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**Social Toolkit for Passing HR-40**

[HR-40](https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/40), the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act, will be going to the [House Judiciary Committee for markup and vote on Wednesday, April 14](https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/04/09/us-congress-advances-slavery-reparations-bill) for the first time since it was introduced in 1989 by the late Congressman John Conyers. This bill is a necessary step on the road to reparations for African Americans living under the legacy of slavery, racial terrorism, and police brutality in the United States. As Christians we are called to repair the breach of our past sins (Isaiah 58:12), not only by asking forgiveness, but by making repayment for what was taken in the first place. African Americans are struggling today under the economic weight our collective past has unjustly placed upon them and their families, just like the descendents of once-enslaved peoples around the world. The time for reparations is now.

Biblical Justifications & Scholarly Articles

* Command to repair the breach -- Isaiah 58:12
* God demands our acknowledgement and redress of injustice -- Genesis 4:10
* Jesus’ mission statement is the basis for our faithful response --Luke 4:18-19
* Zacchaeus learns from Jesus the principal of reparatory restitution --Luke 19:8-10
* [The Biblical Case forReparations](https://medium.com/soli-deo-gloria/the-biblical-case-for-reparations-bf564b0380b1) by Rev. Dr. John Thomas
* [A Christian Call for Reparations](https://sojo.net/magazine/july-2020/christian-call-case-slavery-reparations-kelly-brown-douglas) by Rev. Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas
* [Reparations Are Biblical](https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/thabiti-anyabwile/reparations-are-biblical/) by Rev. Thabiti Anyabwile
* [Reparations is not only a political response, but a Christian response...](https://www.nydailynews.com/opinion/ny-oped-the-christian-case-for-reparations-20190510-zio6dr2t6jbhjbrxmuolmgc4ae-story.html) by Rev. Dr. Kerry Day

WATCH the HR40 Committee briefing here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVvv3JRCVQAl6ovogDum4hA>

The U.S. has a history of offering reparations to groups of people it has wronged. Read about Japanese Americans’ support for African American reparations, based on their own experience with receiving reparations in the [Civil Liberties Act of 1988](https://www.congress.gov/bill/100th-congress/house-bill/442) for the WWII Japanese internment camps: <https://ibw21.org/reparations/japanese-american-redress-and-african-american-reparations-intertwined/>

For more information about HR-40, see the [National African American Reparations Commission’s Why We Can’t Wait campaign](https://reparationscomm.org/we-cant-wait-hr-40-now/).

**Here's how you can engage leading up to tomorrow’s vote. We’ll be adding additional content on a rolling basis.**

* Post the following to Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram with a [toolkit graphic](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ehUNEQL667_MDfmfesQBfIV63HL5G5K9?usp=sharing). Or check out Human Rights Watch [social media toolkit](https://thesocialpresskit.com/reparationsnow).
  + WATCH history in the making: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVvv3JRCVQAl6ovogDum4hA> It’s time to follow Zaccheus’ example (Luke 19:8-10) - @JudiciaryDems #PassHR40 now. #WeCantWait #ReparationsNow
  + Happening TODAY: The US Congress will bring REPARATIONS bill H.R. 40 to a committee vote for the FIRST TIME EVER! Like Zaccheus, it’s time for the US to give reparation for what we’ve stolen from our African American brothers and sisters. (Luke 19:8-10) @JudiciaryDems #PassHR40 now. #WeCantWait #ReparationsNow
  + Zaccheus knew that reparations were necessary. (Luke 19:8-10) It’s past time we did what’s right. On this historic day, we call on @JudiciaryDems to pass #HR40 now. #WeCantWait #ReparationsNow
  + As people of faith, we proclaim that the US cannot wait another day to “repair the breach” of slavery and racism. (Isaiah 58:12) On this historic day, we call on @JudiciaryDems to pass #HR40 now. #WeCantWait #ReparationsNow
  + We can’t undo the lives lost to systemic anti-blackness and racial terror. But we can make reparation. Isaiah 58:12 - Repair the breach! Pass #HR40 now. @JudiciaryDems #WeCantWait #ReparationsNow
  + HR 40 cannot wait, when the gap between Black and white wealth is as large as it was in 1968. Isaiah 58:12 - Repair the breach! Pass #HR40 now. @JudiciaryDems #WeCantWait #ReparationsNow
  + [Insert organization name] in [state if not DC] calls on @JudiciaryDems to pass #HR40. Isaiah 58:12 - Repair the breach! #WeCantWait #ReparationsNow

