

FREEDOM EVE

THE HAGUE



**LIVING IN FREEDOM IS YOUR HUMAN RIGHT
NO ONE IS INFERIOR**

Join us for a vibrant Celebration of Freedom featuring live music, inspiring speakers, an engaging quiz on The Hague's colonial and slavery history and a lively market! Enjoy delicious African cuisine and an atmosphere full of culture and connection.

Saturday 27 June 2026

**FREE
ENTRY**

Start 14.00 - 19.00 hrs
AMARE, SPUIPLEIN 150, THE HAGUE



ticketing
Africa
.nl

VOOR MORE INFO &
PROGRAMMA:
AFRICALLIFE.NL

Program

The programme takes place on the Kunstenplein of Amare on the ground floor. Entrance via the revolving doors on the Spuiplein side.

Between the programme components, medals will be awarded as a Freedom Eve The Hague commemorative souvenir to distinguished guests, in recognition of their commitment to freedom and their contribution to Freedom Eve The Hague.

For a more extensive and fully detailed description of each programme component, please visit www.africalife.nl.

14:00 – Walk-in: Screening of relevant videos on the LED screen.

14:15 – 14:40 Djembé Workshop

Guided by drum master **Mandiaye**. For everyone — young and old!

Have you already registered, or would you like to register? Please report to the reception table of Stichting Africa Life. There are a limited number of drums available. Participants will be divided into groups due to space and the number of drums.

Full = full :)



14:40 – 14:45 Welcome by the day's host

Vijay Sampatsing — radio presenter from Hoofddorp with Surinamese roots, known from the programme *Onbekend Maakt Onbemind* on MeerRadio. He guides visitors through the day in an accessible and light-hearted way, ensuring everyone feels welcome.



14:50 – 15:05 Speech by Mariëlle Vavier Alderman for Poverty, Inclusion and Public Health. Under her skilled and heartfelt leadership, the creation of the Slavery Monument was realised.

15:15 – 15:25 Musical Opening of the Day

Featuring **De Nubische Club**, who bring forward the deep love and resilience of the Sudanese community in The Hague through traditional Sudanese songs. Their music carries the pain of a country at war, but also the pride, hope, and unbreakable connection of a people who, even far from home, continue to cherish and share their culture.



15:25 — Speech *Mikal Tseggai* Member of the Dutch House of Representatives.

15:35 – 15:45 Speech by Rabin Baldewsingh

National Coordinator against Discrimination and Racism. He is a passionate and powerful voice in the fight against racism and discrimination, working daily to identify and break through structural exclusion and to promote equality.



15:50 – 16:20 Salsa Workshop

Led by renowned dance instructor **Windert Kastaneer**, two-time Dutch Salsa Champion. Participants will enjoy a dynamic salsa and merengue workshop.

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Full = full :)



16:25 – 16:40 Ambassadors' Speech

A reflection on their perspectives regarding the Trans-Atlantic slavery past. Expected ambassadors or representatives: **Brazil, Nigeria, Suriname**, and the **Minister Plenipotentiary of Curaçao**. Other dignity - **Buhlebezwe Siwani**, South African artist and designer of the Trans-Atlantic Slavery Memorial. She will speak about the monument on the Lange Voorhout.

16:40 – 16:55 Screening of the filmed traditional peace offering and ritual

Recorded at the Monument for the Trans-Atlantic Slavery Past on the Lange Voorhout. Featuring the **Edo people of Nigeria** and the **Maroons of Suriname**. All attendees will receive a free tasting of foods eaten during the slavery era.



16.55 – 17.15 Een 16:55 – 17:15 Traditional Igbo Masquerade Performance

A ritual dance for peace from the Igbo community of southeastern Nigeria. The masks — often sacred and symbolic — represent ancestors, protective spirits, or moral forces within the community. Not to be missed! Also present: Yoruba Heritage Club The Hague.



