

The Reparations & Remedies Community Act

The New York State Legislature has passed a bill that — if signed into law by the Governor — would create a community commission to examine the impact of slavery and its legacy on living Black New Yorkers, and make recommendations for reparations.

The commission would hold public hearings to get community input. Its members would be appointed by the Governor, the Senate Majority Leader, and the Speaker of the Assembly. All members should be drawn from the organizations who have been working for decades on the issue.

In the lead-up to the American Revolution, there were more enslaved Africans in New York City than in any other city in the colonies except Charleston, South Carolina.



Wall Street was a slave market; New York corporations that still operate here today, like JPMorgan and Citibank, profited off of the slave economy.



During this time, New York received an estimated 40% of cotton revenue in the United States.



“SLAVERY DIDN’T END IN 1865, IT JUST EVOLVED” – BRYAN STEVENSON

Slavery in New York perpetuated a system that harmed Black people across the globe — from the African communities destabilized through mass abduction, to the enslaved people in other nations whose unpaid labor reduced costs for American consumers and increased profits for American corporations.

As slavery was formally abolished, lawmakers at every level of government began creating policies designed to keep the cost of Black labor as low as possible and preserve White supremacy. The legacy of these policies still actively harm Black communities today.



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BLACK FAMILIES IN AMERICA EARN AROUND \$57 FOR EVERY \$100 IN INCOME EARNED BY WHITE FAMILIES.



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AND FOR EVERY \$100 IN ACCUMULATED WHITE FAMILY WEALTH, BLACK FAMILIES HOLD JUST \$5.04.