

CALL FOR UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE IN THE UNITED STATES

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So long as free men shout the words of liberty and there are subjected souls to listen, ... then tyranny is in peril.

From the Magna Carta and the rule of habeas corpus, trial by jury and election by ballot; the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments; and the Civil and Voting Rights Acts, the English speaking western world has enshrined the great principles of freedom and valuation of democracy as the exercise of these principles.

Liberty is no harlot to accosted by any bully and cast aside once her services are no longer desired. It is the fundamental right of all humankind as proclaimed by this nation's signing of the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights," to elect their leaders.

WE, the men in this room, shall not cease to proclaim liberty's virtues until the walls of civilization have fallen, and the curtain of humanity is drawn asunder. **WE** are fighting not just for our right to vote. **WE** are fighting for our nation to once again elevate its' practice to the heights of our espoused principles.

Where once we were the lamp of Lady Liberty, most of the world has since passed us by. Where once we were the last so-called "civilized nation" to enslave our brethren, we are once again the last prohibiting our prisoners from the fundamental divine of democracy.

When the Solicitor General of our northern neighbor inveighed to block her prisoners from voting, the Canadian Supreme Court in unanimous consent ruled, and I quote, "the electorate chooses the government, the government does not choose the electorate." Only in America is it different.

Today, here and now, we the congregation of black men and white men, of brown men and red men, of women of all races behind these and two thousand other walled and wired compounds, of fifteen other million of Americans now or sometime during their lifetimes whom are banned from casting their ballots, beseech you to stand with us an invoke as Dr. King poetically illustrated, the "arc of the universe bends towards justice," and together for final ablation of the last vestige of slavery in America.

A decade ago, prisoners in five states could cast their ballots from their cell blocks. Today only two commonwealths extend universal suffrage to ALL of their citizens.

Instead of leading the world, America is regressing. Instead of championing liberty, we imprison more men of color than the past apartheid regime of South Africa ever dreamed. Instead of marching with the Germanic constitution that "encourages" its' prisoners to vote, we have states where more black men are permanently disenfranchised than are presently registered to vote.

Today the new taint of Jim Crowism freely functions in America. One not exclusively by color, but more insidiously via the artifice of conviction. Today, **WE**, the members of Branch #4003 of the CRCC - NAACP are declaring we will hereby be submitting to the 2011 convention for ratification consideration the resolution "Calling for Universal Suffrage in the United States of America: The Prisoners Voting Rights Act."