



CALIFORNIA
REPARATIONS
TASK FORCE
COMMUNICATIONS

JANUARY ACTIVITIES

- Booked and coordinated Media interviews for Task Force Members
- Conducted media outreach for San Diego public meeting participation
- Conducted media coaching and messaging
- Developing social media content and calendar for Communications Committee review and Task Force approval

JANUARY ACTIVITIES

- Initiated planning for potential February and May communications and education events
- Developed Master PowerPoint presentation of Interim Report Executive Summary

Interim Report – Executive Summary PowerPoint

- Master PowerPoint presentation has been developed, reviewed by the Communications Committee, and presented for Task Force approval.
- This is a baseline format of how the individual chapters (1-13) of the Interim Report will be presented.
- PowerPoint provides a tool for the Task Force members to utilize in their in-person presentations, as well as posting on their individual websites.
- The PowerPoint includes notes to provide the presenter with additional talking points for reference.

Interim Report – Executive Summary PowerPoint

The Executive Summary PowerPoint consists of 3 Key Topics

- Description of statute AB 3121
- Reparations Task Forces responsibilities and members
- Interim Report Executive Summary
 - Interim Report Overview
 - Identified Harms with National vs California impacts
 - Key Findings of the Task Force
 - Access information for the Interim Report document



Assembly Bill 3121 (Weber)

**Task Force to Study and
Develop Reparation Proposals
for African Americans**

Assembly Bill 3121

Constitutionally and statutorily sanctioned from 1619 to 1865, the institution of slavery is inextricably woven into the establishment, history, and prosperity of the United States.

Enslavement deprived more than four million Africans and their descendants of life, liberty, citizenship, cultural heritage, and economic opportunity.

Following abolition, government entities at the federal, state, and local levels continued to perpetuate, condone, and often profit from practices that brutalized African Americans and excluded them from meaningful participation in society.

The legacy of slavery and racial discrimination has resulted in debilitating economic, educational, and health hardships that are uniquely experienced by African Americans.

Assembly Bill 3121

Assembly Bill 3121 (AB 3121) was enacted on September 30, 2020.

It established the Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans with support from the California Department of Justice providing administrative, technical, and legal assistance to the Task Force.

California is the first state in the nation to launch a Reparations Task Force to determine what California owes to African American Californians.

Assembly Bill 3121

The Nine-Member Task Force:

- **Charge:** study the institution of slavery and its lingering negative effects on society and on living Black Americans, including descendants of persons enslaved in the United States
- **Collect evidence:** of the capture, procurement, and transportation of Africans for the purpose of enslavement; the domestic trade of trafficked Black Americans; the treatment of enslaved people; the denial of humanity and the abuse of Black Americans; and the discrimination and lingering negative effects that followed the United States and CA
- **Recommend:** appropriate remedies of compensation, rehabilitation, and restitution for Black Americans, with a special consideration for descendants of persons enslaved in the United States;
- **Concludes:** its assessment and recommendations July 1, 2023.

Reparations Task Force

By statute, the Task Force consists of nine members.

- **Five** appointed by the Governor
- **Two** appointed by the President pro Tempore of the Senate
- **Two** appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly



