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Press Contact
Richard Motta Jr.
340-474-2399
www.vi.gov
richard.mottajr@go.vi.gov

Governor Bryan Issues Proclamation Designating International Day for the World's Indigenous People in the Virgin Islands

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS — Governor Albert Bryan Jr. has issued a proclamation designating August 9, 2021, in the Territory as International Day for the World's Indigenous People, which is an occasion for Virgin Islanders of Indigenous Amerindian Caribbean Descent to reaffirm their patriotic ties to the original people of the Caribbean and the United States, their cultural ties with indigenous people, and their traditions and heritage with their kith and kin throughout the Caribbean, Americas and the world.

The United Nations created the annual commemorative day as UN Resolution 49/214 in 1994 and strengthened the resolution in 2007 with the creation of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People social contract. The theme for this year's international celebration is "Leaving No One Behind: Indigenous Peoples and the call for a new social contract."

"All citizens of the diverse ethnic and cultural communities in the Territory are invited to acknowledge and celebrate the vital individual, community and institutional contributions of Indigenous Caribbean Amerindians and all Indigenous people of the world to the economic, political, cultural, scientific, educational, spiritual and religious life of the Territory," Governor Bryan said.

"Indigenous Amerindian people of the Caribbean have contributed to the national tradition of every aspect of our society, from agriculture and science to business and the arts," the Governor said. "As the international community celebrates and commemorates the UN's International Day for the World's Indigenous People, we recognize the need to honor their history, culture and essential roles within the American and Virgin Islands heritage narratives."

The Bryan-Roach Administration is committed to transparency, stabilizing the economy, restoring trust in the government and ensuring the disaster recovery is completed as quickly as possible.

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