

National Coalition Of Blacks For Reparations in America

NATIONAL REPARATIONS COALITION AGENDA

(June 2004 – June 2005)



N'COBRA ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE REPORT

Howard University

June 18, 2004

N'COBRA ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE 2004

On June 18, 2004, the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N'COBRA) held its second annual Leadership Roundtable meeting of organizational leaders to develop a national reparations coalition agenda for the coming year. The meeting was co-chaired by Baba Hannibal Afrik, National Co-Chair of N'COBRA, and Sister Johnita Scott Obadele, Co-Chair of N'COBRA Membership and Organizational Development Commission. Brother Omowale Satterwhite served as Facilitator. The Roundtable was planned and organized by Wautella Ibn-Yusuf, Co-Chair of the Conference Planning Committee.

African-American Freedom and Reconstruction League (AAFRL)	Mr. Robert Gray, Chair & Mr. Clinton Ford, Executive Committee
All For Reparations and Emancipation (AFRE) – Lost Found Nation Of Islam	Minister Ajani Mukarram, Chief of Staff, L-F NOI
Black Farmers and Agriculturalists Assoc.	Dr. Ridgely Abdul Mu'min Muhammad, Vice-President
Black Radical Congress (BRC)	Ms. Jamala Rogers, National Organizer; Dr. Mahdi Ibn-Zyid, Co-Chair, BRC Philadelphia
Detroit Council of Elders	Elder Kwame Atta, Founder
Federation of the Independent Agenda (FOTIBA)	
National Association for Advancement of Color People	Mr. Hilary Shelton, Washington Bureau Director
National Association of Black Social Workers (NABSW)	Ms. Sandra T. Mitchell
National Association Of Kawaida Organizations (NAKO) Philadelphia Chapter	Ms. Maisha Ongoza, Chair
National Black United Front (NBUF)	Dr. Conrad Worrill, National Chair; Mr. Lew Andrews, Chair, Baltimore, MD
National Conference of Black Lawyers (NCBL)	Ms. Adjoa A Aiyetoro, Esq. & Mr. Ajamu Sankofa, Esq.
New Africans (Pittsburgh)	Ms. LaVerne Hunter, Chair
New Panther Vanguard Movement	Mr. B. Kwaku Duren, Esq., National Chairman; Brother Boko
Organization of Tribal Unity (OTU)	Ms. Deadria Farmer-Paellman, Chair & Queen Mother Dr. Delois Blakely
Pan African Association of America	Mr. Baye Kes-ba-me-ra, President *; Mr. Ras Abraxas and Mr. Jaja Malik Aten-Ra
Pan African Reparations Coalition of Europe (PARCE)	Ms. Esther Stanford, Esq, Chair
Reparations United Front of Los Angeles (RUF)	Dr. David Horne, Founder
Republic of New Afrika (RNA)	Dr. Imari Obadele, Minister Of Foreign Affairs
The Association of Black Psychologist (ABPSi)	Dr. Kevin Washington, President, DC Chapter
The Drammeh Institute, Inc	Ms. Iman Drammeh, Director *
The Jericho Movement for U.S. Political Prisoners	Ms. Efia Wangaza, Esq., National Co-Chair
The Self-Determination Committee - St. Louis Chapter	Mr. Eugene Frison, Chair *
TransAfrica Forum	Mr. William (Bill) Fletcher, President
Trinity United Church of Christ-Chicago	Dr. Iva Carruthers & Ms. DeBorah Gilbert-White*
United Black Trade Unionist (UBTU)	Mr. Jean Damu
Universal Negro Improvement Association – ACL (UNIA-ACL)	Mr. As-Salaam Muhammd, President (Div # 330); Mr. Senghor J. Baye EL, 3 rd Asst. President General
Western PA Black Political Assembly	Ms. Birikie Shabazz, Chair

** Participated by phone and written survey*

NATIONAL REPARATIONS COALITION AGENDA

(June 2004 – June 2005)

The group developed and unanimously adopted the following national reparations coalition agenda:

1. INFRASTRUCTURE

- *Doing transformation¹ work within organizations*
- *Supporting the N'COBRA leadership roundtable process*
- *Creating marketing plan for N'COBRA and the Movement*
- *Establishing a well-funded central infrastructure*
- *Establishing stable self-supporting mechanisms*
- *Supporting youth lead movements*
- *Developing N'COBRA staff*
- *Bringing Reparations Organizations together*
- *Utilizing Black professionals*

