

**PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS FOR ITS  
VIRTUAL 60<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY SESSION AUGUST 1-5, 2021**

**Resolution Declaring the Displacement of Black People and Black Culture by  
Gentrification and State of Emergency in Black America**

**Whereas**, April 4-6, 2019, in memory of the martyrdom of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., scores of grassroots leaders, community economic development practitioners, urban planners, elected officials, scholars, professional planners, labor, civil rights and faith leaders gathered in Newark, New Jersey for a National Emergency Summit on Gentrification, convened by the Institute of the Black World 21<sup>st</sup> Century under the leadership of Dr. Ron Daniels, President and hosted by Ras J. Baraka, Mayor of Newark

**Whereas** the Summit focused on reversing and overcoming the displacement of Black people and Black culture caused by the devastating impact of Gentrification, which organizers termed “*the Negro Removal Program of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*,”

**Whereas** more than three years have passed and the epidemic of gentrification has intensified and been exacerbated by a COVID-19 Pandemic which has caused Black families to lose huge amounts of land, property and wealth;

**Whereas** the displacement of Black people has adversely affected Black churches in the great urban inner-city centers of this nation, through the loss of parishioners to often hostile outer-city neighborhoods:

**Whereas** Black churches in outer-city neighborhoods bear the burden of addressing the crises caused by the displacement of Black people from urban inner-city neighborhoods;

And, **Whereas**, the displacement and dispersal of Black people contributes to the loss of political power to effectively articulate and promote the interests and aspirations of Black people;

**Whereas** the traumatic displacement of Black people through gentrification disrupts Black cultural and spiritual life and destroys the bonds of “community” among our people;

And, **Whereas**, in the spirit of Nehemiah, we as people of faith seek to rebuild, restore and revitalize our communities and protect them from the destructive forces of gentrification;

**ACTION:**

Therefore, be it resolved that the Progressive National Baptist Convention joins with the Institute of the Black World 21<sup>st</sup> Century in declaring gentrification a **State of Emergency in Black America** which requires a righteous Action Agenda to Demand that the federal government, state and local governments, financial institutions and private philanthropy invest massive

resources to reverse the harmful effects of gentrification to create just, safe, wholesome and sustainable communities;

Be it further resolved that the Progressive National Baptist Convention will establish a Task Force to work with the Institute of the Black World 21<sup>st</sup> Century's Community Restoration Initiative to mobilize grassroots leaders, community economic development practitioners, urban planners, elected officials, scholars, professional planners, labor, civil rights and faith leaders to combat and overcome gentrification as a State of Emergency in Black America;

Be it further resolved that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the African American Mayors Association to endorse this urgent declaration of gentrification as a State of Emergency and with a request that Black Mayors work with the National Community Restoration Initiative to address and overcome the crisis.

## **Resolution Reaffirming Support for HR-40**

**Whereas** the Progressive National Baptist Convention (PNBC) has always supported the multigenerational African American struggle for reparations;

**Whereas** NBC was an initial endorser of HR-40 as originally introduced by the Honorable John Conyers, Jr. in 1989 and has reaffirmed our support in every National Convention thereafter;

**Whereas** the torch of leadership as the Lead Sponsor for HR-40 has been passed to the visionary Congresswoman from Houston, Texas, the Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee; and the bill has been transformed from a study bill to a remedy act which will establish a Commission to Study and Develop Proposals for Reparations for African Americans;

**Whereas** Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee has adopted the theme of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's seminal book: Why We Can't Wait, written after the historic March on Washington in 1963, which was a moment of reckoning and inflection in America;

**Whereas** the public lynching of George Floyd and the onslaught of the COVID-19 Pandemic have precipitated another moment of national reckoning in this nation;

**Whereas** Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee has correctly and urgently proclaimed that reparations are the only overarching policy prescription which addresses and treats the maladies of white supremacy and structural/institutional racism and the centuries of injuries, harm and trauma inflicted on African Americans;

### **ACTION:**

Be it therefore resolved that the Progressive National Baptist Convention joins with Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee and reparations advocates around the nation in the urgent demand, that in this moment of national reckoning/inflection, HR-40 be enacted now by legislation of Presidential Executive Order,

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House, Steny Hoyer, Majority Leader, James Clyburn, Majority Whip and President Joe Biden as an urgent expression of Why African Americans Can't Wait for Reparations.

## **Resolution on Covid-19 and Health Equity for Africans in the USA and in the Diaspora**

**Whereas** COVID -19 is a global pandemic with disproportionate impacts on African Americans, Indigenous, Latin X, Africans in the Diaspora and People of Color in communities around the world.

**Whereas** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, adjusting for age differences, estimates that African Americans, Latin X and Native Americans are 2-3 times more likely to than European Americans to die of COVID-19.

**Whereas** The COVID-19 disease has claimed over 4 million lives worldwide, represents the greatest medical and public health challenge in decades. In the United States, there have been over 35 million cases and over 620,000 deaths.

**Whereas** The coronavirus disease COVID-19 pandemic underscored the deep inequities in our health care system. The effects of COVID-19 on the health and well-being of individuals are greater among those living with underlying chronic conditions such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and lung disease.

**Whereas** Persistent social determinants further compound the negative effects that COVID-19 has on people with a chronic condition. Examples of social determinants of health that exacerbate disparities in health outcomes include unstable housing, limited access to nutritious food, inadequate transportation, and low socioeconomic status.

**Whereas**, the disproportionately high levels serious illness, hospitalization and death of among Black people reflect, housing, the nature of employment, often deemed essential, and job conditions, as well as an inequitable distribution of health resources and persistent gaps in insurance coverage. We must relentlessly work toward and transparently invest in inclusive health systems that address the prevention of disease, wellness and not just sickness.

