



PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, INC.

INMATE/CONVICT LABOR RESOLUTION

WHEREAS convict labor was undeniably the cornerstone of the Jim Crow system implemented to institutionalize race-based slavery and forced labor after its alleged constitutional abolition in the 13th Amendment;

WHEREAS despite 160 years of advocacy and civil rights demonstrations and resistance since the alleged abolition of slavery and nearly 60 years since the Bloody Sunday mass peaceful resistance and resulting police and state-sponsored beatings on Edmund Pettus Bridge in Alabama, slavery continues today in the State of Alabama and many states across the United States through the systemic imprisonment, unconstitutional and unlawful over detention, and compelled forced labor of incarcerated men and women, with disproportionate impact and application for men and women of color in Alabama;

WHEREAS both the States of Alabama and Louisiana and many other states are directly enriched by these forced labor regimes both directly by running States and providing government services through government labor and by the “leasing” and selling of forced labor and lives out to private corporations, enriching each state annually at more than \$500 million;

WHEREAS private businesses, operating in a network of industries and criss-crossing supply chains from growing of the food supply to restaurants to major industries, including the auto industry, now rely on and purchase such forced labor, again disproportionately from men and women of color, to produce and distribute goods across the South into our communities, rendering us all complicit in this modern slave state, thereby again swelling both their profits and further depressing wages and working conditions for all workers and widening racial pay gaps;

THEREFORE, PNBC hereby RESOLVES to direct our efforts to secure the abolishment of, and end corporate and government profiteering, finally and forever, from slavery and forced labor, in all of its modern incarnations, including the systemic forced labor compelled from millions of incarcerated people.

Presented during the PNBC 2024 Annual Session
Reverend Dr. David R. Peoples, President
Dr. Frederick D. Haynes III & Dr. Willie D. Francois III
Co-Chairs, Social Justice Commission