

New York establishes commission to explore reparations for Black residents

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Introduction

Earlier this year, both the New York State Senate and the State Assembly passed [bills](#) to establish a state-level commission on reparations. The commission would be charged to examine the legacy of slavery and subsequent racial and economic discrimination against African Americans in New York and to make recommendations for potential remedies and reparations.

The bill is part of a wave of efforts around the country to confront the lasting impact of institutional racism on Black families' ability to achieve economic security and build wealth. In 2021, [Evanston, Illinois](#) became the first jurisdiction in the nation to pass a reparations law. To date, the city has disbursed over [\\$1 million](#) in reparations funds to Black residents impacted by the city's history of racial discrimination. In [California](#), a Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans has released its final report to the state legislature and the public. Other efforts to study reparations [emerged](#) in cities like Detroit, Michigan; Amherst, Massachusetts; and St. Paul, Minnesota.

New York, December 20 (RHC)-- New York Governor Kathy Hochul signed a bill creating a commission to consider reparations for Black New York ers who have endured the ongoing legacy of slavery and racism. It's the third state to launch such a taskforce, after California and Illinois.

Among other things, the commission will investigate housing discrimination, policing and incarceration, and income inequality. A recent report by the New York City Comptroller's Office found white households in the state have a median net worth almost 15 times higher than Black households. The commission could recommend monetary or other forms of compensation, though the state would not be compelled to abide by these.

Reverend Al Sharpton spoke at Tuesday's signing ceremony. "I do not know where the commission will go, but I know that history is made, because there is a commission and there is a recognition. And sometimes even if you can't take away the pain and the scar, we gain a lot by being recognized that is due to be repaired."

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