

'Racial Justice and Climate Action'

The Centre for Applied Buddhism and SGI-UK are proud to present 'Racial Justice and Climate Action', a webinar which took place in July 2021.

In this webinar, the panel explores the ways in which climate change and climate action intersect with racial equity, and the crucial role that racial justice plays in terms of both environmental impact and solutions. We hear from **Jan Blake**, **Anita Okunde**, **Rehena Harilall** and **Peter deGraft-Johnson**, whose insight and experience around racial justice and climate action drive a thought-provoking and meaningful discussion.

Jan Blake

Jan is a Storyteller, Plenary Speaker and Storytelling Consultant for brands and businesses. She is known for telling traditional folktales, myths and epics from the African Diaspora and the Arab regions and has been performing worldwide for over 25 years. Recent highlights include Hay Festival, where she was storyteller in-residence, the Viljandi Harvest Festival in Estonia and TEDx Warsaw. She has practised Nichiren Buddhism for 35 years.

Website: www.janblakestories.co.uk

Twitter: @janstoriesUK

Anita Okunde

Anita Okunde is a 17-year-old award-winning activist and public speaker, focusing on issues specifically surrounding intersectional climate justice and feminism. Anita's work has a focus of putting those disproportionately affected by the crisis we face at the forefront of the movement. This work has led to her being listed as one of the top 100 environmentalists according to Forbes. Her work with sustainability has always been centred around putting BIPOC people at the forefront of the climate movement by taking up space in white-dominated areas of climate activism and speaking out against environmental classism.

Twitter: @AnitaOkunde

Rehena Harilall

Rehena was born in South Africa, where she was an anti-apartheid activist. She was involved initiatives on the reconstruction and development agenda in South Africa. She is an engaged Buddhist practitioner, and Order Member of the Order of Interbeing, Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh. She practices across various traditions including Insight and Theravada. In 2020, she founded 'Buddhists across Traditions', to unite Buddhist and Mindfulness practitioners in service of racial healing, social equity and justice. She has been published in the Mindfulness Bell. She currently supports projects in the food cultivation and revitalisation of marginalised rural areas in Kwazulu-Natal, most impacted by climate changes and the apartheid legacy.

Twitter: @RRH_HRH

Peter deGraft-Johnson

Peter deGraft-Johnson is The Repeat Beat Poet, a Hip-Hop artist and broadcaster working to capture and extend moments of time, thought and feeling. Peter has performed across the UK and internationally at venues including the Southbank Centre and Ronnie Scott's in London, performing alongside writers like Margaret Atwood, Salena Godden, and Roger Robinson. He is the co-founder/host of the Hip Hop open mic 'Pen-Ting Poetry', creator of the Spoken Word radio show [#TheRepeatBeatBroadcast](#) and the host of multi-award nominated [Lunar Poetry Podcast](#), which is archived in the British Library. Peter has been nominated for a Jerwood Compton Poetry Fellowship, selected by BBC 1Xtra and the Roundhouse for their Poetry Collective programmes, and is an Obsidian Foundation fellow. He is published by Magma Poetry, Bad Betty Press and Poetry On The Picket Line. His debut single 'This That' was released in 2020 to [rave reviews](#), and in 2021 he was an inaugural writer-in-residence at the Library of Africa & The African Diaspora in Accra, Ghana.

Twitter: [@RepeatBeatPoet](#)