

The March on Washington

Proposed 50th Anniversary Joint Resolution of “The Beloved Community”

WHEREAS The United States Congress found that approximately four million Africans and their descendants were enslaved in the United States and the colonies that became the United States from 1619 to 1865, and

WHEREAS The United States Congress found that from 1789 through 1865, the Government of the United States constitutionally and statutorily sanctioned the institution of slavery, and

WHEREAS The United States Congress found that the slavery that flourished in the United States constituted an immoral and inhumane deprivation of Africans' life, liberty, African citizenship rights, cultural heritage, and

WHEREAS The United States Congress found that constitutionally and statutorily sanctioned practices denied free Africans of the fruits of their own labor; and, neither sufficient inquiry nor repair has been made to reverse the effects of the institution of slavery on living African Americans and society in the United States, and

WHEREAS The United States Congress found that the crime of lynching succeeded slavery as the ultimate expression of racism in the United States following Reconstruction; and

WHEREAS The 109th CONGRESS, 1st Session, S. RES. 39 resolved to apologize to the victims of lynching and the descendants of those victims for the failure of the Senate to enact anti-lynching legislation, and

WHEREAS lynching was a widely acknowledged practice in the United States until the middle of the 20th century; and

32 WHEREAS lynching was a crime that occurred throughout the United States, with
33 documented incidents in all but 4 States; and
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35 WHEREAS at least 4,742 people, predominantly African-Americans, were reported
36 lynched in the United States between 1882 and 1968; and
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38 WHEREAS 99 percent of all perpetrators of lynching escaped from punishment by State
39 or local officials; and
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41 WHEREAS lynching prompted African-Americans to form the National Association for
42 the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and prompted members of B'nai B'rith to
43 found the Anti-Defamation League; and
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45 WHEREAS nearly 200 anti-lynching bills were introduced in Congress during the first
46 half of the 20th century; and
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48 WHEREAS, between 1890 and 1952, 7 Presidents petitioned Congress to end lynching ;
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51 WHEREAS, between 1920 and 1940, the House of Representatives passed 3 strong anti-
52 lynching measures; and
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54 WHEREAS protection against lynching was the minimum and most basic of Federal
55 responsibilities, and the Senate considered but failed to enact anti-lynching legislation
56 despite repeated requests by civil rights groups, Presidents, and the House of
57 Representatives to do so; and
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59 WHEREAS the publication of 'Without Sanctuary: Lynching Photography in America'
60 helped bring greater awareness and proper recognition of the victims of lynching ; and
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62 WHEREAS only by coming to terms with history can the United States effectively
63 champion human rights abroad; and
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65 WHEREAS an apology offered in the spirit of true repentance would have moved the
66 United States toward reconciliation and may become central to a new understanding, on
67 which improved racial relations can be forged. However, enduring effects of the practice
68 of slavery and lynching continues to threaten the life, liberty and economic security of
69 African Americans in the 21st Century: and
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71 WHEREAS, homicide is among the leading causes of death for people aged 15 to 44
72 years worldwide; and
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74 WHEREAS, many more people die from homicide than from war; and
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76 WHEREAS, worldwide for every death due to war, there are three deaths due to
77 homicide; and
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79 WHEREAS, African American males between the ages of 18 and 35 have a 40 to 50%
80 chance of dying or being incarcerated by their 36th birthday as a result of a shooting,
81 violent crime or murder; and
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83 WHEREAS, while African Americans comprise 14% of the United States population,
84 43% of all murder victims in 2007 were African American, 93.1% of whom were killed
85 by African Americans; and
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87 WHEREAS, a 2007 U. S. Department of Health Centers for Disease Control and
88 Prevention study concluded that the leading cause of death for African American males
89 between the ages of 15 and 34 is homicide; and
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91 WHEREAS, the same study concluded that the second leading cause of death for African
92 American males between the ages of 1 and 4 and 10 and 14 is homicide; and

