



HR0906

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of
3 the Crime of Genocide was unanimously adopted by the United
4 Nations General Assembly on December 9, 1948; and

5 WHEREAS, Article 1 of the Convention on the Prevention and
6 Punishment of the Crime of Genocide confirms that genocide,
7 whether committed during peacetime or in war, is a crime under
8 international law which the Contracting Parties undertake to
9 prevent and to punish; and

10 WHEREAS, Article 2 of the Convention on the Prevention and
11 Punishment of the Crime of Genocide defines genocide as any of
12 the following acts committed with the intent to destroy, in
13 whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious
14 group, as such (a) killing members of the group, (b) causing
15 serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group, (c)
16 deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life
17 calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or
18 in part, (d) imposing measures intended to prevent births
19 within the group, and (e) forcibly transferring children of the
20 group to another group"; and

21 WHEREAS, Article 3 of the Convention on the Prevention and
22 Punishment of the Crime of Genocide verifies the following acts

1 punishable: (a) genocide, (b) conspiracy to commit genocide,
2 (c) direct and public incitement to commit genocide, (d)
3 attempt to commit genocide, and (e) complicit in genocide; and

4 WHEREAS, The United States and its sub-governmental units
5 are responsible for policies and practices against the Black
6 population that conform to Article II's definition of genocide
7 and Article III's specification punishable crimes of the
8 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of
9 Genocide; and

10 WHEREAS, The World Conference Against Racism, Racial
11 Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance has
12 declared "slavery and the slave trade are a crime against
13 humanity"; Africans forcibly imported into the 13 British
14 colonies that became the United States of America were legally
15 chattel for 246 years, 170 under the United States, played a
16 significant role in the slave trade; the last slave ship, the
17 Coltilda, arrived in Mobile, Alabama in July of 1860, just
18 seven months before the Civil War; and

19 WHEREAS, Of the nearly 11 million enslaved Africans,
20 approximately 300,000 were brought to what would become the
21 United States of America; laborers were subjected to
22 brutalization, mutilation, rape, torture, suppression of
23 cultural practices, and routine humiliation, including the

1 breaking up of families, and were denied access to education
2 and a nutritious diet; their inhumane, unpaid working
3 conditions produced severe illnesses; additionally, because
4 slavers scrimped on food and shelter, malnourishment,
5 diarrhea, dysentery, worms, whooping cough, and respiratory
6 diseases were rampant; these conditions pushed the infant and
7 early childhood death rate of slaves to twice that of White
8 infants and children; half of all African American enslaved
9 infants died in their first year; African American children
10 continue to be plagued by these problems; for the period 2013
11 to 2016, African American children experienced a death rate
12 from SIDS of 74.4 per thousand compared to White children's 39
13 per 1000; African American infants die at a rate of 171.1 per
14 thousand compared to the death rate of 85.0 for White infants;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, African American history is replete with horrific
17 atrocities, terrorist lynchings, racial pogroms and massacres,
18 and, in the contemporary moment, heinous hate crimes and
19 murders by police; the Equal Justice Initiative has documented
20 4000 lynchings; Black people are the only U.S. racial or ethnic
21 group who are killed by police at a rate greater than their
22 percentage of the population; between 2016 and 2018, the number
23 of murders by White supremacists more than doubled, with 2017
24 being the fifth deadliest year on record for extremist violence
25 against Blacks since 1970; and

1 WHEREAS, African Americans are disproportionately killed
2 by police; although they comprise only 13.4 percent of the U.S.
3 population, from 2015 to 2019 they accounted for 26.4 percent
4 of individuals killed by police; Whites make up 50 percent of
5 police killings but compose 61 percent of the population;
6 Latinx people comprise 18% of both police killings and the U.S.
7 population; Asians constitute 2 percent of police killings and
8 5 percent of the population; and

