



LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Resolution

To All Whom These Present Shall Come:

- WHEREAS,** It is the purpose of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Human Rights Commission to safeguard all individuals within Lexington-Fayette County from discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, familial status and sexual orientation / gender identity in connection with housing, employment and public accommodations; and
- WHEREAS,** The rights of inhabitants of Lexington and Fayette County are inextricably bound to the rights and protections bestowed upon all residents of the Commonwealth of Kentucky; and
- WHEREAS,** Section 25 of the Kentucky Constitution still allows for slavery and involuntary servitude as a punishment for a crime; and
- WHEREAS,** Section 25 was ratified on August 3, 1891, and revised on September 28, 1891, and has not been amended since; and
- WHEREAS,** Provisions like Section 25 were used by states and the Federal Government to allow formerly enslaved people to be unjustly targeted, disproportionately incarcerated, and forcibly exploited for their labor; and
- WHEREAS,** The exception clause for slavery and involuntary servitude negatively impacts Lexington and the Commonwealth of Kentucky, morally, socially and spiritually,
- NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** the members of the Commission and the staff call on the Kentucky Legislature to amend Section 25 of the Constitution of Kentucky, striking the exception clause, so it would clearly and directly read, "Section 25 slavery and involuntary servitude in this State are forbidden."
- FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED,** that a copy of this Resolution be spread upon the Minute Book of This Commission, and dated at Lexington, Kentucky this 23rd day of January 2023. Furthermore, a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council and urge them to pass a similar resolution, to the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights and the Kentucky Legislature on behalf of the entire Lexington-Fayette Urban County Human Rights Commission.

On Behalf of the Commission:

Attest:

Barbara Ellerbrook
Commission Chair

James L. Dickinson
Commission Secretary