

GRASSROOTS REPARATIONS CAMPAIGN

“Reparations are a spiritual practice, not just a transaction.”

--David Ragland

In this age of a global coronavirus pandemic, injustice and structural violence created through the moral and material harm of slavery are amplified. More than ever, we need to employ a healing response that is reparations. We want you to join us in a period of reflection culminating in a day of action to deploy healing power and create a culture of reparations in communities across the U.S. that emerges from spiritual practice, transformative education and action.

Reparations are a spiritual practice, not just a transaction. We believe reparations are a relational practice of healing spiritual, moral, and material harm. Now more than ever we need healing, religious, spiritual, and faith communities to help lead and support this work. The National Days of Reparations for Faith-Based, Spiritual and Ethically Centered Communities or #ReparationSundays serve as a path toward educating and building a culture of reparations.

Reparations requires a culture where accountability for past harm is a prominent feature in the society. Our approach draws on the ten injury areas described by the National Association of Blacks for Reparations in America (N'COBRA) and the framing by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) where reparations come in the form of compensation, healing, education, restitution and guarantees of non-repeat. We support the passing of H.R. 40 but we believe that reparations must be advocated from the grassroots if we are to go beyond commissions studying reparations. We believe faith based communities and ethically centered organizations are well situated to the necessity of reparations as a spiritual/ethical civic practice. Our campaign utilizes #ReparationSunday as a pathway for faith based organizations to bring their congregations toward this culture. The toolkit describes our history, principles and strategies for hosting a Reparations Sunday event in your faith-based community or organization.

Every year there are two Reparations Sundays. Each date begins with a period of preparation and is planned on historically significant dates. In the summer, we begin with Juneteenth June 19, as a period of preparation leading into the August Reparations Sunday. The period of preparations involves internal investigation, education, reflection and planning in your community for Reparations Sunday. This August 22, 2021, #ReparationSunday corresponds with the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery.

The Reparationist Pledge of Accountability is a way to remain faithful to the sacred work of reparations. The Reparationist Pledge is a personal and communal tool of accountability and steadfast solidarity. Recite the pledge out loud in your community or to another person. When you take the pledge, please add your name/and or the name of your community group to the recitation on the Grassroots Reparations Campaign website – www.grassrootsreparations.org.

Together, we recite this **REPARATIONIST PLEDGE OF ACCOUNTABILITY** in acknowledgment for the ways we continue to profit and privilege, whether directly or indirectly, from systems of harm that impact black people as a result of the TransAtlantic Slave Trade and its ongoing systems of oppression. We recite the reparationist pledge because we want to help build a reparationist culture.

“Reparations is the midpoint between truth & reconciliation.”

--David Ragland

Take The Reparationist Pledge of Accountability

I pledge to approach reparations as a spiritual and healing journey;

I pledge to acknowledge and work to heal the legacies of moral and material harm that originated with the Transatlantic Slave Trade and continues to manifest harm in Black communities;

I pledge to learn more about America’s history of racism and its foundation of chattel slavery and the ways institutions with which I affiliate were implicated in perpetuating and profiting, whether directly or indirectly, from the harms of oppression;

I pledge to learn more about how structures and institutions built on the labor of enslaved peoples continues to disenfranchise people in the African diaspora as well as devalue Black lives;

I pledge to follow the leadership and be patient with those who are impacted by enslavement and its legacy;

I pledge to give and support (healing, material goods, assistance) without expectation on how these should be used;

I pledge divest from my personal and institutional complicity in violence against Black People including but not limited to divesting from investments that harm Black People (and BIPOC communities);

I pledge to support and advocate in solidarity with institutions and organizations that uplift and are led by the Black community where I live and throughout the world;

I pledge to be sensitive to the intersectionalities of the harms of racism;

I pledge to participate in reparations in my local community and encourage my networks to do the same, guided by the analysis and leadership of black led organizations and individuals;

I pledge to take this message to my family, friends and community with love rather than through guilt or shaming. I pledge to undo racism within my own faith based community according to the principles articulated in this pledge;

I affirm this pledge in my name: (write your name)

Source: www.grassrootsreparationscampaign.org, August 2021