



NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

Institute of African American Affairs
Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty, Arts, Humanities and Diversity
Institute of French Studies
Center for French Civilization and Culture
La Maison Française
present

Christiane Taubira

“We are facing something completely new. We will devise a way to keep on living, to keep on laughing, to keep on singing while remaining vigilant, while reflecting on society, because all necessary security responses must be brought to bear, that’s essential. We must reflect on our society, its rifts, its difficulties, the ways in which we perceive it. Haven’t we lost the habit, to some degree, of reflecting on our common destiny, of asking ourselves what is meaningful for all of us, of asking ourselves how far our individuality goes, and if it isn’t veering toward individualism and egotism, and how are we building society together? How are we building a country?”

- Former Minister of Justice Christiane Taubira
C à Vous, France 5, on the Paris attacks – Nov. 18, 2015



Former Justice Minister of France
on

“FREEDOM AND EQUALITY FOR ALL”



Friday, January 29th, 2016 at 11:00 A.M.

New York University School of Law
Tishman Auditorium, Vanderbilt Hall (1st floor)
40 Washington Square South, NY, NY



La Maison Française
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY



Institute of African American Affairs
New York University
14A Washington Mews, 4th Floor
New York, NY 10003

The Institute of African American Affairs (IAAA) at New York University was founded in 1969 to research, document, and celebrate the cultural and intellectual production of Africa and its diaspora in the Atlantic world and beyond. IAAA is committed to the study of Blacks in modernity through concentrations in Pan-Africanism and Black Urban Studies. www.nyuiaaa.org

“In hard times like these, the public service performed by the Justice Ministry is to demonstrate the government’s utmost empathy and receptiveness toward its citizens, particularly those who are the most vulnerable, those who are going through a period of vulnerability.”

- Former Minister of Justice Christiane Taubira
Court of Appeals, Aix-en-Provence, Oct. 11, 2013



Christiane Taubira

Born in Cayenne (French Guiana), Christiane Taubira is a French left-wing politician and former Justice Minister. Taubira, who used to teach economics, is the former director of the National Conservatory of Arts and Crafts of French Guiana (Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers). She co-founded the Caricoop Agricultural Association for French Guiana (Caribbean Confederation for Agricultural Cooperation) which she directed from 1982 to 1985. She was then appointed Director of the Technical Assistance to Artisanal Fishing in French Guiana before running the Guiana Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Office in 1990.

In 1993, Taubira founded the Guianese party Walwari and was elected Member of the National Assembly of France for French Guiana. She was re-elected in 1997, 2002 and 2007. In 1994, she was elected Member of European Parliament. In 2002, she was the candidate of Parti Radical de Gauche (PRG) (left-wing Party) for the presidential election.

Christiane Taubira gave her name to the 21st May 2001 law that recognizes the Atlantic slave trade and slavery as a crime against humanity. In her book *L’Esclavage raconté à ma fille* (Slavery Explained to My Daughter), Taubira discusses the history of French enslavement of Africans and their descendants and describes the moral, social, economic, and political effects of slavery that persist among the descendants of enslaved people.

When Taubira was Justice Minister of France, she defended more than twenty texts in the French Parliament. In 2013, she introduced the law that legalized same-sex marriage in France. That law allows same-sex couples to adopt children. The same year, she passed a bill that created a national General Prosecutor specialized in financial matters. Last year, she reformed the criminal justice system, establishing individualized and efficient sentences.

Christiane Taubira is a woman of convictions who is strongly committed to civil rights and women’s rights. In 2013, she published the essay “Words of Freedom” in which she addressed discrimination and racism issues—racism she’s been a victim of herself. She is also very concerned by international issues.

Deeply fond of poetry and literature, Taubira is also a great fan of jazz. Nina Simone, Miles Davis, Aretha Franklin are some of her idols.