**Whereas**, Africa is mounting a valiant COVID response led by the Africa CDC, community-based programs, effective contact tracing, and knowledge of infectious diseases

**Whereas**, many aspects of healthcare in Africa continue to face systemic neglect, inadequate funding and an extreme shortage of skilled healthcare workers.

**Whereas**, it is vital for creative investments in critical health infrastructure in Africa and throughout the world

**Whereas**, we applaud the Biden-Harris Administration's decision to rejoin the World Health Organization (WHO), reinstate funding and find ways to protect the WHO and similar institutions from the political chopping block with changing administrations.

**ACTION:**

*Be it resolved* the PNBC supports sustainable and equitable healthcare across Africa

*Therefore, be it resolved*, that the *U.S.* Provide financial and technical support to COVAX to ensure equitable, just, safe and efficient distribution of COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 vaccines to African countries.

*Therefore, be it resolved*, that the Administration requires companies that receive U.S. funding to pool intellectual property and provide technology transfer so that production of life saving vaccines, diagnostics, and treatments can also occur on the African continent.

*Therefore, be it resolved*, that the Administration launch a presidential-level, whole-of-government global pandemics initiative, thus supporting countries in Africa and elsewhere to fight today's pandemics, i.e., COVID-19, HIV, and TB while preparing for the pandemics of the future, including those driven by climate change.

*Therefore, be it resolved*, that the Administration supports African governments to invest in sexual and reproductive health services to reduce maternal and child mortality and prevent gender-based violence.

*Therefore, be it resolved, that the Administration provides funding* to build infrastructure for local production of health machines and tools such as disease testing kits, PPEs, ventilators, dialysis machines, and MRI and scan machines

Be it further resolved, that the Progressive National Baptist Convention encourages its pastors and church members to get vaccinated as soon as possible as an act of love and Justice. and calls on its Health Ministries Department to engage with the Health Ministries of its member Churches to develop strategies and community engagement models for faith-based collaboration on health equity issues that are promoted by the World Health Organization (WHO).

## **Resolutions on Africa**

**Whereas** the historic election of Joseph R. Biden Jr as the 46<sup>th</sup> President of the United States of America and Kamala Harris, first female and first African American woman as the 49<sup>th</sup> Vice President, presents incredible opportunities to “Build Back Better” the intrinsic relationship between the United States and Africa and improve on the lives of people of African descent;

**Whereas** a renewed spirit of Pan Africanism is gaining strength within the continent and the Diaspora;

**Whereas** we draw inspiration from the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union’s *The Africa We Want 2063 Strategic Plan* among others;

### **ACTION:**

***Be it resolved***, that the Progressive National Baptist Convention proactively affirms a commitment to engaging and demanding a more just U.S. foreign policy agenda for Africa and the African diaspora. We challenge Americans in general and Christians in particular to join hands in advocating for justice, peace, and dignity for Africa and people of African ancestry throughout the world. We reject a racist worldview which closed off opportunities for Africa to hold its rightful place at the table of humanity.

## **Resolution on U.S. Leadership in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in Africa**

**WHEREAS**, PNBC and other people of faith publicly and consistently reiterate that promoting human rights and democratic governance must be imbedded in U.S. policy

**WHEREAS** the Biden Harris Administration has begun to review its bilateral relationships with African countries;

**WHEREAS** the PNBC challenges Americans in general and Christians in particular to join hands in advocating for justice, and

**WHEREAS** The United States should uphold international human rights and humanitarian principles while also respecting national sovereignty in Africa and throughout the African Diaspora.

### **ACTION:**

*Be it resolved*, that the Progressive National Baptist Convention proactively affirms a commitment to engaging and demanding a more just U.S. foreign policy agenda for Africa and the African diaspora. in countries with various ethnicities, as criteria for assistance to those countries.

*Be it resolved*, that the Progressive National Baptist Convention calls for the use, adherence, and commitment to democratic rule, including the importance of inclusive governance

*Therefore, be it resolved*, that the U.S. forcefully speak out against torture carried out by African security forces, and in compliance with the Leahy law, suspend security assistance to countries that fail to conduct credible investigations into alleged human rights violations or hold persons responsible accountable.

*Therefore, be it resolved*, that the PNBC demands increased transparency and adherence to human rights criteria for all US arms sales and military transfers to Africa.

*Therefore, be it resolved*, that the U.S. Congress increases the international affairs budget to 2016 levels and starts with a focus on providing robust support for a) humanitarian needs, b) civil society and c) capacity building for programs that strengthen the rule of law.

*Therefore, be it resolved*, that the U.S. Reclaim leadership in global disaster response and assistance. This includes balancing the demands of responding directly to COVID-19 while also supporting and expanding provision of essential GBV (Gender Based Violence) services: prevention and protection, clinical response, and legal and psycho-social support for survivors

*Therefore, be it resolved*, the U.S. Government works with African Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and US-based NGOs to underscore the importance of good governance, publicly

opposing the spread or escalation of violence particularly before, during and immediately after elections in Africa.

*Therefore, be it resolved*, that the Biden-Harris Administration immediately lifts the sanctions against International Criminal Court Chief Prosecutors and instruct all US government agencies to cooperate with and support the efforts of the ICC when and where possible.

*Therefore, be it resolved*, that the U.S. supports freedom of expression and access to information; oppose blanket internet blackouts; and also helps train African governments and CSOs on mitigating hate speech and speech that leads to violence.



