

National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America to meet in Detroit



Detroit, June 14 (RHC)-- N'COBRA, the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America, will be hosting its 30th annual national convention from June 20th through the 23rd in Detroit. The conference theme, "400 Years of Terror: A Debt Still Owed!" will focus on a process of "full repair" after four centuries of enslavement.

Established in 1987, N'COBRA is a coalition of organizations and individuals organized for the sole purpose of obtaining reparations for African descendants in the United States. Kamm Howard, national co-chair of N'COBRA, said the conference will show people what "reparations" looks like.

"A lot of people don't have a clear idea of what reparations are, especially in light of all the presidential candidates' talk that is steadily being generated around reparations. N'COBRA understands that reparations means full repair of our people."

"We have the ability to have the change that we want if we organize to struggle. We want to win reparations in this country within our control and within our power. We have to string more people into the organized struggle for that to take place," he argued. "We're at a very unique time in history. Politically,

this is the first time since Reconstruction that there's been a possibility of having both houses of Congress debate this issue and we want to make sure that that happens.”

The three-day conference will consist of workshops and presentations featuring activists from around the country, a dinner banquet with keynote speaker and Michigan 36th District Court Judge Greg Mathis, visits to the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History and Timbuktu Academy of Science and Technology, and a town hall meeting addressed by Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan of the Nation of Islam.

Dr. Conrad Worrill, a longtime reparations advocate and author, will be a guest speaker at the conference. He told The Final Call that “reparations” doesn’t mean just getting a paycheck.

“I think we’re getting closer to what reparations look like. What, how does that look like legislatively for our people? I think we’re getting closer to a consensus on a different kind of reparations outcome that would be beneficial to Black people in a reparations practice like tuition debt removal, free college education, freeing political prisoners that have been locked up for 40 years. There are a lot of ideas other than just getting a check.”

“N’COBRA has been keeping the idea of reparations alive in this era, and its significance is that the work that N’COBRA has been engaged in, along with many others throughout the country, is resonating with the masses of our people around the idea of reparations and repair for the damages inflicted on our people for over 400 years.”

N’COBRA has been pushing and lobbying for H.R.40, the 115th congressional bill which would establish a Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans to examine slavery and discrimination in the colonies and the United States from 1619 to the present and recommend appropriate remedies.

For over 30 years, N’COBRA has worked to organize and support the resources, legislation and information for the longstanding reparations movement through its campaigns, nine national commissions including Economic Development, Human Resources, Legal Strategies, Legislation, Information and Media, Membership and Organizational Development, International Affairs, Youth and Education; and its seven standing committees, Nomination, Executive, Conference, Fund Development, ASHE, National Office and National Campaign.

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