

Reparations Now,
For Then;
Never Forget!

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A Year of Black Presence (AYBP)

A project of

**The National Coalition of Blacks for
Reparations in America (N'COBRA)**

2005 Mobilization Plan



“ Every black church, organization, and institution would commit to choose one day of the 130-odd days that the Congress is in session and bring on that day one thousand African Americans to walk the halls of Congress in support of compensation measures designed to close the economic and psychic gap between blacks and whites in America. The Congress, for one year, would never stop seeing our faces, never stop hearing our demands, never be relieved of our presence.”

Randall Robinson

What is N'COBRA

The National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America is a mass-based coalition organized for the sole purpose of obtaining reparations for African descendants in the United States. It was organized in late 1987 and early 1988, to broaden the base of support for the long-standing reparations movement.

History of AYBP

In June 2001, AYBP, a pilot program was launched in Philadelphia by Milt McGriff, to mobilize Reparations activists on Capitol Hill. Since its inception, AYBP has mobilized one thousand reparations activists to Washington, DC to agitate Congress for support of HR 40, to establish a commission to study slavery in America and its present day impact on African Americans and determine appropriate remedies. Representative John Conyers, sponsor of HR 40, since 1989, credits AYBP with elevating the Reparations discussion in the Congress.

AYBP in 2005

Several activities and projects are planned for 2005 to increase support for HR 40, and engage potential supporters at the local, state and national level:

February 25, 2005 Help us commemorate Reparations Awareness Day to increase support for HR40 and awareness of reparations in your community. Organize a trip to the local office of your Con-

gressperson to encourage support for HR40, or to thank them if they are already a co-sponsor. Conduct a mass phone-in and fax-in to urge their support.

April 6, 2005 Attend the Reparations Briefing on Capitol Hill, co-hosted by N'COBRA and members of the Congressional Black Caucus. Expert and grassroots testimony is planned to increase awareness of reparations and increase support for the passage of HR 40.

September 22, 2005 N'COBRA/AYBP will take one thousand African Americans to Washington, DC during the Congressional Black Caucus annual Legislative Conference to demonstrate the broad based support for the passage of HR40, and work for CBC led nationwide hearings on this important issue.

Historical Significance of 2005

2005 is the 40th anniversary of one of the most important years of the Civil Rights struggle. It is in the spirit of these major victories of the Civil Rights Movement that we launch N'COBRA/AYBP's 2005 mobilizations to honor our ancestors' ongoing struggles for freedom, justice and self-determination. 1965 was the year that:

600 civil rights marchers were attacked by state and local police at the Edmund Pettus Bridge on "Bloody Sunday," March 7, 1965,

the start of the first Selma-to-Montgomery March for Voting Rights, in memory of the death of Jimmie Lee Jackson, who was shot by a state trooper several weeks prior while trying to protect his mother at a civil rights demonstration.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. led the march to the Edmund Pettus Bridge on March 9, 1965 which coincided with demonstrations in 80 U.S. cities. The result of that mobilization effort (within months!) was the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, signed into law by President Johnson on August 6, 1965.

- Host Essay/Poetry Contests
- Research local slavery era history
- Record testimony of community elders
- Tour local slavery era landmarks
- Host genealogy seminars
- Host town hall meetings
- Organize rallies with musicians, poets
- Lobby for passage of local and state Reparations legislation
- organize for community based organization resolutions

Contact N'COBRA Today

Our committed staff of volunteers stands ready to assist you with making 2005 a year to be remembered in the African descendants' struggle for Reparations. Contact us at (202) 291-8400 or by email at NationalNCOBRA@aol.com . Or visit our official website at www.NCOBRA.org

Activities to Build Support

- Organize a study group
- Organize debate teams for students

-----Tear off-----
YES, I WILL JOIN YOU IN DC OR ORGANIZE REPARATIONS ACTIVITIES IN MY HOME TOWN TO WORK FOR IMMEDIATE PASSAGE OF HR40.

Name (print) _____

Mailing Address _____ Apt# _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Day phone: _____ Evening phone: _____

Email (print clearly) _____

I pledge to raise by January 2005:

\$100 _____ \$500 _____ \$1000 _____ Other _____

Make CHECKS payable to: N'COBRA-AYBP and mail to: N'COBRA PO Box 90604, Washington, DC 20090