

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 6, 2026

New York State Community Commission on Reparations Remedies Kicks Off New Year with Business Meetings and Public Hearing

Commission to convene in Yonkers, Rochester, and Binghamton

ALBANY, New York – The New York State Community Commission on Reparations Remedies (NYSCCRR) will hold business meetings and continue its statewide series of public hearings in January 2026, with sessions planned in Yonkers, Rochester, and Binghamton.

The Commission will first convene for business meetings on Friday, Jan. 9, 2026, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at two locations:

- Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site, 29 Warburton Ave, Yonkers, NY 10701
- Urban League of Rochester, 265 N Clinton Ave, Rochester, NY 14605

Following the business meetings, the NYSCCRR will host a public hearing on Saturday, Jan. 17, 2026, from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at American Legion Post 80, 76 Main Street, Binghamton, NY 13904. Community members are invited to share experiences, insights, and testimony to help shape the Commission's recommendations on reparations remedies in New York State.

"We're starting the New Year with many opportunities for New Yorkers to learn more about the Commission and to get involved," said Dr. Seanelle Hawkins, Chair of the NYSCCRR. "The Commission has listened to what the people want. We're holding business meetings at two different locations to maximize participation, and for the first time, our public hearing will take place on a Saturday. These changes reflect our commitment to making it easier for community members to attend and have their voices heard."

The public hearing will begin with brief updates from the Commission, followed by public testimony. Community members, advocates, researchers, faith leaders, and families affected by the lasting impacts of slavery, discrimination, and systemic inequities are encouraged to attend and share personal experiences, documentation, or reparatory proposals.

EVENT DETAILS

Business Meetings:

- Date: Friday, Jan. 9, 2026
- Time: 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Locations:

- Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site, 29 Warburton Ave, Yonkers, NY 10701 [[Click to get directions](#)]
- Urban League of Rochester, 265 N Clinton Ave, Rochester, NY 14605 [[Click to get directions](#)]

Public Hearing:

Date: Saturday, Jan. 17, 2026

Time: 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: American Legion Post 80, 76 Main Street, Binghamton, NY 13904

[\[Click to get directions\]](#)

Guest Speakers:

- Anne C. Bailey, Professor; Director at the Harriet Tubman Center for Freedom and Equity
- Kamilah V. Moore, Esq., former Chair of the California Repatriations Task Force

Watch Online: Streaming link will be available at www.ny.gov/reparations

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Community members can learn more details at www.ny.gov/reparations.

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

To learn more about the Commission, access past hearing materials, or follow NYSCCRR updates, visit www.ny.gov/reparations and follow the Commission on social media:

- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/nysccrr>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/nysccrr>
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/new-york-state-community-commission-on-reparations-remedies>

ABOUT THE COMMISSION

The NYSCCRR was established by Senate Bill S1163A, introduced by Sen. James Sanders Jr. and Assembly Member Michaele Solages, and signed into law by Gov. Kathy Hochul in 2023. The Commission's mandate is to study the economic, social, and political impacts of slavery and systemic racism in New York State and produce an evidence-based report of reparations recommendations to the governor and state legislature.

MEDIA CONTACT

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