## **Resolution on Inclusive Economic Development in Africa**

**WHEREAS**, the PNBC urges the Biden-Harris administration to prioritize human-centered, inclusive development and global well-being in U.S. - Africa policy.

**WHEREAS**, the PNBC Supports Africa's Agenda for Global Development

**WHEREAS**, President Biden acknowledged that "trickle-down economics has never worked"

**WHEREAS**, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the climate catastrophe, and heightened inequality among and between countries, U.S. Government should put an end to austerity programs and embrace more social-services-oriented economies.

**WHEREAS**, the developing world loses an estimated trillion dollars a year to illicit financial flows (IFFs) which introduce a fundamental barrier to equitable economic development, decent work, and shared prosperity

### **ACTION:**

**Be it resolved**, that the PNBC urges the Administration to align U.S. policy with the African Union's Agenda 2063 as well as the Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) for peace and prosperity in Africa and beyond.

**Therefore, be it resolved**, that we call for the rejection of bilateral or bi-national trade agreements advanced during the Trump Administration and encourage the Biden-Harris Administration to fully support the African Continental Free Trade Agreement.

**Therefore, be it resolved**, that the U.S. redirect funds from the more than \$1 trillion dollar DOD budget (including resources from the 800 U.S. bases abroad into a 'Marshall Plan' for development in Africa that begins to provide reparations for the centuries of colonialism, slavery, and other forms of exploitation that have been inflicted on the continent.

**Therefore, be it resolved**, that the Administration ensures that any reauthorization of the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) -African Women's Entrepreneurship Program (AWEP) recommits to core goals of eliminating extreme poverty, creating good jobs, promoting women's and youth economic empowerment, curbing inequality. Commit to negotiating AGOA and all other trade agreements in direct consultation with African workers, trade unions, men, women, and all people whose lives, health, and environment will be impacted by these agreements.

**Be it resolved**, that we call for an end to austerity focused economic policies and instead a full force support for essential services like public health and public schools

**Therefore, be it resolved**, that the PNBC strongly encourages the U.S. to strengthen the building blocks of healthy societies by assisting African governments to prioritize providing

universal access to 1) public health infrastructure, 2) public schools, 3) clean water, 4) renewable energy and 5) sustainable agriculture.

***Be it resolved***, that the PNBC calls on the Administration and Congress to build inclusive and green economies in Africa and throughout the world.

***Therefore, be it resolved***, that the U.S. Create mutually beneficial trade and investment opportunities through a Global Green New Deal where fossil fuel driven export-led economies are replaced by clean energy and other manufacturing jobs, allowing African women, youth, workers, and their communities to thrive.

***Therefore, be it resolved***, that through the response to the COVID-19 crisis, strengthen African economies with policies that build production manufacturing capacities, sustainably add value to Africa's resources, and promote more just and equitable investment in sectors outside the traditional oil, gas, and mining enterprises.

***Therefore, be it resolved***, that the U.S. ends wholesale privatization of essential services and encourages support for responsible investment in Africa's industrialization and non-traditional sector.

***Be it resolved***, that the PNBC demands an end to Africa's Debt Treadmill

***Therefore, be it resolved***, that we urge Extending the G20 Common Framework on debt relief to all African countries, including middle-income countries, and compel involvement of private sector creditors

***Therefore, be it resolved***, that we promote the establishment of a global bankruptcy framework for speedy and orderly resolution of future debt crises.

***Therefore, be it resolved***, that the U.S. limits the leverage of holdout creditors in sovereign debt restructuring through reforms in New York laws that govern international debt instruments. An executive order could achieve the same outcomes – as was done with the 2002 restructuring of Iraq's debt.

***Therefore, be it resolved***, that the U.S. supports a new allocation of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) at the International Monetary Fund, recognizing that an allocation of \$3 trillion, would immediately deliver about \$150 billion to African countries.

***Be it resolved***, the PNBC calls upon the U.S. and the international community to Bolster African Initiatives on Tax, Capital Controls and Curbing Illicit Financial Flows (IFF)

***Therefore, be it resolved***, that we urge the US government to Accelerate agreements to track, measure, and curb illicit financial flows (IFFs) from crime, corruption, and tax evasion or avoidance.

***Therefore, be it resolved,*** that we call on the U.S. to support African efforts to develop the policies, systems and infrastructure required to end resource theft originated through commercial tax evasion, trade mis-invoicing, abusive transfer pricing, smuggling, bribery and government corruption.

***Therefore, be it resolved,*** that we urge the Biden -Harris Administration to convene in 2022 an U.S. Africa/Africa Summit with African Trade, Labor, and Finance Ministries, and civil society representatives, to develop joint strategies to curb illicit financial flows and capture domestic resources for equitable, sustainable development.

***Therefore, be it resolved,*** that the U.S. use foreign assistance resources, help organizations and government agencies recover stolen assets and promote policies and programs to further the critical work performed by transparency activists, human rights defenders, whistle-blowers, and investigative journalists.

***Therefore, be it resolved,*** that the U.S. partner with African governments and civil society to demand transparency, honesty, and accountability from the many foreign and domestic corporations in their African investments and tax payments to both the U.S. and African governments.