2. FINANCIAL SELF RELIANCE

- *Promoting Black Friday²*
- *Developing a giving (donation) campaign*
- *Merchandizing products*
- *Seeking support from faith-based organizations and unions*
- *Raising the visibility of reparations as a political principal*
- *Establishing a website for donations*

3. MOBILIZING/ORGANIZING

- *Convening town hall meetings*
- *Circulating petitions, e.g. NDABA petitions*
- *Involving Black media*
- *Strengthening/Building a youth movement*
- *Connecting reparations to concrete struggles*
- *Holding tribunals/people's court for political prisoners*
- *Circulating Dr. Walter's paper: "UNITY IN THE MOVEMENT FOR AFRICAN REPARATIONS IN AMERICA"*

4. LEGISLATIVE STRATEGIES-LEGISLATIVE

- *Lobbying for H.R. 40 at the national, state and local levels*
- *Participating in "A Year of Black Presence"³*
- *Lobbying for local slave ordinances*
- *Targeting the Congressional Black Caucus, e.g passage of HR40 and CBC Reparations hearings*
- *Raising the reparations issue in the upcoming elections*

¹ Self and people skills improvement

² N'COBRA's business and economic development program, see www.NCOBRA.org

³ N'COBRA's legislative lobbying program.

5. LEGISLATIVE STRATEGIES-LAWSUITS

- *Supporting process for developing lawsuits*
- *Being present in the courtroom*
- *Studying Farmer's lawsuit model*
- *Supporting and participating in international legal conference*

6. INTERNATIONAL WORK

- *Attending and promoting upcoming conferences*
- *Promoting global African identity*
- *Continuing Queen Mother Moore's work*
- *Acknowledging and supporting the reparations work of Min. Silas Muhammad*
- *Creating a database on the international reparations movement*
- *Supporting the genocide DNA petition*
- *Lobbying for dual citizenship, e.g. in African countries*
- *Visiting Africa*
- *Working with organizations in Africa*

SUMMARY OF PRIORITY ACTIONS IDENTIFIED BY THE COALITION

- Conducting Town Hall meetings on a consistent basis
- Fundraising among faith-based organization and unions
- Money, marketing, and mobilization
- Moving H.R 40
- Raising the global significance of reparations/international work
- Building youth movements
- Support A Year of Black Presence
- Supporting the one million signatures campaign, i.e. NDABA
- Participating in the conventions and elections
- Supporting the lawsuits
- Fundraising for self-reliance
- Developing a five-year plan
- Building a strong infrastructure to institutionalize the struggle
- Doing research and making reparations real to the community
- Supporting the Jericho Movement for US Political Prisoners resolution
- Supporting freedom schools and developing learning resources
- Promoting Black Friday, buying and selling reparations posters and supporting other fundraising activities

NATIONAL REPARATIONS AGENDA IN ACTION

We are also pleased to report ⁴ some of the organizations' accomplishments following the Roundtable, which are in keeping with the 2004 – 2005 National Reparations Coalition Agenda:

1. **Mr. Hilary Shelton, Washington Bureau of the NAACP**, continues to keep Reparations on the agenda during the July, 2004 NAACP annual conference.
2. **Dr. Delois Blakely, Organization for Tribal Unity**, lobbied Democratic National Convention delegates in August, 2004, to encourage support for Reparations; served as an advisor to Rev. Al Sharpton to ensure the issue was given visibility during the convention.
3. **N'COBRA** served on a Reparations panel during the Congressional Black Caucus Legislative Conference in September, 2004
4. **Dr. A. S. Mahdi Ibn-Ziyad, Black Radical Congress**, is teaching a course entitled "Justice, Forgiveness, and Reparations" this semester at Rutgers University, in New Jersey.
5. **Mr. Kwaku Duren Esq., New Panther Vanguard Movement**, and **Ms Dorothy Benton Lewis, outgoing N'COBRA Co-Chairperson**, attended the October, 2004 Global Afrikan Congress in Suriname, South America, ensuring Reparations is a major focus for the Congress
6. **Dr. David Horne, Reparations United Front**, participated in the October, 2004 Pan African Organizing Committee Conference in Ghana, West Africa, where repatriation and reparations were prominent agenda items.
7. **Dr. Conrad Worrill, National Black United Front**, continues to maximize signatures for the NDABA petition on behalf of Reparations; NDABA IV is scheduled October 29-30, 2004 in Baltimore, MD.
8. **N'COBRA Board members Ajamu Sankofa, Jean Damu, and Dorothy Benton Lewis** played a part in ensuring the issue of reparations was on the agenda for the October 17, 2004 Million Workers March.
9. **N'COBRA** hosted a Reparations leadership retreat, in October, 2004, to further develop the Coalition's infrastructure.
10. **Min. Ajani Mukarram** organization, **All For Reparation and Emancipation (AFRE)**, will co-host (with the UN) a seminar December 7-10, 2004 in Peru on "Afrodescendants Rights" in the western hemisphere.
11. **Dr. Imari Obadele**, Minister Of Foreign Affairs (**Republic of New Afrika**), recently announced the RNA is drafting an international Reparations Lawsuit that will be filed in the International Court of Justice (World Court).

