MARION BETHEL

> **"IN THE PURSUIT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR ALL PERSONS, GENDER EQUALITY IS A FOUNDATIONAL PART OF OUR JOURNEY."**
>
> – MARION BETHEL

BAHAMIAN ATTORNEY, SOCIAL ACTIVIST, WRITER & FILMMAKER

Marion Bethel's decades-long advocacy for the rights of Bahamian women and girls spans the areas of **human rights law**, **education**, **creative writing** and **film**. Born and raised in Nassau, Bahamas, Marion is currently a Partner and an Attorney-at-law with her husband at their law firm, Sears & Co., in The Bahamas. Marion was awarded a Bachelor and Masters of Arts in Law from Cambridge University, and has been a practicing attorney since 1986. In 2013, Ms. Bethel produced and directed a documentary entitled **Womanish Ways: Freedom, Human Rights & Democracy, The Women's Suffrage Movement in the Bahamas – 1948-1962**, which examines the struggle for Bahamian women's suffrage. Marion has also published two collections of poetry, and is currently working on a third manuscript of poetry and a memoir.

In 2016, Marion was nominated by The Bahamas and elected by the United Nations States Parties to serve as an **international expert** on the **UN Committee of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)**.

She is a 1997 **Alice Proskauer Poetry Fellow** at the Mary Ingraham Bunting Institute of Radcliffe College at Harvard University. Her work has been featured at the **3rd Congress of Caribbean Writers**, **Cave Canem**, and international poetry festivals throughout the Caribbean and the Americas. Her debut film, **Womanish Ways**, has also been widely screened throughout the Caribbean and across the United States at documentary film festivals, cultural centers, and universities.

Speaking Topics

- Modern Slavery & Trafficking in Women and Girls

- Gender Equality, Business & Human Rights

- Sexual Health and Reproductive Rights

- Gender Equality, Economic Justice and Sustainable Development

- Creative Writing, Social Justice and Transformation