## **Resolution on Climate Justice**

**Whereas**, we are called to be faithful stewards and caretakers of all of God's creation

**Whereas**, climate change is happening now causing rising temperatures, rising sea levels, shrinking glaciers, extreme weather, droughts and flooding, and threaten species

**Whereas**, the impact of climate change is felt heaviest on Black, Brown and indigenous communities, as well in Africa and poor countries throughout the world

**Whereas**, climate change is a bi-product of an economic system based on extraction, exploitation, accumulation through dispossession, and systemic racism

**Whereas** a Green New Deal to address climate change and its disproportionate impact on Black Lives is needed to create equitable solutions for Black communities

**Whereas**, we appreciate President Biden's decision to return to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and urge his Administration to take stronger actions to combat climate change

**Whereas**, according to the United Nations, less than a decade remains to reverse the climate crisis with its disproportionate impact on Africa and her diaspora. In Africa, there are immediate dangers causing more frequent "extreme weather conditions" of droughts and flooding, ice is melting at the Poles and on Mount Kilimanjaro, the waters of Lake Chad are disappearing and drought cycles in East Africa are becoming more unpredictable.

**Whereas**, Africa is particularly vulnerable to climate change, according to the International Panel on Climate Change. Factors such as dependence on rain-fed agriculture and the impact of warming on the spread of disease reinforce multiple preexisting stresses. Yet global warming comes primarily from greenhouse gas emissions outside Africa. Much of Africa's share of causal factors, comes from extracting natural resources to be exported.

**Whereas** we welcome the indications that the Biden Administration plans to return to the Paris Agreement; however, the Paris Agreement needs to go further in order to address urgent issues in Africa and her diaspora.

**Whereas**, the U.S. has responsibility, as one of the largest emitters of greenhouse gases in the world, to lead, dramatically mitigate emissions and assist Africans in their efforts to adapt.

### **ACTION:**

***Be it resolved;*** we urge the Biden-Harris administration to seize the opportunity to place climate justice at the center of U.S. Africa policy

***Therefore, be it resolved;*** we urge that the US end all financing of fossil fuel production

***Therefore, be it resolved,*** that the U.S. development finance agencies, including USAID and the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation, end financing of fossil fuel extraction in Africa, leading to a complete phase-out of oil, gas, and coal financing through bilateral assistance, trade promotion and export finance.

***Therefore, be it resolved,*** that the U.S. invests in what amounts to a ‘*green new deal*’ for Africa by supporting job creation with the goal of building a zero-carbon economy.

***Therefore, be it resolved,*** that both U.S. trade and investment policy support Africa’s shift to a renewable energy future where clean energy is available and affordable for all. This investment policy support should incentivize companies to create technologies that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

***Therefore, be it resolved,*** that the U.S. support and invest in Africa’s smallholder farmers, with special regard for women, and the local food producers who create resilient and livable communities in the midst of crises. Investments in climate resilience programs help farmers to adapt and protect food security.

***Therefore, be it resolved,*** that the U.S. use the run up to the Conference of Parties (COP) – 26, to commit to global warming targets below 1.5 C. Anything short of this will continue to “cook a continent”, pushing Africa further to the brink of climate catastrophe.

***Therefore, be it resolved,*** that the U.S. accommodate climate migrants given that climate change has escalated the pressure on people to seek refuge while also working with African governments and the United Nations to meet the needs of climate induced displaced peoples and their communities.

***Therefore, be it resolved,*** that the U.S. respects and supports self-determination and full autonomy efforts of African Indigenous communities to make decisions over their lands to retain or build resilience against climate change, loss in biodiversity, preservation of their cultures, and (when necessary) relocation.

***Therefore, be it resolved,*** that The Progressive National Baptist Convention calls on the Biden Administration to support and enhance U.S. international agencies' capacity to monitor both corporate and governmental compliance with environment protection agreements and international treaties, and to pursue appropriate judicial/legal remedies for noncompliance.

## **Resolution on Refugees, Migration, Asylum and Immigration**

**WHEREAS**, according to the UN Refugee Agency, in 2020 there are over 74,000,000 million refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced people (IDPs) in the world; more than 30 million (40 percent) are in Africa alone. The Trump Administration dramatically reduced the U.S. budget to protect and assist displaced people and cut refugee resettlement in the United States to 15,000 persons, the lowest number since 1980. In reality, other practices have resulted in even fewer people being admitted.

**WHEREAS**, The Trump Administration policies created a humanitarian disaster at the southern US border with the detention of thousands of migrants under inhumane conditions and caused over 350,000 affirmative asylum seekers with pending applications to be waiting for years for an asylum interview. An untold number have been subject to refoulement. While the US southern border crisis has affected mostly Central Americans, since 2019 there has been a surge of Africans seeking asylum appearing at the southern border. They include Cameroonians fleeing civil war, Eritreans escaping indefinite involuntary military servitude, and migrants from Somalia, Sudan, Mauritania, Angola, Nigeria, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

**WHEREAS**, an *affirmative asylum backlog* has reached a crisis status, affecting many categories of applicants -- for example, many torture survivors from Africa have entered the U.S. with visas, having suffered severe physical and psychological torture in their countries of origin, have waited already four, five or even six years to be interviewed by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

### **ACTION:**

***Be it resolved***, that the U.S. provides robust funding to the International Affairs Budget, and the State Departments' Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM), which protects and assists refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs in Africa and other parts of the world. Funding should be set at 2016 levels at a minimum.

***Therefore, be it resolved***, that the Administration increases the target for refugee resettlement in the United States to 125,000 for Fiscal Year 2022 and, help U.S.-based refugee resettlement agencies rebuild the capacity that was dismantled during the Trump Administration.

***Therefore, be it resolved***, that we work with governments and civil society organizations to support human rights, democratic institutions, and economic development in Africa, to address the drivers of displacement such as armed conflict, climate change and repressive governments though supporting human rights, democratic institutions, and economic development.

***Therefore, be it resolved***, that Congress end or reduce U.S. security assistance for repressive governments that commit gross human rights abuses such as imprisoning people who exercise

their right to freedom of expression and association; persecuting ethnic, religious, and racial minorities; and carrying out extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and torture.