⁴ For ongoing updates visit www.NCOBRA.org. Please inform us regularly of your organization's contribution to fulfilling the National Reparations Agenda to ensure inclusion in our monthly updates.

WHAT IS REPARATIONS?

Reparations is a process of repairing, healing and restoring a people injured because of their group identity and in violation of their fundamental human rights by governments or corporations. Those groups that have been injured have the right to obtain from the government or corporation responsible for the injuries that which they need to repair and heal themselves. In addition to being a demand for justice, it is a principle of international human rights law. As a remedy, it is similar to the remedy for damages in domestic law that holds a person responsible for injuries suffered by another when the infliction of the injury violates domestic law. Examples of groups that have obtained reparations include Jewish victims of the Nazi Holocaust, Japanese Americans interned in concentration camps in the United States during WWII, Alaska Natives for land, labor, and resources taken, victims of the massacre in Rosewood, Florida and their descendants, Native Americans as a remedy for violations of treaty rights, and political dissenters in Argentina and their descendants.

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. N'COBRA's founding meeting, September 26, 1987, was convened for the purpose of broadening the base of support for the long-standing reparations movement. Organizational founders of N'COBRA include the National Conference of Black Lawyers, the New Afrikan Peoples Organization, and the Republic of New Afrika. N'COBRA has individual members and organizational affiliates. It has chapters throughout the U. S. and in Ghana and London. It is directed nationally by a board of directors. Its work is organized through nine national commissions: Economic Development, Human Resources, Legal Strategies, Legislation, Information and Media, Membership and Organizational Development, International Affairs, Youth and Education.

The mission of the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N'COBRA) is to win full Reparations for Black African Descendants residing in the United States and its territories for the genocidal war against Africans that created the TransAtlantic Slave "Trade," Chattel Slavery, Jim Crow and Chattel Slavery's continuing vestiges (the Maafa). To that end, N'COBRA shall organize and mobilize all strata of these Black communities into an effective mass-based reparations movement. N'COBRA shall also serve as a coordinating body for the reparations effort in the United States. Further, through its leadership role in the reparations movement within the United States and its territories, N'COBRA recognizes reparations is a just demand for all African peoples and shall join with others in building the international reparations movement.

In September 2003, N'COBRA formed a 501(c)(3) corporation, N'COBRA Legal Defense, Research and Education Fund. The mission of this 501(c)(3) is to develop and implement projects to educate and seek reparations for Africans and People of African descendant. As a 501(c)(3) it will not engage in lobbying which is one of the primary focuses of the parent organization, N'COBRA.

National Coalition Of Blacks for Reparations in America (N'COBRA)
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Phone 202-291-8400 Fax 202-291-4600
Email NationalNCOBRA@aol.com
Website: www.NCOBRA.org

(N'COBRA Listserve group)
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Reparations_For_Africans

National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America N'COBRA

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PURPOSE

We believe that the descendants of Africans, who were captured, taken from our homeland (Africa), enslaved, colonized and held captive for hundreds of years in the Americas and throughout the diaspora, believe that we should be compensated for the injustices, cruelties, brutalities, inhumanities and exploitations of racism, white supremacy, economic discrimination and oppression imposed upon our people past and present.