17:15 – 18:00 Knowledge Quiz on The Hague's Slavery and Colonial History

A 20-question quiz hosted by **Paula Udondek**, Dutch TV presenter. Participants receive a Freedom Eve pen and notebook. Paula guides the audience through historical facts, surprising insights, and lesser-known stories from the city in an accessible and uplifting way. Three winners will receive a beautiful keepsake. **Also not to be missed — you might be one of the lucky winners!**



18:05 – 18:25 DJ Lex!

A booming, festive DJ set full of rhythm, energy, and pure joy. The music creates a wonderful vibe — no one will be able to stand still. Time to dance! Lex connects the audience through music: laughing together and celebrating together.



18:30 – 19:00 The Reincarnational Band

Featuring the sensational voice of **Michael Kituu**. An energetic group from Kenya that brings the audience into the warm sounds of authentic African music, carried by traditional rhythms and powerful Roots Reggae. Pure, sensational music by exceptional artists that moves every room.



19:00 Closing

Delicious **African food** at Freedom Eve is lovingly prepared by **Kate Kitchens**. For a modest price, you can enjoy healthy dishes that bring the flavours of West Africa to the Netherlands. Typical dishes include **Fried Rice, Jollof Rice**, and the snack **Chi-chi**. **DELICIOUS!**



MARKET STANDS & INFORMATION TABLES

Present on the market: Coöperatie Eva, Bybarima, Michael Kituu, Muku Beauty, Said Idris (African outfits), Kaabassi, Vincent Gambrah – Afroeuro, and Stichting Africa Life.



PARTNERSHIP

Stichting Africa Life has successfully collaborated for years with many partners from different cultures, including: Amare, Bureau Buurtactief, Edo Interassociation, the Surinamese and Antillean communities, Tribez, various churches, mosques, organisations, and individuals from The Hague's African community.

Freedom's Eve

On 22 September 1862, President Abraham Lincoln announced a preliminary version of the Emancipation Proclamation, promising that all enslaved people in the rebellious Confederate states would be legally free as of 1 January 1863. For enslaved people, this was an unprecedented announcement of hope. They knew their freedom depended on the moment Lincoln would sign his promise.

Freedom's Eve arose because Black Americans gathered on the night of 31 December 1862 — in churches, homes, and barns across the country — waiting for the Emancipation Proclamation to bring their freedom. It became a night of prayer, hope, tension, and ultimately joy. This tradition continues to this day and became known as Watch Night Services or Freedom's Eve.

Freedom Eve The Hague

Freedom Eve promotes historical awareness within the community through reflection, education, and dialogue. It encourages younger generations to understand the meaning of historical events and their impact on society today.

It commemorates the children, women, and men who suffered under slavery and brings their names and stories to light — stories of pain, strength, and survival. It honours our ancestors who wore the chains, who never lost their dignity even when the world tried to take it from them. It honours those thrown into the ocean and all who did not survive the crossing. We remember them all, knowing their spirit is with us today. Through their pain, suffering, courage, and fight for freedom, Black people can stand in freedom today. In deep gratitude and respect, we bow to them.

Freedom Eve also creates a sacred moment of connection, healing, remembrance, unity, and transition. This sacred moment connects us — with each other, with our ancestors, and with the shared history that brings us together. It opens a space for healing, where the wounds of the past are acknowledged and the heart is gently restored.

Stichting Africa Life A The Hague–based organisation that connects communities through culture, education, and awareness. Through events, workshops, and commemorative programmes, it strengthens pride, knowledge, and solidarity. The foundation promotes inclusion, combats discrimination and racism, and celebrates the richness of African traditions as a source of strength, inspiration, and social connection.

Accessibility – Amare

Spuiplein 150, next to City Hall. Please note: paid parking applies in the city centre. We recommend using public transport.

By car: Parking garages are available near Amare. By public transport: Most trams and buses stop in the city centre (check [htm.nl](#)). By bicycle: There is a bicycle parking facility at City Hall (next to Amare).

With special thanks to:

The Municipality of The Hague for making this day financially possible. Amare for the pleasant cooperation and providing the venue free of charge. All volunteers — they are always amazing.