**Reparations for descendants of those enslaved humans oppressed and exploited by administrators, faculty, and students of Wake Forest College before emancipation:**

It is a moral responsibility for any group of people who have committed crimes against humanity, especially when those crimes continue to transmit systemic disparities to living generations, to tell the truth about the past and to take affirmative action to make amends.

Colleges and universities that claim to advance knowledge and engage in public service are morally obliged to lead society in the pursuit of truth and reparative justice.

We see private corporate and governmental responsibilities for reparations for enslavement, Jim Crow segregation, and today’s systemic racism to entire Black communities. We see similar responsibilities for reparations from academic institutions to their local Black communities as well as responsibilities to the direct descendants of those enslaved by members of their academic community.

While no amount of “blood money” can bring back the dead or heal all scars that does not remove from us the obligation to seek through reparations to eradicate racist disparities that weigh on living and future generations.

**We want the public record to show that students in Dr. Soares’ Soc 321 seminar in November 2021, built family trees for some of Wake Forest College’s enslaved that identified living direct descendants.** We have given Wake’s committee on Slavery, Race, and Memory the genealogical family trees for the individuals involved. We look to Wake’s committee to reach out to these descendants and hope this work will be done swiftly, years should not pass before reparative actions take place.

In the following, we list some resources for further readings on the issue of reparations:

* Ta-Nehisi Coates essays/the case for reparations by Ta-Nehisi Coates  
  Url: [https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2014/06/the-case-for-reparations/361631/ (Links to an external site.)](https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2014/06/the-case-for-reparations/361631/)
* From the *New York Times Magazine*: ‘It Is Time for Reparations’  
  [https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/06/24/magazine/reparations-slavery.html?referringSource=articleShare (Links to an external site.)](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/06/24/magazine/reparations-slavery.html?referringSource=articleShare)
* Reparations for slavery/Reparations by institutions across USA, Washington Post article Jan 31, 2020  
  Url: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2020/01/31/slavery-reparations-seem-impossible-many-places-theyre-already-happening/?arc404=true>

“In New Jersey, the Presbyterian Princeton Theological Seminary announced a $27.6 million [endowment](http://gather-story.ptsem.edu/princeton-theological-seminary-announces-plan-to-repent-for-ties-to-slavery) to fund scholarships for descendants of slavery, enhance awareness of the school’s historical links to enslavement and support underserved communities in the area. These institutions see these steps as necessary and redemptive. Publicizing its connections to enslavement “was an act of confession,” explained an administrator at Princeton. “These responses are intended as acts of repentance.”

* Washington Post article December 9, 2021:

*Georgetown students renew push for reparations to descendants of enslaved people*

Georgetown University students are pushing the school to help descendants of enslaved people sold to pay off debts at the school. University officials say they have set aside money to help and are planning a spring launch of those efforts.

By Susan Svrluga

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2021/12/09/georgetown-reparations-slavery-students/>

“In the fall of 2019, university President John J. DeGioia [announced](https://president.georgetown.edu/next-steps-on-slavery-memory-and-reconciliation/) that the school would raise $400,000 a year in donations to fund projects, beginning in the fall of 2020-2021, to benefit descendants.

The university’s plan differed from that voted on by students in a few ways. A key change: The fund would be financed through fundraising rather than from student fees.

Students for GU272, the activist group, saidthe administration’s plan directly negated the wishes of students, by taking over the effort and turning it into a philanthropic effort rather than treating it as a debt to be repaid and an opportunity for reconciliation. The student group also said the university’s plan did not have any transparency around its implementation and accountability.”

* For an example from Nazism and the holocaust, see: German reparation payments to holocaust victims in excess of $89 billion over six decades  
  Url: [http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/18/world/europe/for-60th-year-germany-honors-duty-to-pay-holocaust-victims.html (Links to an external site.)](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/18/world/europe/for-60th-year-germany-honors-duty-to-pay-holocaust-victims.html)  
  Description: NYT article on Germany's reparation payments to holocaust victims