DEFINITION

REPARATIONS: Payment for a debt owed; the act of repairing a wrong or injury; to atone for wrongdoings; to make amends; to make one whole again; the payment of damages to repair a nation; compensation in money, land, or materials for damages. In the Ancient African, Kemetic sense, Reparations means to rise up. Repair and restore the ruined and damaged, develop the underdeveloped, and create a just society.

INVITATION

Please help continue the organizing and expansion efforts of N'COBRA in building our National & International Movements for Reparations. Reparations are obtainable in our lifetime. A committed people with a righteous cause is a force that cannot be denied.

Mail this bottom portion to the National Office N'COBRA,
P.O. Box 90604, Washington, DC 20090-0604
Tel: 202. 291. 8400 * Fax: 202. 291. 4600 * Website: <http://www.ncobra.org>

-----Tear off-----

N'COBRA National (Annual) Membership Application
Select appropriate categories. Make check/money order payable to NCOBRA.

There may be additional fees for local membership

Individual: ___ \$10-one year; ___ \$20-two years; ___ \$30- three-years; \$ ___ for ___ years; or ___ \$500.00 Life Membership (can be made in two \$250 payments); ___\$25 Local Org; ___ 50 National Org. and

I would like to support the Commissions (check one or more and enter \$ amount):

___ Economic Development; ___ Education ___ Human Resources; ___ Information & Media;
___ International; Legal; ___ Legislative; ___ Youth

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Name _____ Chpt/Org/Bus _____
(Please Print)

Street Address _____
(Please Print)

City/State/Zip Code _____

Home Phone () _____ Chapter/Org/Bus () _____

E-Mail _____ FAX () _____

Collected by (NCOBRA Member Name) _____

Chapter Name/Location _____

National Coalition Of Blacks for Reparations in America



PRINCIPLES OF UNITY

As a collective of various organizations and philosophies, we will respect each other's autonomy in organization and philosophy. The central principles we unify and agree upon are:

1. Our primary goal is to achieve Reparations for Africans in America;
2. The so-called Trans-Atlantic "slave trade" was not trade but was in fact a Holocaust of Enslavement. It was morally wrong and a crime against humanity;
3. We define Reparations as a process of repairing, healing and restoring our people; therefore we continue our ancestors efforts to liberate us by focusing on repairing, healing and restoring the personal, family, and community damages that we suffered during the Holocaust of African Enslavement;
4. Africans in America are due Restitution for the Holocaust of African Enslavement and its vestiges; and
5. We support and work for the passage of HR-40, sponsored by Congressman John Conyers and other state and local legislative initiatives.

Reparations United Front

1. Functioning as a "Reparations United Front," is critical to maintaining a unified public posture. Members of the Collective (organizations and individuals) agree not to attack each other, especially regarding Reparations.
2. In instances where there may be differences of opinion, members will emphasize their commitment to Reparations, to minimize attempts to divide and neutralize the effectiveness of the Collective.
3. The Collective may elect not to recognize those who fail to abide by the aforementioned principles of unity. Everyone is encouraged to support the work of the Collective in ways most suitable for them, whether inside or outside the Collective.

We Believe

We believe the Reparations Movement can empower African Americans to continue our task of gaining social, economic, and cultural parity and liberation for individuals, families and communities. The movement provides an opportunity to address all issues impacting the Black Community by:

1. Creating a path for self, family and community development and liberation;
2. Providing a cause strong enough to unite Black People across socio-economic, and education barriers;
3. Recognizing and assisting with restoring the dignity of over 100 million Africans lost and sacrificed during the Holocaust of Enslavement and one hundred years of lynching that followed;
4. Providing an opportunity to expose the perpetrator of the Holocaust and educate the victims by creating dialogue locally and nationally that thoroughly examines our collective oppression (and mistakes), and exposes the perpetrator's responsibility in creating our past and current social condition;
5. Providing compensation for Black People locally and nationally;
6. We believe our people are ultimately responsible for our collective achievement of social, economic, and cultural parity and liberation. Restitution will only assist in our recovery and building process. The struggle for Reparations is a sacred responsibility that must be assumed by African descendants in the Americas; and
7. We believe there can be no Reparations without mass participation. Mass participation is essential to achieving Reparations (repairing, healing and restoring Black People) and Restitution (receiving compensation for the Holocaust and its vestiges).

Issued by N'COBRA National Office June 29, 2002