

Berea Friends Meeting Minute on Exception Clause

“It has come to the attention of Berea Friends Meeting that the Kentucky Constitution and the United States Constitution contain clauses of exception to the prohibition of slavery and involuntary servitude, in effect making legal the enslavement of those who are convicted of a crime.

Because slavery and involuntary servitude stand in direct contradiction to our Testimony of Equality of all people, we hold that slavery and involuntary servitude are unconscionable in all circumstances.

We support striking the exception clauses from Section 25 of the Kentucky Constitution and the 13th Amendment of the United States Constitution so that our Constitutions simply state that ‘Slavery and involuntary servitude are prohibited.’

We invite others to join us in our efforts to eliminate these exception clauses.

Berea Friends Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Nov 18, 2023