

It is time for the United States to reckon with the harm inflicted upon Black Americans over the course of hundreds of years.

Today, the U.S. population is home to 5% of the world's population, but 25% of the world's prisoners. It incarcerates more people and at a higher level than any other country on earth. It also has more people in solitary confinement, which is known to inflict particularly deep suffering, than any other nation. One in three Black men in the U.S. will be imprisoned at some point in their lives. Black men makeup over 40% of the U.S. prison population, but only 6% of our country's total population.

The criminality clause in the Thirteenth Amendment and the subsequent mass incarceration of Black men has allowed our nation's shameful legacy of slavery to continue. This clause must be removed!

We have an opportunity to change the course of history. I submit my support of Ballot Measure 110 and ask for your approval.
~Shelley Gillespie