Dr. Amos Brown



Dr. Cheryl Grills



Lisa Holder



Dr. Jovan Scott Lewis



Donald K. Tamaki



Senator Steve Bradford



Councilmember Monica
Montgomery Steppe



Assemblymember
Reginal Jones-Sawyer



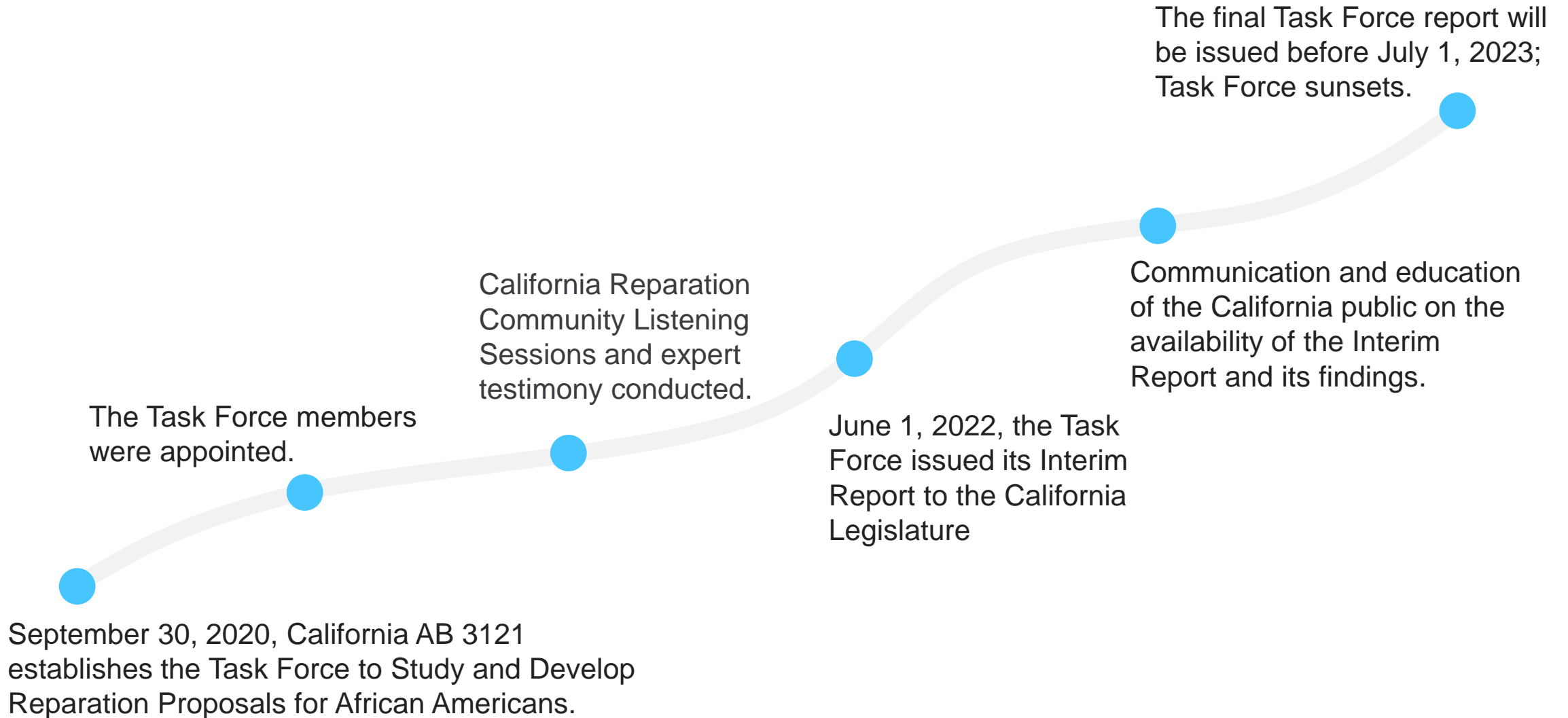
Kamilah Moore, Chair

Assembly Bill 3121

The Task Force must:

- 1. Issue** an Interim Reparations Report to the California Legislature and hold periodic public information hearings
 - The first phase of an extensive process before the bill is presented to both houses, and before the governor signs it into law
- 2. Study and examine** the institution of slavery and its lingering negative effects on living African Americans, including descendants of persons enslaved in the United States and on society.
- 3. Recommend** appropriate compensation, rehabilitation, and restitution remedies for African Americans, with special consideration for descendants of persons enslaved in the United States.

Task Force Timeline



Task Force Accomplishments

1. Convened 11 public hearings since June 2021
2. Led by the Ralph Bunche Center at UCLA and implemented by 7 anchor organizations, hosted 17 community listening sessions engaging 867 people across the state. In conjunction, a statewide random sample survey was conducted as well as community surveys inclusive of listening session attendees.
 - Here is the link to the listening session final report and survey findings <https://drive.google.com/file/d/13h5-iJSIPq6FtMzifGgIP2CxEGclpV0z/view>
3. Collaborated with local government reparations efforts in CA

