



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

James Sanders Jr.

New York's Groundbreaking Commission on Reparations: A New Dawn for Justice

JOSHUA GREEN July 30, 2024

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Albany, NY - The New York State Community Commission on Reparations Remedies convened its inaugural meeting today, marking a significant step forward in addressing the legacy of slavery, subsequent discrimination against people of African descent, and the ongoing impact of these injustices.

Governor Kathy Hochul signed bill S.1163-A/A.7691, sponsored by Senator James Sanders Jr. and Assemblymember Michaelle C. Solages, on December 19, 2023, establishing the Commission. The Commission is charged with examining the historical and present-day consequences of slavery and discrimination, with the goal of developing recommendations for reparative justice.

Meet the Reparations Commission members:

- **Jennifer Jones Austin**, CEO and Executive Director of FPWA, an anti-poverty policy and advocacy nonprofit.
- **Timothy R. Hogues**, Commissioner for the Department of Civil Service and President of the Civil Service Commission.
- **Linda Brown-Robinson**, Immediate Past President of the Syracuse Onondaga NAACP and NYS NAACP Western Region Director.
- **Darrick Hamilton, Ph.D.**, University Professor and founding director of the Institute on Race, Power and Political Economy at The New School.
- **Linda Tarrant-Reid**, author, historian, and Executive Director of The Lincoln Park Conservancy.
- **Seanelle Hawkins**, President and CEO of the Urban League of Rochester.
- **Dr. Ron Daniels**, Founder and President of the Institute of the Black World 21st Century and Convener of the National African American Reparations Commission
- **Lurie Daniel Favors, Esq.**, Executive Director at the Center for Law and Social Justice at Medgar Evers College
- **Rev. Dr. Deborah D. Jenkins**, Founding Pastor of Faith at Work Christian Church and NYPD Clergy Liaison.

Senator James Sanders Jr., a staunch advocate for reparative justice, expressed his support for the Commission's work. "Today marks a pivotal moment in our ongoing fight for justice and equality. The establishment of this Commission is a testament to our commitment to address the deep-rooted injustices that have plagued our society for centuries. I am confident that the esteemed members of this Commission will work diligently to develop meaningful and impactful recommendations for reparations."

The Commission's first meeting set the stage for a comprehensive examination of the systemic issues stemming from slavery and discrimination. The members discussed their initial plans for research, public engagement, and collaboration with various stakeholders to ensure a thorough and inclusive process.

The work of the New York State Community Commission on Reparations Remedies is crucial in moving towards a more just and equitable society. The Commission will continue to hold regular meetings and public forums to gather input and insights from affected communities and experts in the field.