***Therefore, be it resolved,*** that the Administration refocus ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement)'s enforcement on migrants with serious criminal records rather than those who have lived in the United States for many years, paid their taxes and followed the law.

***Therefore, be it resolved,*** that the Administration seeks humane alternatives to detention for the thousands of migrants who apply for asylum. Detainees can be released with electronic monitoring (ankle bracelets) and assigned to caseworkers or be released to community organizations which can take responsibility for making sure they attend scheduled court hearings.

***Therefore, be it resolved,*** that the Administration enacts a 100-day moratorium on deportations

***Therefore, be it resolved,*** that the Biden Harris Administration reverses Trump-era executive orders on immigration, including the orders often referred to as the "Muslin Ban"

***Therefore, be it resolved,*** that the Administration reinstates 'Temporary Protected Status' for immigrants fleeing countries in distress as well as Deferred Assistance for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).

***Therefore, be it resolved,*** that the Administration closes private and for-profit immigration detention centers and restore family reunification allowing members of divided or separated families to immigrate.

***Therefore, be it resolved,*** that the Administration ensures that immigration detention is used only in limited and exceptional circumstances meeting human rights standards, and not as the default. Robustly expand use of community-based alternatives to detention, including the family case management program, and issue guidance clarifying that custody alternatives meet the definition of "custody" under the mandatory detention statute.

***Therefore, be it resolved*** that the Progressive National Baptist Convention urges Congress to pass a legislation for Comprehensive Immigration Reform immediately to ensure a pathway to citizenship be established for the over 11 million undocumented persons residing in the United States.

## Resolution on Advancing Human Security

*Whereas*, U.S. security policy must embody that truth that Black Lives including all African peoples, matter. For four centuries and counting, the U.S. has benefited from people of Africa and African descent, who have made great contributions to building America's economy, infrastructure, and democratic institutions, and whose natural resources and labor have provided key resources for U.S. industries. Consequently, all who reside in the U.S. owe the African American and African peoples a huge debt. A down payment on that debt must include an American foreign policy that treats Africa with equality, respect, and promotes mutually beneficial partnerships – including advancement of the African Union *Plan 2063 – The Africa We Want*; it must also include sufficient financial and technical resources to reflect these principles.

*Whereas*, shared security in Africa depends on democratic governance, safeguarding the public's health, managing the economy competently (especially tackling poverty, ensuring that food and water abound, healthcare, more good jobs, honest and effective policing, delivering essential services, protecting the environment), and good education.

### **ACTION:**

*Be it resolved*, that the critical and actionable needs in a revised U.S. Africa Security Policy are to work toward Shared Responsibility.

*Therefore, be it resolved*, Adopting an Approach of Shared Security, reforming U.S. engagement on the continent. so that it combines a focus on diplomacy, negotiation, and generous economic assistance to ameliorate chronic poverty, hunger, poor health, lack of employment and lack of education exacerbated by climate change – all of which contribute to social turbulence and terrorism.

*Therefore, be it resolved*, that supporting African efforts to access capital by ending illicit capital outflows and empowering African governments to collect taxes as is their right and obligation.

*Therefore, be it resolved*, that PNBC urges the Administration to Re-imagine and transform both the U.S counter-terrorism strategy in Africa as well as the role being played by the U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM). This re-imagining must include ending the use of airstrikes by drones and manned aircraft and accountability for civilian casualties caused by such strikes, strengthening accountability for African security forces and the possible disbanding of AFRICOM. This should also include ensuring a full complement of U.S. diplomatic, civilian personnel in U.S. embassies, consulates, and legations to engage with civilian governmental partners, without substituting military and intelligence personnel. Increase transparency and adherence to human rights criteria as a condition for US arms sales and military training in Africa, with a robust compliance enforced by both the U.S. Departments of State and Defense consistent with existing human rights criteria outlined in US law such as in the *Leahy Laws*.



***Therefore, be it resolved,*** that PNBC calls for an end to U.S. security and financial assistance for repressive governments that commit gross human rights abuses, such as imprisoning journalists and people who exercise their rights to freedom of expression and association, or persecuting ethnic, religious, racial minorities, or sexual identities; and/or carry out extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and torture.

***Therefore, be it resolved,*** that the Administration Re-sign and re-commit U.S. support for robust, effective implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty to help address the tragic human and financial cost of irresponsible arms sales and transfers into Africa.

***Therefore, be it resolved,*** that we call on the Administration to provide U.S. financial resources for an effective *African Standby Force* of the *African Union* with full financial support for UN Peacekeeping forces.

***Therefore, be it resolved,*** that we partner with the United Nations in inclusively reforging a multilateral foreign policy consensus about support for Africa. This requires the U.S. to pay its backlog of UN dues in full and on-time for UN-Peacekeeping, the UN Secretariat, and the full list of UN agencies including (but not limited to) the WHO for global health needs, UNICEF to help countries care for and immunize children and help them become productive global citizens, UNHCR to deal with global crisis of displaced persons, of which one-third originate from Africa, UN-Women, UNEP, and the FAO and UNDP to assist in feeding the impoverished especially in the face of the global climate emergency. All of this programing is essential to achieving the UN 2020 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

***Therefore, be it resolved,*** that PNBC calls for the reform of the U.N. to eliminate the domination of the UN by the Security Council, powered now only by the wealthiest nations and former colonial powers. Reforms should increase representation of African and other nations of the Global South, to ensure shared governance of the world's security in the UN for all peoples.