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94 WHEREAS, behavioral and mood disorders of perpetrators of violence, are critical
95 aspects of the violence that leads to homicide; and

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97 WHEREAS, the resulting psychological and physical impact on victims and their
98 families, leading to mental health issues, requires the immediate attention of the United
99 States of America; and

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101 WHEREAS, the effects of violence extend far beyond the impact on individuals' health
102 and livelihoods – they shape the well-being and social fabric of families and
103 communities, and can have a negative impact on a city's economic prospects; and

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105 WHEREAS, each year, nearly \$4.5 billion is spent nationally on healthcare related to
106 violence, including burial costs, counseling services, healthcare costs, property damage,
107 lost jobs and lost industry; and

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109 WHEREAS, alcohol and drug addictions significantly contribute to the commission of
110 violent crime; and

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112 WHEREAS, though violence is pervasive, evidence suggests that the factors that
113 contribute to violent responses – whether they are factors of attitude and behavior or
114 related to larger social, economic, political and cultural conditions – can be changed, and
115 that violence can be prevented; and

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117 WHEREAS, Economic Security is the ability of a nation to follow its choice of policies
118 to develop the national economy in a manner desired by its citizens. Characterized by
119 multi-national agreements, mutual inter-dependence and availability of natural resources,
120 Economic Security today forms, as important a part of national security as military
121 policy.

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123 WHEREAS The President of the United States established that no issue is currently more
124 important to this country than restoring economic security for all families in the wake of
125 the greatest economic crisis since the Great Depression.

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127 WHEREAS The 113th Congress of the United States, evinced by its reluctance to develop
128 the national economy in a manner desired by its citizens, failed to establish Justice, insure
129 domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and
130 secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, and in its failure allowed
131 for the past practice of lynching to re-emerge in the form of state-sanctioned Stand Your
132 Ground law, and

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134 WHEREAS it is the duty of every elected official of the United States of America to
135 protect American lives, and

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137 WHEREAS, the killing of Trayvon Martin, an unarmed African American youth was
138 evinced to be justified in the acquittal of his killer, George Zimmerman denied Trayvon
139 Martin the basic human right to life and violated his constitutional rights as a citizen of
140 the United States, and

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142 WHEREAS sufficient evidence exists in the reality of a MINORITY population within
143 American society that the Congress of the United States has failed in its constitutional
144 duty to develop the national economy in a manner desired by all its citizens, and

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146 WHEREAS the U.S. Congress has enacted no TREATY ON THE FINAL
147 SETTLEMENT WITH RESPECT TO AFRICA on behalf of historically disenfranchised
148 descendants who are citizens of the United States.

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150 BE IT RESOLVED that the failure of the 113th Congress to execute its constitutional
151 duties, directly compromised the National Security of the United States of America.
152 Economic Security for historically disadvantaged Americans has yet to be equitably
153 achieved. Financial capability is especially low in certain populations. Young people,

154 low-income households, Latinos and African-Americans show particular vulnerabilities
155 in financial capability. Approximately 1 in 3 African-Americans are unbanked and nearly
156 a quarter approach retirement with less than \$1,000 in total net worth, excluding pensions
157 and Social Security. Compared with U.S. national averages, young adults (ages 18-29)
158 are more frequent users of non-bank borrowing (including payday loans and pawn
159 shops), more likely to pay the minimum payment only on their credit cards, and more
160 likely to be unbanked.

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162 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an emergency ECONOMIC
163 SECURITY initiative be advanced for the purpose of saving more lives and preserving
164 the economic wellbeing of American families with increased emphasis on reversing
165 generational effects of constitutionally sanctioned slavery and lynching on historically
166 disadvantaged Americans, and that investments in ASSET-BUILDING be directed
167 toward equitable valuation of America's children.

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169 RESOLVED, THIS THE 26TH DAY OF AUGUST IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
170 2013.

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