



## THE FACTS

The interest and demand for reparations for America's descendants of slavery (ADOS) is growing, as home ownership, education, and wealth gaps continue to grow, with evidence relating these gaps to the systemic racism and legalized oppression enslaved Africans and their families faced from 1619 to 1965.

One need only look to St. Paul for a relevant example of legally sanctioned government actions that resulted in disproportionate harm to Black residents.

From 1956 to 1968, local and state leaders seized by eminent domain, land upon which hundreds of Black-owned homes and businesses in St. Paul's Rondo neighborhood sat, to construct a new interstate corridor. At the time nearly 80 percent of St. Paul's Black residents lived in the Rondo neighborhood.

Björgvin Sævarsson, founder and CEO of the Yorth Group determined that the intentional routing of I-94 through the heart of Rondo resulted in a loss of at least \$157 million by 2018 in intergenerational wealth being passed down from homeowners to their children and grandchildren.

Rondo is just one local example of legally sanctioned, post-slavery actions taken across the United States that have left a legacy of Black exclusion educationally, socially and economically. Yet, Blacks remain the only group that has not received reparations for state-sanctioned racial discrimination, while slavery, Jim Crow and segregationist policies afforded some white families the ability to accrue tremendous wealth.

Home ownership not only establishes a sense of place, community, and stability but multiple studies show it has been the most effective intergenerational wealth building strategy Americans have known.

Research published by the California Housing Finance Authority (2023), suggests that discriminatory housing practices such as redlining, racial covenants, and predatory lending have disproportionately kept Black families from owning homes at the same rate as their white peers.

In Minnesota, 77.5 percent of Whites own their own home, compared to just 30.5 percent of Blacks; the 5th worst homeownership gap in the United States. Not surprisingly, that gap corresponds to an equally abysmal wealth gap among Black and White Minnesotans.

## THE BUSINESS CASE

The institution of slavery was a violent, hateful, wretched form of involuntary servitude. It was devastating to Black bodies, minds, families in ways we still struggle to find words to define. Slavery was also rooted in building economic wealth and prosperity for White people on the labor of enslaved Black people.

The Atlantic reports that in 1860 'there were more millionaire slaveholders living in the lower Mississippi Valley than anywhere in the United States. Enslaved Black people totaling nearly 4 million were valued at over \$3.5 billion, greater than all manufacturing and railroads combined, and the largest single financial asset in the U.S.

America not only failed to compensate descendant's of enslaved people for the foundational labor that built America, but built

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