## **Resolution in Support of Critical Race Theory**

**WHEREAS** a great deal of attention has been given to the words “Critical Race Theory” by conservative Republican politicians. Senator Ted Cruz of Texas asserted at the Faith and Freedom Coalition’s Road to Majority Conference that CRT “is every bit as racist as the Klansmen in white robes.”

**AND WHEREAS** others have argued that the goal of CRT is to brainwash white, school age children into hating their country and living with the shame of what their ancestors may have done in years past. They have all agreed that CRT should be banned from public school classrooms in their states. Last week, Congressman Matt Gaetz of Florida criticized the Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley for allowing CRT to be taught at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

**AND WHEREAS** if you took seriously the views of Tucker Carlson and Laura Ingraham on Fox News, you would be convinced that CRT poses a danger to the very foundations of the United States of America.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that now is the time for a clergyperson like myself and all my clergy colleagues in the Progressive National Baptist Convention to quote from Jesus in John 8:32 when he said, “The truth shall set you free.” The truth is that CRT is not being taught in any elementary or high schools in this country. It is taught primarily at Law Schools, and occasionally in Graduate Schools at universities that train social scientists. CRT is not a racist theory. Rather, it asserts that a true understanding of the history and evolution of this country cannot be fully grasped without giving thoughtful consideration to the way in which sustained, systemic, institutional racism has been at work in every aspect of American life since before the nation was even formed.<sup>1</sup>

**BE IT ALSO RESOLVED** that while some people think that 1776 and 1787 are the only dates in American history worth remembering. CRT would suggest that 1619 is an equally definitive date, because that was the year that the economy of this country began to be built in large part on 246 years of legalized slavery. The truth is, slavery was followed by another one hundred years of convict-lease labor, sharecropping, Jim Crow laws, lynch mob justice, voter suppression, and the rigid segregation of the races. The political process was used through the much-discussed filibuster to thwart advancements in civil right. There was also the complicity of the criminal justice system especially at the state and local levels to maintain what the 1968 Kerner Commission concluded was “two Americas, one white and one black – separate and unequal.”

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that CRT is not designed to make white people hate their country or be ashamed of the nation’s founders. It is designed to point out the ways by which equal opportunity for African Americans in housing, employment, education, and access to the political process through voting has been severely limited. Most importantly, these limitations were not the result of any personal prejudices held by any individual white citizens. Rather, this

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<sup>1</sup> Richard Delgado and Jean Stefancic, *Critical Race Theory: An Introduction*, New York: New York University Press, 2017.

systemic inequality came as a result of the laws and policies by which the country and most of its institutions were governed over a sustained period of time.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that PNBC goes on record acknowledging, consistent with the core principle of CRT, that racism is not the behavior of a single white person. Racism is the use of political power and social conformity by one group that creates systems that have historically afforded white people an unfair advantage involving Social Security and G.I. loan benefits, access to funding for farmers, equal protection under the law, equal access to quality education, equal access to mortgage loans in their preferred neighborhoods, and equal access to employment and advancement in the workplace. The problem for CRT is not individual white people, but the presumptions of white supremacy and the inherited benefits of white privilege that have been at work in this country for more than four hundred years.

*This resolution reflects the thoughts, values, history, and mission of the PNBC. Therefore, it is to be voted on and widely disseminated through every available mode of communication as a way of sharing abroad the collective voice of our churches, our PNBC officers and members, and our clearest understanding of the will of God on this important topic.*

Submitted by Marvin A. McMickle, PhD  
Pastor Emeritus of Antioch Baptist Church of Cleveland, Ohio  
Retired President of Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School  
Professor Emeritus, Ashland Theological Seminary (Ohio)

## Resolution on Freedom for Palestine

*Whereas*, the Palestinian people have once again risen up to demand their freedom, in defiance of Israel's all-out assault on their human rights, as the Israeli government has threatened to demolish their homes and expel them from their homeland (including in Sheikh Jarrah and Silwan of Jerusalem), has bombed the Gaza Strip and murdered 256 Palestinian people in May 2021, and has brutally repressed Palestinian protests, part of Israel's long and violent history of ethnic cleansing across all of Palestine.

*Whereas*, our Christian Palestinian brothers and sisters in Palestine wrote the *Kairos* document "A moment of truth, a word of faith, hope and love from the heart of Palestinian suffering" in 2009 to cry out for justice, advocate for an end to the Israeli military occupation, and call on the Church and international community to defend Palestinian rights, and then repeated this urgent call for solidarity, prayer, and action on the document's tenth anniversary in 2019.

*Whereas*, human rights organizations B'Tselem and Human Rights Watch have produced detailed reports recognizing the reality that the Israel is an apartheid state, that practices separate-and-unequal treatment of Palestinians that denies Palestinian human rights.

*Whereas*, the United States actively funds the Israeli military and violence against the Palestinian people by providing \$3.8 billion a year, or \$10 million a day, in U.S. taxpayer dollars to the Israeli government.

*Whereas*, Palestinian people and religious leaders in the U.S. have laid out a vision of justice that demands an end to U.S. complicity in the Israeli oppression of their people, grounded in universal aspirations for freedom, justice, and self-determination.

*Whereas*, Rep. Betty McCollum has introduced H.R. 2590, the Palestinian Children and Families Act, to stop U.S. taxpayer dollars from funding the Israeli government's imprisonment of Palestinian children, demolition of Palestinian homes, and continual annexation and theft of Palestinian land.

*Whereas*, Palestinians and the United Nations Human Rights Council have noted at least 6 times that Israeli Settlements in the West Bank are "flagrant violations under international law".

*Whereas*, Palestinians have called upon Churches and Interfaith leaders to join in solidarity with them to end Israeli occupation of Palestine and to hold the Israeli government accountable for its massive human rights violations they continue to commit by supporting their efforts of freedom, justice, and equality for the Palestinian people.