Task Force Accomplishments

4. Enlisted technical support from a team of economists to develop metrics to calculate costs associated with various forms of reparations
5. Surveyed District Attorneys' Offices and Courts in 58 counties re: data they collect to determine racial bias in criminal justice administration decisions
6. Interim Report
7. Begun to receive endorsements of the Interim Report
 - Endorsement examples include: Japanese American Bar Association, The Association of Black Psychologists



California Task Force to Study and Develop
Reparation Proposals for African Americans
INTERIM REPORT

Interim Report

- On June 1, 2022, the Task Force issued its Interim Report to the California Legislature.
- The Report surveys the ongoing and compounding harms experienced by African Americans as a result of enslavement and its lingering effects on American society today.
- The Report also includes a set of preliminary recommendations for policies that the California Legislature could adopt to remedy those harms.
- The Final Report will be issued July 1, 2023.

Interim Report

The identified harms and associated 13 chapters are:

1. Introduction
2. Enslavement
3. Racial Terror
4. Political Disenfranchisement
5. Housing Segregation
6. Separate and Unequal Education
7. Racism in Environment and Infrastructure
8. Pathologizing the Black Family
9. Control Over Creative Cultural and Intellectual Life
10. Stolen Labor and Hindered Opportunity
11. An Unjust Legal System
12. Mental and Physical Harm and Neglect
13. The Wealth Gap

Harms - Enslavement

Nationally

- The foundation of America's wealth was built upon trafficked African peoples and their descendants—built by their forced labor and their bodies as they were bought and sold as commodities.

California

- Despite California entering the Union in 1850 as a free state, its early state government supported slavery.³⁶
- Some scholars estimate that up to 1,500 enslaved African Americans lived in California in 1852.³⁸
- In 1852, California passed and enforced a fugitive slave law that was harsher than the federal fugitive slave law, making California more proslavery than most other free states.⁴²

Harms – Racial Terror

Nationally

- After slavery, white Americans, frequently aided by the government, maintained the badges of slavery by carrying out violence and intimidation against African Americans for decades.⁴⁵
- Racial terror pervaded every aspect of post-slavery Black life and prevented African Americans from building the same wealth and political influence as white Americans.⁴⁶

California

- Supported by their government, ordinary citizens also terrorized and murdered Black Californians.⁵⁵ The Ku Klux Klan (KKK) established local chapters all over the state in the 1920s.⁵⁶
- Today, police violence against and extrajudicial killings of African Americans occur in California in the same manner as they do in the rest of the country.⁶¹

Harms – Political Disenfranchisement

Nationally

- African Americans have pursued equal political participation since before the Civil War, but the federal, state, and local governments of the United States have suppressed and continue to suppress Black votes and Black political power.⁶²

California

- California also passed and enforced laws to prevent Black Californians from accumulating political power.⁸¹
- California passed a law prohibiting non-white witnesses from testifying against white Californians.⁸²
- California did not allow Black men to vote until 1879.⁸⁵

Harms – Housing Segregation

Nationally

- America's racial hierarchy was the foundation for a system of segregation in the United States after the Civil War.⁸⁹ The aim of segregation was not only to separate, but also to force African Americans to live in worse conditions in nearly every aspect of life.⁹⁰

California

- In California, the federal, state, and local government created segregation through redlining, zoning ordinances, decisions on where to build schools and highways and discriminatory federal mortgage policies.¹⁰³
- California “sundown towns,” (a term derived from municipal signs announcing that African Americans must leave by dusk), prohibited African Americans from living in entire cities throughout the state.¹⁰⁴

Harms – Housing Segregation

Nationally

- The federal government used redlining to deny African Americans equal access to the capital needed to buy a single-family home while at the same time subsidizing white Americans' efforts to own the same type of home.⁹⁷

California

- Racially-restrictive covenants were commonplace and California courts enforced them well into the 1940s.¹¹¹
- Numerous neighborhoods around the state rezoned Black neighborhoods for industrial use to steer white residents towards better neighborhoods.¹¹²

Harms – Separate and Unequal Education

Nationally

- Through much of American history, enslavers and the white political ruling class in America falsely believed it was in their best interest to deny education to African Americans in order to dominate and control them.