9 WHEREAS, Economic genocide is defined as "deliberately
10 inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring
11 about its destruction in whole or in part"; from emancipation
12 into the 1960s, African American men working the same job as
13 White men earned only two-thirds of their wages; the
14 Black-White wage gap expanded with rising wage inequality from
15 1979 to 2018; consequently, African American women and men
16 reside at the bottom of the wage scale and disproportionately
17 comprise unskilled, non-union, service sector labor; due to
18 ethnic cleansing forcing them out of towns, destroying or
19 stealing their property, African American homeowners and
20 business owners have had to start over two or more times; since
21 the late 19th Century, most African Americans have been
22 restricted to apartheid neighborhoods with substandard housing
23 stock and poor municipal services; according to United for a
24 Fair Economy, 55 percent of all housing loans to African

1 Americans between 1994 and 2006 were subprime, thus when the
2 housing market crashed in 2007, Black people lost between \$71.5
3 and \$92.9 billion dollars in wealth; and

4 WHEREAS, Since the 2000 Presidential Election, suppressing
5 the Black vote has been the dominant electoral strategy of the
6 Republican Party; it includes gerrymandering to limit
7 predominantly Black-populated areas from influencing elections
8 and referendums, requiring voter IDs, using Reconstruction-era
9 laws to purge voter rolls, gutting Section 5 of the 1965 Voting
10 Rights Act, the pre-clearance clause, and cutting the number of
11 polling places in African American neighborhoods and the hours
12 they are open; also, the mass incarceration of African American
13 males eliminates their right to vote and therefore proves a
14 direct link between racialized policies and the suppression of
15 African American voices in the political process of the United
16 States; and

17 WHEREAS, Even with its record of anti-Black racial
18 violence, the lynchings of William "Froggie" James on November
19 11, 1909 in Cairo, of Jesse Washington on May 16, 1911 in Waco,
20 Texas, and of Laura and L.D. Nelson on May 25, 1911 near
21 Okemah, Okfuskee County, Oklahoma stand out; the massacres in
22 Wilmington, North Carolina in 1898, in East Louis, Illinois in
23 1917, in Elaine, Arkansas in 1919, and in Tulsa, Oklahoma in
24 1921 are remembered for their barbarity; in modern times, the

1 savage 1955 lynching of Emmett Till, the atrocious rape of Mary
2 Ruth Reed in Monroe North Carolina in 1959, the monstrous
3 murders of James Byrd Jr. in 1998 in Jasper, Texas, and the
4 Charleston Massacre (North Carolina) in 2015 continue to
5 resonate with the public; the current wave of protests was
6 ignited by the callous police murder of George Floyd; his
7 execution was preceded by several despicable police murders,
8 including Eric Garner, Tamir Rice, and Breonna Taylor and the
9 contemporary lynching of Ahmaud Aubrey; and

10 WHEREAS, As quoted by the statement by certain Special
11 Procedures at HRC urgent debate on police violence against
12 people of African descent and peaceful protesters,
13 "[African-Americans] in the United States, the domestic legal
14 system has utterly failed to acknowledge and confront racial
15 injustice and discrimination. This injustice and
16 discrimination is so deeply entrenched in law enforcement that
17 even during this period of uprising, reports continue of
18 extrajudicial killings of Black people by the police. This
19 injustice and discrimination also affects other racial and
20 ethnic minorities. Despite several decades of policing reform,
21 executive intervention, and judicial oversight, this violence
22 and racial injustice persists."; therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
24 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that

1 the situation in the United States requires an international
2 response that can help ensure that people of African descent in
3 this country are no longer subject to the routine but egregious
4 violations; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That we urge the United Nations Human Rights
6 Council to pass a resolution denouncing and charging the United
7 States with the crime of genocide against its Black population;
8 and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That we call upon the U.N. General Assembly under
10 the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of
11 Genocide "to assure the safety of the 42 million Black people
12 in the U.S."; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That suitable copies be delivered to the member
14 states of the United Nations Human Rights Council, the
15 President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker
16 of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of
17 the U.S. Senate, and to each Senator and Representative in the
18 United States Congress.