

NAACP Milwaukee Branch: Abolish slavery in Wisconsin

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Dear Elected Officials:

As we commemorate Juneteenth Day today, a day commemorating this day in 1865 when General Gordon Granger led thousands of federal troops to Galveston, Texas to announce that the Civil War had ended and slaves had been freed. Three weeks ago, we watched in dismay as the life of George Floyd was squeezed from his body by Officer Derek Chauvin who placed his knee on Mr. Floyd's neck while excreting pressure for eight minutes and forty-eight seconds. This action started a chain reaction that reverberated around the world.

People have been calling for the end of systematic racism and police reform that has stemmed from American's original sin, "Chattel Slavery". Confederate monuments have been removed from prominent places, which were erected both in the United States and abroad.

We the members of this community are calling on a much more significant act of healing the aggressions of the past against African-Americans who are being victimized by the remnants of this white supremacy ideology and are asking you to stand up against this repressive system. We are also asking that slavery be abolished once and forever in the State of Wisconsin.

Remove Section Two of Article One of the Wisconsin State Constitution, which states: "There shall be neither slavery, nor involuntary servitude in this state, otherwise than for the punishment of crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted." It is time to completely condemn this promotion of a white supremacy system of hate and bigotry that has caused such anguish in this country once and for all.

If Mars Inc., maker of Uncle Ben's rice, and Quaker Oats, maker of Aunt Jemima syrup, can see that the perpetuation of supporting the antiquated false teaching of the antebellum south are divisive stereotypes that are disrespectful at the least are damaging: CAN'T YOU?

Please support legislation for the immediate removal of the divisive language that supports a system whose legacy is causing such division in our state and our country.

Sincerely,

Rev. Willie Brisco

ACLU Wisconsin

YWCA Southeast Wisconsin

Darryl Morin President/Chairman of the Board Forward Latino

Ellen Gilligan President/CEO Greater Milwaukee Foundation

Fred Royal, Jr., President NAACP Milwaukee Branch