

## **March Observances**

From CUMC's Multicultural Committee

March 25 marks the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery, created by the United Nations in 2007 to acknowledge that that “the slave trade and slavery are among the worst violations of human rights in the history of humanity, bearing in mind particularly their scale and duration.” This transatlantic trade, which operated between the fifteenth and late nineteenth centuries, was the horrific trafficking of millions of enslaved African women, men and children, mostly from West Africa to the Americas.

Not only did this forced displacement enrich imperial and other powers, it also gave rise to false narratives of white supremacy and racial inferiority, which were used to justify this shameful practice. Because the transatlantic trade in enslaved Africans had a direct effect on our modern conceptions of race, we need to understand this period, to fight its legacies, including racism and prejudice.