

Repair and Redress

*How an H.R.40-style commission is vital
to the Build Anew Agenda*



Our Time Together

Here's what we'll be talking about:

- ☀️ A Catholic Framework for Reparations
- ☀️ H.R.40 Policy Update
- ☀️ Faith Call for Reparations: Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis, Middle Church
- ☀️ Messaging Tips & Tools
- ☀️ What Can We Do?
- ☀️ Q & A

SPEAKERS



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SPEAKERS



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Cornerstones to Build Anew

Dismantle
Systemic Racism

Cultivate
Inclusive Community

Root Our Economy
in Solidarity

Transform
Our Politics

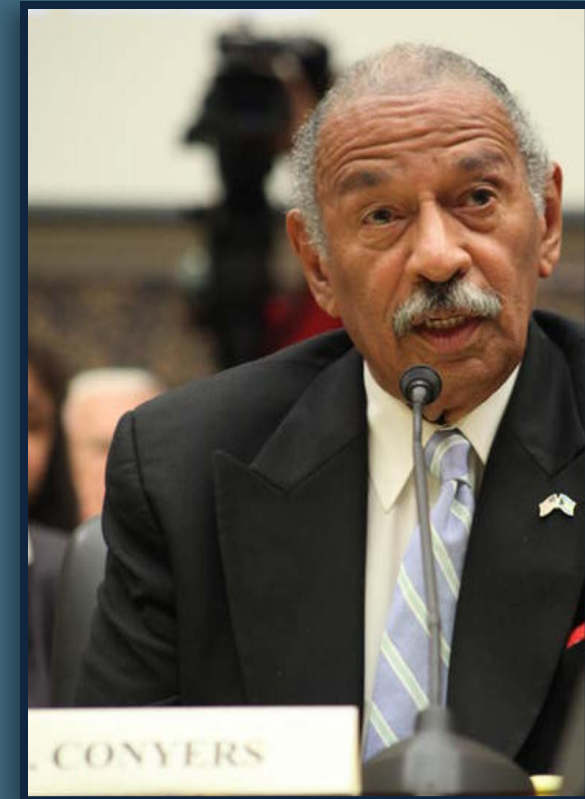
H.R.40 Policy Overview

- ☀️ The origin of H.R.40 began 80 years ago
- ☀️ Japanese Americans vs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
 - Commission to study Japanese American internment



H.R.40 Policy Overview

- ☀️ President Ronald Reagan signs the Civil Liberties Act in 1987
- ☀️ Representative John Conyers (D-MI) was the co-founder of the Congressional Black Caucus and saw an opportunity
 - Rep. Conyers introduced H.R. 40 in 1989



H.R.40 Policy Overview

- ☀️ H.R.40: The Commission to Study and Develop Reparations Proposals for African Americans Act
 - Seeks to address and rectify the sinful effects of slavery in the United States



H.R.40 Policy Overview

- ☀️ Rep. Conyers resigned from Congress in 2017
- ☀️ The future of H.R.40 was entrusted to Rep. Shelia Jackson-Lee (D-TX)
 - Under Rep. Jackson-Lee's leadership, H.R.40 has received historic levels of support



The Time to Act Is NOW

117th Congress

- ☀️ 216 co-sponsors and “yes” votes
- ☀️ Passed out of House Judiciary Committee



The Time to Act Is NOW

- ☀️ The Congressional calendar is winding down
- ☀️ Shifting our ask to the White House to create an H.R.40-style commission by Executive Order



White House Ask

A campaign promise: President Biden pledged to tackle systemic racism and the continuing impacts of slavery by “supporting a study of reparations.”



The Moral Call for H.R.40

☀️ 365+ secular and faith-based organizations are asking President Biden to sign an Executive Order establish the commission by Juneteenth (Sunday, June 19) of this year.



Hon. Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

May 4, 2022

RE: Creating a federal commission by executive order by Juneteenth to study and develop reparations proposals for African Americans

Dear President Biden,

Now more than ever, we know that many of the racial disparities that weigh this country down, and divide people in the US from each other, are unnecessary and can be eradicated if we address the ongoing legacy of enslavement. By righting our wrongs, we can make sure that all families in the US get a fair chance to acquire land, to buy a home, to enjoy good health, and to live without fear about tomorrow. That is why we write to request that you create by Juneteenth an expert commission like that which would be established by a bill in Congress, H.R. 40, *the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act*.

