to discuss the SDG and today, we see ourselves as equal partners to achieve the post 2015 goals, simply because it is our world and our future.*

*Building on the successes of the Millennium Development Goals, integration of the region and its young people will enable us to navigate the challenges and opportunities of the SDGs, particularly as small island developing states and low lying coastal states.*

*Each of the 17 goals presents an opportunity to design a framework or assess the current mechanisms and how it is impacting on the issues that affect young people and communities. It is in this regard that we urge Policy makers and Stakeholders to Refocus, Reinvest and Reinforce.*

### **Refocus:**

*Indicates the need to refocus and set priorities that ensure a sustainable future for the Caribbean.*

### **Reinvest:**

*Indicates the need for Caribbean nations to reallocate adequate resources toward the enhancement of our human capital. Investing in youth through education, employment, civic engagement and community building is necessary to secure a productive future.*

**Reinforce:**

*Indicates the need to strengthen those systems, values and structures that have proven to work, as well as develop new methods and innovative systems for a more efficient, productive and sustainable region.*

*We must remember that our societies are all unique but we share similar challenges that we all desire to overcome through positive change. By refocusing on what we do and how we do it, we develop a clear vision of who we are, what we stand for and the Caribbean we all want. Youth Integration in all aspects of society and development is therefore essential in preserving the past and designing a sustainable future.*

**Do you want to commemorate Caribbean Youth Day, but not sure about how? Then take a read through our CRYC CYD infopack for some ideas to get you started!**

## Join our online project

You can help celebrate CYD by participating in our online project running from 15th to 30th September 2015. Use the hashtag **#CYD2015** to help spread the positive contributions of our Caribbean young people. We will be collecting submissions in the form of artwork, stories, photos and videos to be included in our celebrations on 30th September.

Join our Facebook Page and website to learn more about the project and how you can get involved flexibly in youth development. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter to find out more!

<http://www.facebook.com/CRYC.it>

<http://www.twitter.com/crycyouth>

[www.caryc.org](http://www.caryc.org) (to be launched on September 30<sup>th</sup> too!)

## Organize an Event or Activity

One visible and interactive way to celebrate Caribbean Youth Day is by organizing an event or activity in your school or community. Whether its 5 or 500 people, you can help celebrate the Day. Work with your National Youth Council, school, and club or with some friends and/or colleagues to brainstorm about the type of event you want. From a discussion, to performance, online to offline, the possibilities are endless. Below are some suggested activities for you to consider:

- Seminars, lectures and debates: Initiate round table discussions among adults and young people to promote intergenerational understanding on how we can promote youth integration and sustainability in the Caribbean
- Organize an exhibition: Get permission to use a public space for an arts exhibit, which showcases the challenges of youth as well as the positive contributions of youth to our society. Try to involve young people in the domains of culture, arts and music, to raise awareness on the need for youth integration.
- Concerts and festivals (music, spoken word poetry, art): Organize a concert to promote Caribbean Youth Day. Invite your local musicians, poets, writers and combine it with a panel discussion or invite a politician or policy maker to hold the key note speech. For example <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F5LyiloBQoY>

- Start small - Book a room in your school, community centre or even organize a space in your own home. Come up with an idea for what you want to discuss or focus on during your event. Make some flyers, invite some speakers, and invite some friends/audience. That's an event.
- Organize a fundraiser – You and your friends or youth group can organize a fundraising activity to host a bigger event in your community or nationally. Partner with organizations to ensure all activities are successful. Fundraising can also be done to contribute to a fund to assist and aid Dominica to rebuild from the recent hurricane hit.

## Spread the Word

Events and campaigns can be great ways of increasing knowledge and curiosity of technology but sometimes, just having a discussion or informal chat amongst your friends, peers and family can be a simple yet powerful way to have an impact.

- Bring up the idea with your family and friends, tell them about the SDGs and ask them what their thoughts are – get the conversation started on sustainable living and how things can be refocused, reinvested and reinforced in our world.
- Share our online project and materials with your friends on social media. Make the CYD2015 Logo your profile pic or Banner. Get your friends to share pictures, videos and stories to our Facebook or Twitter account or send to us via email.
- Disseminate educational materials including leaflets and email alerts.
- Ask your school if they're willing to hold a discussion or debate relating to Youth integration and Caribbean Sustainability.
- Develop communication platforms to create or strengthen youth networks.
- You can use various channels to get the word out and connect with people via social networks as well as your school or University newsletter and local newspaper.
- Write a blog – share your thoughts and perspective on how the SDGs will impact on you, your family and community.
- Make a short video or animation – if you like to make videos then have fun making one on youth integration and Caribbean sustainability.
- Wear blue on the day -

## Use the Hashtag #CYD2015

### Let us know!

We want to know how you intend to celebrate Caribbean Youth Day! Send us an email at [info.cryc@gmail.com](mailto:info.cryc@gmail.com) or reach out to us via Facebook and Twitter to let us know. We'll make sure to post your events on our new website and Facebook page!

Post it: Send in a description with pictures or videos of your planned activities to [info.cryc@gmail.com](mailto:info.cryc@gmail.com) and we will post it for you! Don't forget to tell us where the event will take place.

Thank you! 😊