



*Write President Biden: **It's Time to** Establish a Reparations Commission!*

Our Ask

NETWORK joins faith-based, secular groups, and longstanding reparations advocates across the country in calling on President Biden to establish an H.R.40-style commission via executive order.

What Would Establishing an H.R.40-Style Commission Do?

H.R.40 sets a framework that would establish a 15-member commission to study the effects of chattel slavery on African slaves and their African American descendants. This panel cannot grant money directly.

“Catholic Social Teaching is clear: racism is a sin. Our faith teaches us to reject the immoral system of white supremacy and to work for truth-telling and repair. We can no longer deny the sins of the past and its ongoing implications Black people experience every day.”

-- Jarrett Smith, NETWORK Government Relations Advocate

Why NETWORK and people of faith support a Reparations Commission

- Reparations is where we must start in order to chart a pathway to a just future
- **Slavery didn't end, it merely evolved (a quote from [Reparations For Slavery](#))**
- President Biden promised during his presidential campaign to support a study of reparations
- H.R.40 embodies cornerstones of our political advocacy: dismantling systemic racism and cultivating inclusive community
- President Biden must act on their commitment to dismantling racist laws, policies and frameworks, and to advance racial equity
- The Catholic Church played a major role in the Atlantic slave trade and supported slavery in the States, Jim Crow, and other forms of discrimination. The Catholic Church gave slave ownership moral absolution, and helped it propagate.
- Catholic teaching demands confession, penance and restitution when a sin has been committed
- Catholic Social Justice advocates must stand up to diminish the impact of historical and contemporary **racism in today's political, social and economic systems, frameworks, and institutions**
- The sinful legacy of white supremacy and the enduring racial wealth gap must no longer be allowed to deny Black people good health, educational, and economic outcomes.

It is time to confess, to repent, and to repair. The harmful legacy of white supremacy and the enduring racial wealth gap must no longer deny Black people good health, educational and economic outcomes.