The Moral Call for H.R.40

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

Senior Minister for Public Theology and
Transformation at Middle Church in
Manhattan, New York



The Moral Call for H.R.40

Jocelyn Lieu

Middle Church Reparations Task Force



MESSAGING 101

- ☀️ *RACE* and *RACISM*
- ☀️ Be inclusive to reduce apprehension
 - Whether we're Black, white, or Brown...
 - Whether we're Black or white, Asian or Latino, native or newcomer...
- ☀️ People may initially be unreceptive to reparations, give them grace, accept them where they are, and offer further conversations

***REMEMBER,
YOU'RE
PERSUADING
PEOPLE TO
SUPPORT A
FEDERAL
COMMISSION
TO STUDY
REPERATIONS,
NOT
REPARATIONS***

WORDS MATTER



Use tangible and exact language

- *Racist policy, racist policymaker, and racist power* are precise
- White supremacy, G.I. Bill, Jim Crow



Some words can make it harder for a listener to accept your viewpoint.

- *Structural racism, systemic racism, and implicit bias* are vague
- Environmental racism, voter suppression



PEOPLE IN YOUR NETWORK

ACTIVISTS & ADVOCATES (<1% of voters)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spend time digging deep on political issues• Work or volunteer regularly for progressive organizations/causes• Support the four cornerstones of the Build Anew policy agenda
BASE (25% of voters)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strongly believe government should create opportunity• View wealth as largely a product of circumstances• Believe people of color face greater barriers than whites• Support our policy agenda
PERSUADABLE (50% of voters)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Of mixed minds on role of government, origins of wealth, benefits of talking about race• Likely to support our policy agenda, yet also lured by the opposition on questions of race, gender and government
OPPOSITION (25% of voters)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strongly believe government should get out of the way• Think wealth is product of individual effort• Reject need to tackle racism and believe things have “shifted too far” on gender equity

Inspired by research done by We Make The Future 

PERSUADE WITH SHARED VALUES

The Persuadables

- Likely to support some Build Anew issues, but skeptical about the role of government, the origins of wealth, and benefits of talking about race

Call on shared values and reference race

- “Most of us, whether we’re Black, white, or Brown, work hard for our families.” or “Most of us, whether we live a block from the beach or on Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., work hard for our families.”

Name an active villain or perpetrator of harm

- “Sen. Mitch McConnell blocked a vote on S.40,” NOT “Our country has been deprived of racial healing”

PERSUADE WITH SHARED VALUES

- ☀ Offer a desirable outcome or vision
 - “We will have the reparations study we need to repair the breach caused by slavery, segregation, exclusionary policies and racial hatred.”
- ☀ Focus on outcomes, not policies or procedures
 - “We can ensure everyone has the paid time off they need to recover from illness or care for a sick loved one,” NOT “We need paid family leave.”

TACKLING THE OPPOSITION

How do we block the potency of right-wing populism rooted in white supremacy?

IT WILL NOT BE EASY!

Conversion will be a long road to travel for these individuals



VALUES, STORIES & PRAYER

Name racial scapegoats or deliberate division as a tool that villains use to profit, or gain power, harming us all

“Certain politicians claim that since no living person is responsible for slavery, reparations cannot be made for hundreds of years of racial harm. This is to distract us from the responsibility the government bears for Jim Crow, excluding Blacks from federal programs like the GI Bill, racist tax policy, and all of the racial harm that came after slavery.”



RECAP

We discussed:

- ☀ Words and messaging for transformative conversations
- ☀ Audience strategy
- ☀ Stories of truth

Reach out to the Grassroots Mobilization Team for help with your conversations!

TO LEARN MORE

- ☀️ How To Be An Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi
- ☀️ The Color of Law by Richard Rothstein
- ☀️ From Here to Equality (*Reparations for Black Americans in the 20th Century*) by William Darity Jr and A. Kirsten Mullen
- ☀️ “How to Talk About Race and CRT in a Way that Wins”
- ☀️ USCCB Open Wide Our Hearts
- ☀️ Race Class Narrative message checklist

Keep learning and keep spreading the word!

TAKE ACTION



Call the White House at **888-422-4555**



Or email the White House networklobby.org/ActNow

*Urge President Biden to issue an executive order
creating a federal commission to study
reparations by Juneteenth!*

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Thank you!

