



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New York State Community Commission on Reparations Remedies to hold public hearing in Harlem

Community invited to share testimonies on the impact of slavery

ALBANY, N.Y. — The New York State Community Commission on Reparations Remedies (NYSCCRR) will hold a public hearing in Harlem, NY on **Tuesday, June 11, 2025**, from **4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** at the **Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture** (515 Malcolm X Boulevard, New York, NY 10037).

As part of a statewide series of Reparations hearings, this event invites New Yorkers to speak directly to the Commission about the legacy of slavery and systemic discrimination in New York State. The Harlem hearing, themed “**The Impact of Slavery: From Wall Street to Harlem,**” will begin with Commission updates and continue with an open testimony period, where attendees are encouraged to share personal stories, historical accounts, and proposals for reparative justice.

The public will also have the opportunity to meet some of the Commissioners. Appointed from across the state, the Commission’s nine members bring expertise in history, policy, education, and grassroots organizing. The Commission on Reparations Remedies is tasked with examining the legacy of slavery, subsequent discrimination against people of African descent, and the impact these forces continue to have in the present day. Their mandate is to provide an evidence-based report on reparations remedies to the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

“This Commission is committed to hearing the testimonies of people across the state of New York about the harms and impact of slavery that they have experienced,” said Dr. Hawkins. “Harlem, as a historic epicenter of Black culture and political power, is an especially important place for this conversation. We welcome all voices—residents, historians, youth, elders, and advocates—to share their truths and help the Commission shape a just path forward.”

The NYSCCRR was created by **Senate Bill S1163A**, sponsored by **Assembly Member Michaëlle Solages** and **Senator James Sanders Jr.** and signed into law by **Governor Kathy Hochul in 2023**. The law marks a historic milestone in New York’s efforts to reckon with its role in the trans-Atlantic slave trade and to confront the long-term consequences of racial injustice.



Those who are unable to attend in person may submit written or audio testimony via email at ReparationsCommission@reparations.ny.gov or leave a voicemail by calling **518-473-3997**.

To learn more about the Commission, access resources, or view previous meetings, visit www.ny.gov/reparations.