
Richmond Human Rights Commission

Urging Removal of Slavery from Section 25 of Kentucky Constitution

Whereas: United States of America outlawed slavey upon passage of 13th amendment to United States Constitution in 1865; and

Whereas: Kentucky refused to ratify the 13 the amendment until March 18th , 1976; In an effort to prolong vestiges of slavery, Kentucky alongside many southern states, adopted so called, “punishment clause”, retaining the option of slavery in circumstances in which a person has been duly convicted, creating a system of prison labor. Section 25 of the Kentucky Constitution still allows for slavery and involuntary servitude as punishment for a crime; and

Whereas: Slavery and involuntary servitude are crimes against humanity; and crimes against humanity are neither necessary nor useful as punishment for a crime.

Therefore, it be resolved that commission members of Richmond Human Rights Commission, call on the Kentucky Legislature to amend Section 25 by removing the exception clause so that slavery and involuntary servitude are forever forbidden.

On behalf of RHRC Commission Members: Anthony Phelps Elder, Dayzaughn Graves, Asad Jadoon, Ian Ward: Renee Mitchell, Susan Cintra, Mike Edwards

April, 10, 2025