**ACTION:**

*Therefore, be it resolved*, that the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. calls for freedom and Justice for the Palestinian people, including an end to Israel's apartheid system and the brutal military occupation of the West Bank of Palestine, an end to Israel's ongoing ethnic

cleansing and expulsions of the Palestinian people from their homeland, and an end to Israel's inhumane bombing and blockade of the Gaza Strip.

*Therefore, be it resolved*, that the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. calls for an immediate end to all U.S. military funding to Israel, beginning with the passage of H.R. 2590, the Palestinian Children and Families Act, which supports the safety, dignity, and freedom of the Palestinian people.

*Therefore, be it resolved*, that the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. calls on its Cooperative Christianity Commission to organize a Palestinian Solidarity Campaign with its affiliate Ecumenical Bodies, Theological Schools and Seminaries, African American Churches, Palestinian Christians in Palestine and in the USA and Interfaith Organizations to develop a common strategy and Action Plan to support the people of Palestine and end the Israel's Military Occupation of Palestine.

## **Resolution on Protecting the Right to Organize**

**WHEREAS**, all persons are created in God's image and likeness (Gen 1:27) which endows them with dignity and requires that they be treated with respect in the workplace; and based on our reading of Holy Scripture, the Progressive National Baptist Convention supports the human and moral right of working people to form unions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Progressive National Baptist Convention has a long history and tradition of encouraging and actively supporting working people who are organizing unions to ensure their dignity, negotiate a fair return on their work, hold employers accountable, and address discrimination and harassment in the workplace; and

**WHEREAS**, the wage and wealth gap between the rich and poor has reached a 50-year high, and research shows that when the percentage of unions declined, income disparity increased dramatically; and the rise in economic inequality and poverty has far-ranging repercussions on issues, including affordable housing, public safety, public health, environmental protection, quality education, infrastructure and more; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in our society's best interest to alleviate poverty by providing good, safe and secure employment to all, and to hold corporations and employers accountable for their actions and conduct; and

**WHEREAS**, the balance of power has shifted completely to corporations, and the labor laws designed to empower and protect working people have been intentionally weakened over the last 80 years; and

**WHEREAS**, these outdated labor laws are broken and have been exploited by employers to coerce, intimidate and punish working people for exercising their human right to form unions, to break the law with impunity, to avoid accountability, and to erode the democratic rights of working people; and

**WHEREAS**, our labor laws no longer serve as an effective means for protecting and empowering working people, and the unbridled power of corporations has prevented more working people from joining together in unions; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Progressive National Baptist Convention strongly supports the right of working people to organize unions for the purpose of collective bargaining, and social and economic justice, and to engage in collective action to achieve these goals; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Progressive National Baptist Convention will advocate for and support federal legislation to protect the right to organize, expand collective bargaining rights, and balance the power between corporations and working people; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Progressive National Baptist Convention supports the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act and calls on its local congregations and State Conventions to support this significant worker empowerment legislation by contacting their members of Congress and taking other actions to obtain passage of this legislation.

## **Resolution to Cut Military Spending and Prohibit Nuclear Weapons**

**Whereas**, the April 2021 report of the Stockholm International Peace Institute states total global military spending rose to almost \$2 trillion in 2020;

**Whereas**, the United States is the world's largest military spender (larger than Russia, China, and NATO countries combined) and largest exporter of military weapons;

**Whereas**, the United States plans to spend close to \$1 trillion over 30 years on nuclear weapons production modernization;

**Whereas**, the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of nuclear weapons went into force this year; and

**Whereas**, the Brown University Cost of War Project reports finds suicide rates among active US military personal and veterans of the post-9/11 wars are reaching new peaks, with at least four times having died of suicide than in combat.

**Whereas** the United States the largest global network of military installations and bases throughout the world

**Therefore, be it resolved** that the Progressive National Baptist Convention:

Recall the words of Dr. Martin L King Jr: "A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual doom";

Support legislation by Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA) to cut US military spending by 10 percent;

Demand that funds cut from military spending be used for poverty reduction here at home and around the world especially in Africa and the Caribbean and diplomacy.

Call on President Biden to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of nuclear weapons; adopt a No First Use of nuclear weapons and return to the Iran Nuclear Deal known at the Joint Comprehensive Plan of **ACTION**: and

Oppose a US led cold war with China and calls on the US to cooperate with China on ending climate change, COVID-19 pandemic and other humanitarian causes.

## **Resolution On Uplifting the Need for Reimagining and Revamping our United States Criminal Legal Systems**

**WHEREAS**, the American criminal-legal system is a stain on our democracy. The system replicates and reinforces patterns of racial and economic oppression that can be traced from slavery, and the result is a criminal legal bureaucratic system that denies millions of people the opportunities, legal equality, and human rights they deserve while fueling the world's highest incarceration rate.

**WHEREAS**, bringing fairness and dignity to our legal system is one of the most profound civil and human rights issues of our time.

**WHEREAS**, the unequal treatment of African Americans, people of color and those who are low-income undermines the progress we have made over the past five decades toward equality under the law.

**WHEREAS**, New research shows that nearly one in two adults in America — approximately 113 million people — has an immediate family member who is currently or has been formerly incarcerated.

**WHEREAS** we must as nation be willing to reimagine a new paradigm for public safety that does not rely exclusively on criminalization and we must take bold action to end the structural inequalities of a racist legal and criminal justice that plagues our nation.

