

RALLY FOR REPARATIONS

STUDENTS OF AFRICAN DESCENT AND THEIR FRIENDS AT
HARVARD AND UNIVERSITIES IN THE BOSTON AREA WILL ASSEMBLE TO
DEMAND REPARATIONS TO PAY BLACK STUDENT DEBT

FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 2017 – 9:00am – 5:00pm

AT THE KNAFEL CENTER,

CONFERENCE AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY

“UNIVERSITIES AND SLAVERY: BOUND BY HISTORY”

The National African American Reparations Commission (NAARC) is launching a nation-wide initiative to address the large debt that African American and other students of color take on to receive a college education. Given the wealth created for many institutions of higher education based on slavery, slave trading, and the labor of enslaved Africans and African Americans, we are calling upon students at Harvard and other universities in the area to assemble at the Knafel Center, Harvard University, on Friday, March 3, 2017 to make sure that reparations in general, and reparations to cover Black student debt is a major topic at the conference on “Universities and Slavery.”

African Americans and other students of color graduate from college with the highest student debt. In “Barack Obama, Reparations, and America’s Wealth Gap” (*The Atlantic*, 22 December 2016), Duke University economist William J. Darity reminds us “that completion of a college education leads blacks to carry twice the level of student loan debt than whites after a four year degree.” In addition, the default rate on student loans is much higher for African American graduates, negatively affecting their credit worthiness at the outset of their professional careers.

But why should students of African descent graduate in debt from universities that were built on the profits of slavery, slave trading and the labor of enslaved Africans and African Americans? The case for reparations for people of African descent has been made by many scholars and leaders, including those participating in the conference such as T-Nehisi Coates and Sir Hilary Beckles. NAARC believes that there is a need for students to make specific reparations demands to address the specific problems facing this generation.

In the pursuit of “reparatory justice,” students are called upon to petition college and university administrators and trustees to establish a non-profit foundation linked to the institutions’ development offices, but with an independent board, to make sure that students of African descent leave undergraduate and professional school debt-free.

Please come out on Friday, March 3, 2017, 9:00am – 5:00 pm at the conference on “Universities and Slavery: Bound by History.” For more info: [www. http://ibw21.org/reparations..](http://ibw21.org/reparations..)