* Share one of the following stories that broke the news of the markup:
  + CBS News: [https://twitter.com/NikolenDC/status/1380540007316910081?s=20](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2ftwitter.com%2fNikolenDC%2fstatus%2f1380540007316910081%3fs%3d20&c=E,1,1om5eFETYfTGk85mvkZ-frw0P9QuSkhHXlCPF7LOQKKFFo9a7J9oYPVbtp1aDTo0lc7iSbxSIcCqN2fQBUqIqU6HEI0sNl4sXbLfOD-x-PtbBcDw7BroTDXbZJM3&typo=1)
  + The Grio: [https://thegrio.com/2021/04/10/hr-40-committee-vote-upcoming/](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fthegrio.com%2f2021%2f04%2f10%2fhr-40-committee-vote-upcoming%2f&c=E,1,62VRmBaF_u8DKosaBpCMpbbe_8_m-fGVDE2_MhfksWvwMZ-BvDJPbW9nnn2sIMX3LRWKY_RXOU2-o7do1vUhi0fJXLKCV6RdI4gJfjBU0EotF1qM&typo=1)

* Hashtags to consider using with these posts include #ReparationsNow, #HR40, #PassHR40, and #WeCantWait

* Consider following and RTing the following orgs:
  + [@ReparationsComms](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fnam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com%2f%3furl%3dhttps%253A%252F%252Ftwitter.com%252FReparationsComm%26data%3d04%257C01%257Cjohnsog%2540hrw.org%257C5af99f8f906c4b6f477908d88cc0cb4a%257C2eb79de4d8044273a6e64b3188855f66%257C1%257C0%257C637414106999744047%257CUnknown%257CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%253D%257C3000%26sdata%3dqpcUAlQi7F0ElUaxvQ%252BXwOVK7wZmJuzUHYFxK5MAguo%253D%26reserved%3d0&c=E,1,TIcm9vk9u6n4Y4FAv6loDiRJAs_Ssq_nMAUMqlakuaaGsZuTMly6zqRJtjig3Yhr3oZOHBfi0h68de1bvqMkTKwkxWggx8z6hquy-ZjiMuK2bN3c2NXOEQA,&typo=1)
  + [@NCOBRA40](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fnam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com%2f%3furl%3dhttps%253A%252F%252Ftwitter.com%252FNCOBRA40%26data%3d04%257C01%257Cjohnsog%2540hrw.org%257C5af99f8f906c4b6f477908d88cc0cb4a%257C2eb79de4d8044273a6e64b3188855f66%257C1%257C0%257C637414106999754039%257CUnknown%257CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%253D%257C3000%26sdata%3ddw08tH2ZrZZ642w5geALLtos%252Bi7%252FXx5UEJBKwqA4wBw%253D%26reserved%3d0&c=E,1,aWlO7ioy6BTQVsegBoDnS4SYupBJFcAS4sWVKhfhuy0UbkXAIGRl02Alt4ey0NtD5NtrWg1BNrN27ur2Y0Yrft2iagyJDTsY3FAHd3w6lEXmuL5UOfiI0g,,&typo=1)
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  + [@justice\_ucc](https://twitter.com/justice_ucc)
  + [@PCUSAWashington](https://twitter.com/PCUSAWashington)
  + [@ColorOfChange](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fnam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com%2f%3furl%3dhttps%253A%252F%252Ftwitter.com%252FColorOfChange%26data%3d04%257C01%257Cjohnsog%2540hrw.org%257C5af99f8f906c4b6f477908d88cc0cb4a%257C2eb79de4d8044273a6e64b3188855f66%257C1%257C0%257C637414106999764035%257CUnknown%257CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%253D%257C3000%26sdata%3dZB96TCXgk3HSQX0bJ90ehsv6dU4wEk72%252FRnP%252F16vTuY%253D%26reserved%3d0&c=E,1,SFRL8d4O_JTIsFq2SmOvQD32RYNX6ZpL4KuNqy-1qNTxhxtNQOxEZGSBdVF3EVTBNXGfnZwnOGCL7oCXZk8hZzVNhNM1sgtJUCyscwi5m5Fc4us,&typo=1)
  + [@MakeItPlain](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fnam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com%2f%3furl%3dhttps%253A%252F%252Ftwitter.com%252FMakeItPlain%253Fs%253D20%26data%3d04%257C01%257Cjohnsog%2540hrw.org%257C5af99f8f906c4b6f477908d88cc0cb4a%257C2eb79de4d8044273a6e64b3188855f66%257C1%257C0%257C637414106999774031%257CUnknown%257CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%253D%257C3000%26sdata%3dHJUfs7UEa8%252B8qxrtEWuB0BBNKl74RVh8Uev0XuISZn0%253D%26reserved%3d0&c=E,1,K_TMQgDrs68_O4lc3y6BHsmMwCRGSPXxJRnDkIDR5dlJ-2oHGq7f8g0E0kEZYCrJqa7Yt3KFltFa2lodef7jU_-CGOUvH4d4hX44G8UxUcF-&typo=1)