**WHEREAS**, the disastrous era of the War on Drug created an unjust system that has imprisoned more people than any other industrialized nation in the world, a disproportionate number of whom are African American, Latin X, Native American, low-income, and nonviolent.

**WHEREAS**, when people return home from jails and prisons, the odds are stacked against them to meaningfully reintegrate back into society.

**WHEREAS**, our nation's laws and policies deny people with arrest or conviction histories their right to vote, access to education and employment, and eligibility for public benefits and student loans, and they face a myriad of other collateral consequences. Such obstacles harm millions of African American families and make it nearly impossible for people to get a firm footing and pursue new opportunities to rebuild their lives.



**WHEREAS**, once convicted of a felony, many people lose their right to vote. In 12 states, returning citizens lose their voting rights indefinitely for certain crimes, face an additional waiting period, or require a pardon to gain back their right to vote.

**ACTION:**

***Be it resolved***, that the Progressive National Baptist Convention commits to campaign with local communities, and impacted people to build a fair and equitable legal system. Together, we will address injustice at every stage – from policing, pretrial detention, to sentencing and from incarceration to reentry.

***Be it resolved***, Progressive National Baptist Convention will also advocate for dismantling the prison industrial complex through limited the use of prisons and jails and the creation of multiple meaningful pathways to redemption and rehabilitation.

***Be it resolved***, we as the Progressive National Baptist Convention will work to eliminate barriers that impact returning citizens when re-entering society and provide meaningful pathways to employment and educational opportunities, housing and supportive communities.

***Be it resolved***, we as the Progressive National Baptist Convention will work with national and state partners to advocate for the restoration of voting rights for people with felony convictions.

## **Resolution on Cuba**

**Whereas** on July 11, 2021 a series of large street protests took place in Havana and several other provinces in the Republic of Cuba demanding from the government a response to growing economic hardships, exacerbated by the Covid 19 pandemic, and calling for respect for the universal human rights of the Cuban people;

**Whereas** many of the protestors were Cubans of African descent who are the poorest segment of Cuban society and represent over 50 percent of the population and have been disproportionately impacted by the economic crisis;

**Whereas** since the 1959 revolution, the living standards of the Cuban masses, including Afro-Cubans, have improved and Cuba has been universally praised for its successes in medicine and for its exemplary solidarity and support to scores of countries in Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America over the past 50 years, including sacrificing thousands of Cuban lives to defend the sovereignty of Angola, Namibia and South Africa against the military forces of apartheid South Africa;

**Whereas** the Cuban people have been victimized for 60 years by an illegal and immoral economic embargo imposed by the US government and condemned by every member state of the United Nations year after year with the exception of the United States and Israel;

And **Whereas** the Member churches of the Progressive National Baptist Convention and the people of Cuba have suffered over the years due to US Government policies and the continued immoral blockade of Cuba by our Government causing pain and suffering of the Cuban People.

Be it Further Resolved that the Progressive National Baptist Convention calls on the Biden Administration to immediately lift this devastating economic boycott and embargo on Cuba, including the harsh measures implemented previously by the Trump Administration;

## **Resolution On Haiti**

**Whereas** on July 7, 2021, President Jovenel Moise of Haiti was brutally assassinated in his home, an act that was roundly condemned by the CARICOM states and by the larger international community;

**Whereas** the killing of the President threw the entire country into a state of turmoil, confusion, instability and mass trauma adding more pain and grief on the proud descendants of Haiti's 1804 slave uprising which defeated the mighty armies of France, Spain and England and brought into existence the first black republic in the world and which inspired people of African Descent in the United States, the Caribbean and the Americas to fight for their freedom;

**Whereas** for more than 200 years since their victory over the European enslavers, the Haitian people have endured unspeakable exploitation and oppression from enforced payment of reparations to France over a period of 100 years, to 20 years of US military occupation in the first quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, to the brutal dictatorships of "Papa Doc" Duvalier and his son, to the overthrow and exile of President Aristide and to the rampant corruption of the country's elites;

**Whereas** the CARICOM states have denounced any contemplated military interference in the internal affairs of Haiti and have called for a government of national unity, for law and order, for the respect of institutional norms in Haiti and for the swift prosecution of President Moise's assassins;

Be it resolved that the Progressive National Baptist Convention Inc., Biden Administration reject any possible military intervention and respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Haiti and, moreover, immediately provides Covid 19 vaccines to help fight the spread of the virus across the country;

And, be it further resolved that the Progressive National Baptist Convention supports the Congressional Black Caucus and CARICOM's call for an interim government of national unity in Haiti.

## RESOLUTION DENOUNCING VOTER SUPPRESSION

Whereas the right to vote is the essence and a supreme value of democracy

Whereas the health of a democracy is strengthened by the maximum participation of her citizens

Whereas democracy is not a spectator sport

Whereas more than forty states have crafted in excess of 300 bills that are designed to suppress the vote, in a targeted fashion, of Black, Brown, indigenous and poor communities

Whereas voter suppression is rooted in an ugly, evil and fascist part of American history where Black people were brutally denied the right to vote

Whereas there is not a voter fraud problem in the United States

Whereas there is a voter suppression problem in the United States

And whereas the 1965 Voting Rights Act was symbolically signed with the sacrifices and blood of justice warriors and freedom fighters, many of whom were members of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, including the drum major for justice, Martin Luther King, Jr.

Resolved that the Progressive National Baptist Convention stands against all forms of the tyranny of voter suppression

Resolved that the Progressive National Baptist Convention calls for Congress to pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Bill and the For the People Act

Resolved that the Progressive National Baptist Convention calls upon all legislative bodies, state and national, to create legislation that makes it easier to vote and not more difficult, especially in communities that have historically been denied the franchise