California

- In 1874, the California Supreme Court ruled segregation in the state's public schools was legal.¹²⁹
- In 1966, as the South was in the process of desegregating, 85 percent of Black Californians attended predominantly minority schools, and only 12 percent of Black students and 39 percent of white students attended racially balanced schools.¹³¹

Harms – Separate and Unequal Education

Nationally

- Contrary to what Americans are taught, the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark 1954 case, *Brown v. Board of Education*, which established that racial segregation in public schools is unconstitutional, did not mark the end of segregation.¹²³

California

- The vast majority of California school districts either re-segregated or were never integrated;
- California remains the sixth most segregated state in the country for Black students.¹³⁵
- Schools mostly attended by white and Asian children receive more funding and resources than schools with predominately Black and Latino children.¹³⁶

Harms – Racism in Environment and Infrastructure

Nationally

- Due to residential segregation, African Americans have lived in poor-quality housing throughout American history, exposing them to disproportionate amounts of lead poisoning and increasing risk of infectious disease.¹³⁷

California

- National patterns are replicated in California. Black Californians are more likely than white Californians to live in overcrowded housing, and near hazardous waste.¹⁴⁰
- Black neighborhoods are more likely to lack tree canopy¹⁴¹ and suffer from the consequences of water¹⁴² and air pollution.¹⁴³

Harms - Pathologizing the Black Family

Nationally

- Government policies and practices—at all levels—have destroyed Black families throughout American history.
- In the past century, state and federal government financial assistance and child welfare systems have based decisions on racist beliefs created to maintain slavery and which continue to operate today as badges of slavery.¹⁴⁹

California

- California trends in the child welfare, juvenile justice and disciplinary action in schools match those in the rest of the country.
- A 2015 study ranked California among the five worst states in foster care racial disparities.¹⁶¹
- Black children in California make up approximately 22 percent of the foster population, while only six percent of the general child population.¹⁶² far higher than the national percentages.¹⁶³

Harms - Pathologizing the Black Family

Nationally

- Scholars have found that racial discrimination exists at every stage of the child welfare process.¹⁵²
- The data show that when equally poor Black and white families are compared, even where both families are at equal risk for future abuse, state agencies are more likely to remove Black children from their families than white children.¹⁵³

California

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Harms - Control Over Creative Cultural and Intellectual Life

Nationally

- During slavery, state governments controlled and dictated the forms and content of African American artistic and cultural production.¹⁶⁵
- Federal and state governments failed to protect Black artists and creators from discrimination and simultaneously promoted discriminatory narratives.¹⁶⁸

California

- In California, city governments decimated thriving Black neighborhoods with vibrant artistic communities, like the Fillmore in San Francisco.¹⁷³
- Local governments in California have discriminated against, punished, and penalized Black students for their fashion, hairstyle, and appearance.¹⁷⁴
- State-funded California museums have excluded Black art from their institutions.¹⁷⁵

Harms - Stolen Labor & Hindered Opportunity

Nationally

- It is undeniable that the labor of enslaved Africans built the infrastructure of the nation, produced its main agricultural products for domestic consumption and export, and filled the nation's coffers.¹⁷⁸
- Federal laws have also protected white workers while denying the same protections to Black workers, empowering private discrimination.¹⁸²

California

- Several California cities did not hire Black workers until the 1940s and certain public sectors continued to avoid hiring Black workers even in 1970.¹⁸⁸
- During the New Deal, several California cities invoked city ordinances to prevent Black federal workers from working within their cities.¹⁹⁰
- Labor unions excluded Black workers in California.¹⁹¹

Harms - An Unjust Legal System

Nationally

- The criminalization of African Americans is an enduring badge of slavery and has contributed to over policing of Black neighborhoods, establishment of the school-to-prison pipeline, the mass incarceration of African Americans, and numerous other inequities reaching every corner of the American legal system.¹⁹⁸

California

- Like the rest of the country, California stops, shoots, kills, and imprisons more African Americans than their share of the population.²⁰⁶
- A 2020 study showed that racial discrimination is an “ever-present” feature of jury selection in California.²⁰⁸
- The effects of California’s punitive criminal justice policies, such as the state’s three-strikes law, have resulted in large numbers of African Americans in jails and prisons.²⁰⁹

Harms - Mental and Physical Harm and Neglect

Nationally

- The government actions described in this report have had a devastating effect on the health of African Americans.
- Compared to white Americans, African Americans live shorter lives and are more likely to suffer and die from nearly all known diseases and medical conditions compared to white Americans.²¹⁰

