

## [International Summit on Civil and Human Rights , October 28-30, 2015](#)

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Conference

Date:

October 28, 2015 to October 30, 2015

Location:

Georgia, United States

Subject Fields:

African American History / Studies, African History / Studies, American History / Studies, Asian American History / Studies, Asian History / Studies

### **International Summit on Civil and Human Rights**

**Remembering: International Struggle for Civil and Human Rights**

**Kennesaw State University Continuing Education Center**

**3333 Busbee Drive**

**Kennesaw, Georgia 30144**

**October 28 - 30, 2015**

Kennesaw State University's Center for African and African Diaspora Studies invites scholars, artists, community leaders and activists, and the general public to participate in a three-day summit in Kennesaw, Georgia (an Atlanta suburb) on October 28-30, 2015. The summit is designed as a multi-disciplinary platform to remember, reflect, celebrate and interrogate historical and contemporary civil and human rights issues that are both national and transnational. ***The Summit incorporates dialogues in all formats - visual and performance arts, spoken word, fine arts installation, panel and roundtable discussions, and open forum dialogues.***

The fifty-year anniversaries of major events of the American civil rights movement provide occasion for reflection on milestone events in the American civil rights movement, as well as contemporary struggles against civil and human rights violations across the world. We take pause to recall the significance of *Brown v. Board of Education*, the Freedom Rides, the March on Washington, and the major civil rights legislative achievements. Various commemorative events are taking shape across the United States, from the unveiling of the plaque of the Birmingham church bombing, an event that took the lives of four African American girls, to the re-enactment of the March on Washington. The multiple meanings of universal themes of liberty, equality, justice, fairness, and equal opportunity have characterized an era of sacrifice, mourning, and guarded optimism that marked the African American fight for freedom.

However, the struggle for civil and human rights was not solely an African American struggle, nor did

it occur solely within the borders of the United States. As Kevin Gaines, Gerald Horne, Thomas Borstelmann, Mary Dudziak, Aza Layton and many others have discussed, the civil rights movement shaped and was shaped by an international conversation on human rights, self-determination, and freedom. Mexican American Cesar Chavez rallied agriculture workers in the National Farm Workers Union to underscore economic issues that impacted both sides of the US-Mexico border. SNCC, the Black Panther Party, CORE, and other organizations developed visions of what was possible in dialogue with a host of international influences in African and Asian independence movements. Throughout Europe, Latin America, Africa, and the Caribbean, people who were victims of violent repression, social isolation, and political disenfranchisement took up their own struggles for liberation using the narrative, rhetoric, and strategy of the American civil rights movement, but also developing and improvising their own strategies.

The commemoration of the American civil rights movement reminds us of all those epic struggles and brings back memories of solidarity across racial, religious, geographical, generational, social, and cultural divides that furthered the cause of liberty and human dignity around the world. We must reflect on the connections and rifts between the American experience and the African, Latin American, Caribbean, Middle Eastern, European and Asian experiences and many of the other international dimensions of civil and human rights' struggles, characterized by the travels, the dialogues, and the transfer of ideas across borders, cultures, religions and other barriers, historically and contemporarily.

To register and get additional information on the Summit, including lodging, optional excursions, and other local information, visit the website:

[http://dga.kennesaw.edu/content/civil\\_rights\\_summit](http://dga.kennesaw.edu/content/civil_rights_summit)

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