

## Conference Description:

**Date:** Thursday, July 20 through Saturday, July 22, 2023  
**Location:** The Hideaway  
5100 Interstate 55 North Frontage Road  
Jackson, MS 39211  
**Theme:** *“Cultural Identity Restoration and the Role of Culture in Education”*  
*Taken from Chapter 5 of “Dismantling the Pre-School to Prison Pipeline” and used with permission by the author.*

The Mississippi Coalition To End Corporal Punishment (MSCECP) and partners will host their first education convening **Thursday, July 20 through Saturday, July 22, 2023**, in Jackson, MS. The conference theme is *“Cultural Identity Restoration and the Role of Culture in Education.”* Our chosen theme reflects the mission and values of the Coalition in its work to end the harsh discipline practice of Corporal Punishment which is both physically and psychologically harmful. It also reflects our aim to uplift a narrative of discipline as a building tool for growth and as a model for creating culturally responsive and nurturing school climates. During this three day conference we are inviting parents, students, educators, organizational leaders’ funders, elected officials, social workers, and other child-serving practitioners to explore effective alternatives to reducing violence in schools *and* communities by uplifting restorative justice practices, peer mediation, SEL and participatory action research as culturally relevant & responsive teaching tools in the public education.

Confirmed speakers are child advocate, historian, and award-winning journalist & author of *“Spare the Kids: Why Whipping Children Won’t Save Black America,”* Dr. Stacey Payton and Dr. James Bernard Pratt, Jr, Professor & Researcher, at Fisk University and co-author of *“Historic Lynching and Corporal Punishment in Contemporary Public Schools in the South”* and advocate for human rights and violence reduction. Added to this dynamic list of presenters is Dr. Marvin Haire, founder & creator of the Gourd of Wisdom Institute and recognized curriculum design specialist. Dr. Haire, along with former youth organizers from Nollie Jenkins Family Center will discuss and demonstrate NJFC’s Scholars of Peace: From Mali to Mississippi, a peer mediation and cultural restorative justice project from both a scholarly and participatory action research (PAR) perspective.

The third and final day of the Convening sponsored and hosted by the Wayfinder Foundation and Racial Justice NOW will culminate in the Mississippi *“White Paper Launch” Dismantling the Pre-School to Prison Pipeline Through Black Literacy and Education for Transformation,” a study prepared by Chike Akua, Ph. D for the Wayfinder Foundation and Racial Justice NOW.* Saturday’s renowned guest and main presenter is Dr. Chike Akua, an assistant professor of Educational Leadership at Clark Atlanta University. The *“White Paper”* examines the relationship between the pre-school to prison pipeline and the need for increased and effective Black literacy and education.

Participants will gain a better understanding of how exclusionary and harsh discipline policies and practices fuel the preschool to prison pipeline and their impact on students' opportunities for learning and succeeding. The targeted number of conference participants is 125-150. We hope you can join us!