





FRONT LINE

PRIORITIES

Advancing Racial Justice

The ACLU calls on the new administration to confront our country's racist legacy.

The early days of 2021 and a new administration mark a watershed moment—a historic opportunity to address racial injustice in America. At the heart of transformative change are reparations to descendants of the enslaved Africans upon whose backs our country's incredible wealth was built. While no restitution could ever fully compensate for centuries of institutional violence and oppression, reconciliation can be achieved with an honest assessment of how slavery affected economic opportunity, voting rights, and the criminal legal system. The country craves this reckoning, and the time to act is now.

The Biden-Harris administration has a unique opportunity to prioritize racial justice in its first 100 days.

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This tough but necessary national conversation is just part of the path toward restorative justice. The ACLU calls for the Biden-Harris administration to set in motion a comprehensive plan to eradicate the vestiges of colonization, slavery, and Jim Crow, and prioritize political and economic equality.

To achieve true systemic equality, the ACLU asks that the new administration pursue an ambitious agenda that prioritizes racial justice: passing H.R. 40, which would establish a commission to study the impact of slavery and develop proposals for reparations to Black Americans; protecting and advancing voting rights; strengthening fair housing policies; forgiving student loans; and expanding access to broadband to ensure marginalized communities have access to employment and education opportunities.

The ACLU and its affiliates will bring all legal and legislative resources to bear on core issues that disproportionately impact racial minorities, from voter re-enfranchisement efforts in Georgia to the ACLU of Louisiana’s Justice Lab, a litigation effort to combat discriminatory police practices. Police divestment and criminal legal reform at the federal, state, and municipal levels are essential to any substantive redress of institutionalized racism.

“Equality has been a dream turned mirage pursued by many generations of Black Americans,” says ACLU of Georgia Executive Director Andrea Young, whose affiliate has partnered with groups such as the Urban League of Metro Atlanta, Sister-Song, and Black Voters Matter. “Given centuries of relentless exploitation, investments must be made in Black families and communities to remedy the racial wealth gap.”

Advancing democracy requires an honest accounting of racism’s devastation and a full-bodied effort to rebalance political and economic power. We must bring our institutions and policies in line with our stated national values. We call on the administration to seize this moment. —JAY A. FERNANDEZ

Call Congress

Contact your legislators today and urge them to support H.R. 40 and reparations for slavery.

To be connected to your reps, visit [aclu.org/reparations](https://www.aclu.org/reparations).

Militarizing the Police

As people took to the streets last year to protest police brutality, many were met with forces armed with riot gear, tear gas, and rubber bullets. That the police in our communities often look indistinguishable from the military is no accident. Since 1997, the U.S. Department of Defense’s 1033 program has distributed more than \$7.4 billion worth of military weapons to over 8,000 law enforcement agencies.

Local police in the state of Arizona have a staggering cache of weaponry (pictured) secured through the 1033 program, which has long been used to militarize the southern border. Ostensibly obtained for security, the equipment is often diverted to aggressive community enforcement, frequently terrorizing people of color. —CLIO CHANG

Join the ACLU in demanding a moratorium on the 1033 program at [aclu.org/1033](https://www.aclu.org/1033).



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