Mark November 25 with Reflection on Race-based Violence against Women

While November 25 highlights gender-based violence, a critical element is missing from the violence against women text and context: that of race-based violence against women which is often unacknowledged in international, regional and national women’s and social movements. Of particular note in this respect, is its absence from the 1995 Beijing Platform of Action which defines violence against women as “any act of gender-based violence”. This is unfortunate because when one factors a woman’s race into the matrix of women’s experiences, then a new story is being told. Gender and race are not mutually exclusive but combine to form part of a woman’s identity (along with class, ethnicity, and nationality) and is the basis for the double (and multiple) discrimination Black women of African origin, African women, Asian women, Aboriginal and native women face. In the Americas, for example, race-based violence against women is historical. The Black woman suffered the race violence (and this includes sexual violence) of the white man, the race violence of the white woman and the gender-based violence of the Black man. In the history of Western expansionism and empire, colonialism and slavery with their “ideological accessories” - Christianity and the Church- provided fertile soil for the germination and spread of race-based violence against women. Sexploitation, forced ‘breeding’ of generations of slaves and later workers, denial of civil and human rights, commoditisation of body and self, destruction of the family, mental, physical, emotional and psychological torture were at the core of the destructive system of colonial domination. (Excerpt from “Race-Based Violence against Women Missing Agenda Item”, Women and Development Unit, Annual Report, 2011/2012).

WAND to Intervene in Crime and Violence against Women in Montego Bay, Jamaica

In the wake of an upsurge of violence against women in Montego Bay, WAND is spearheading a research project to determine the most effective way of addressing this issue. The project which includes the UWI Open Campus, Western Jamaica and the Montego Bay Community College, University College, Western Jamaica is community-based.
Righting Her-Story: Caribbean Women Encounter the Bible Story: A Must Read

Last year’s launch of Patricia Sheerat-tan-Bisnauth’s edited work *Righting Her Story: Caribbean Women Encounter the Bible Story* marked a turning point in the articulation of Caribbean liberation theology by offering a theological and ideological framework for understanding women’s thrust towards a theological construction which confirms that there needs to be a ‘specific option for women’ as a heterogeneous group in any liberation discourse, movement or activity.

This book is a must read for all those interested in theology and its herme-neutic application to our world today.

ICT Project in Fancy Continues

The women of the Fancy Community Help Group ICT project was given a boost with the donation of a laptop computer and printer by WAND Tutor/Coordinator. The project which was initiated in 2008 is intended to assist women to improve their quality of life through information and distance education.

Publications


From left to right: Juney Baptiste (Treasurer, FCHG); Judith Soares (WAND Tutor/Coordinator); Deborah Dalrymple, Head University Centre, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Wendy Michael (President, FCHG).