California

- The life expectancy of an average Black Californian was 75.1 years, six years shorter than the state average.²¹⁸
- Black babies are more likely to die in infancy and Black mothers giving birth die at a rate of almost four times higher than the average Californian mother.²¹⁹

Harms - The Wealth Gap

Nationally

- Federal and California Homestead Acts essentially gave away hundreds of millions of acres of land almost for free mostly to white families.²²⁴
- Today, as many as 46 million of their living descendants reap the wealth benefits, approximately one-quarter of the adult population of the United States.²²⁵

California

- The wealth gap exists in similar ways in California. A 2014 study of the Los Angeles metro area found that the median value of liquid assets for native born African American households was \$200, compared to \$110,000 for white households.²³³

Harms - The Wealth Gap

Nationally

- The wealth gap is the same today as it had been two years before the Civil Rights Act was passed in 1964.²³⁰
- In 2019, the median Black household had a net worth of \$24,100, while white households have a net worth of \$188,200.²³¹
- This wealth gap persists across all income levels, regardless of education level or family structure.²³²

California

- California's homestead laws similarly excluded African Americans before 1900 because they required a homesteader to be a white citizen.²³⁴
- Throughout the 20th century, federal, state and local governments in California erected barriers to Black homeownership and supported or directly prohibited African Americans from living in suburban neighborhoods.²³⁵

Key Findings

- From colonial times forward, governments at all levels adopted and enshrined white supremacy beliefs and passed laws to maintain slavery, a system of dehumanization and exploitation that stole the life, labor, liberty, and intellect of people of African descent.
- This system of white supremacy is a persistent badge of enslavement that continues to be embedded today in numerous American and California legal, economic, and social and political systems.
- California ignored its own status as a non-slave state and allowed Black people brought to CA by enslavers to remain enslaved
 - It was complicit with enslavement and subjugation.

Key Findings

- Government actions and derelictions of duty have caused compounding physical and psychological injury for generations.
- After the Civil War, African Americans briefly won political power during Reconstruction. Southern states responded by systematically stripping African Americans of their power to vote.
- These coordinated efforts at the federal level harmed Black Californians, particularly when coupled with discrimination at the state and local levels.

Key Findings

- In California, federal, state, and local governments created segregation through discriminatory federal housing policies, zoning ordinances, decisions on where to build schools, and discriminatory federal mortgage policies known as redlining.
- California illegally ignored Black families' land deeds; enforced housing segregation, allowed vigilantes to burn down Black homes, and forced Black families to move from the homes they owned.
- Throughout American history, when allowed schooling at all, Black students across the country and in California attended schools with less funding and resources than White students.

Key Findings

- Due to residential segregation and compared to white Americans, African Americans are more likely to live in worse quality housing and in polluted neighborhoods, with inadequate infrastructure.
- Government financial assistance programs and policies have historically excluded African Americans from receiving benefits.

Key Findings

- The current child welfare system in the country and in California, operates on harmful racial stereotypes of African Americans.
- Federal and state governments, including California, failed to protect Black artists, culture-makers, and media-makers from discrimination and simultaneously promoted discriminatory narratives.

Key Findings

- Federal, state, and local government actions, including in California, directly segregated and discriminated against African Americans at work.
- American government at all levels, including in California, historically criminalized African Americans for the purposes of social control, and to maintain an economy based on exploited Black labor.

Key Findings

- Government actions have had a devastating effect on the health of African Americans in the country and in California.
 - For example, African Americans live shorter lives and are more likely to suffer and die from almost all diseases and medical conditions than White Americans.
- Government laws and policies perpetuating badges of enslavement have helped White Americans accumulate wealth, while erecting barriers that have prevented African Americans from doing the same.

In Conclusion

Detailed information regarding AB 3121, the Reparations Task Force, and the Interim Report can be found at the California Department of Justice website.

<https://oag.ca.gov/ab3121>

The website provides links to download copies of AB 3121 and the Interim Report for your review.

AB 3121: [Link to Full Text of the AB 3121](#)

Interim Report: [2022 Interim Report of the Task Force](#)

Thank you.