

Senate Resolution No. 2141

BY: Senator SANDERS

COMMEMORATING the Conference on Slavery, the Transatlantic Slave Trade, and Reparatory Justice, the first extra-territorial Juneteenth celebration outside the United States, in Accra, Ghana from June 17-19, 2026

WHEREAS, The Republic of Ghana will be hosting a three-day conference from June 17-19, 2026, in Accra, Ghana to transform political momentum into a common concrete institutional commitment for reparatory justice; and

WHEREAS, On March 25, 2026, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution A/RES/80/250 which was the first resolution in the UN's 80-year history dedicated exclusively to slavery and the transatlantic slave trade; and

WHEREAS, The United Nations Resolution declares the trafficking of enslaved Africans and racialized chattel enslavement as the gravest crime against humanity, calling for good faith dialogue on reparatory justice and the prompt restitution of cultural properties; and

WHEREAS, The conference convenes a broad multi-stakeholder dialogue, bringing together governments, international organizations, diaspora representatives, legal experts, civil society, and scholars in a unified call to action; representatives from New York State plan to attend the conference and the Juneteenth commemorative celebration; and

WHEREAS, Structured around five core objectives, the conference will focus on collective reflection and dialogue, establishing global post-adoption framework, generating a comprehensive report document on the subject matter, establishing three global panels regarding reparatory justice, and institutionalizing a cross-regional high-level annual consultative forum; and

WHEREAS, June 19, 1865, is the date the last group of enslaved Africans were freed in the United States; the conference's third day is symbolically scheduled on this sacred observance known as Juneteenth, standing with others in the United States in commemorating the final emancipation of enslaved African Americans; and

WHEREAS, This monumental occasion marks the first extra-territorial Juneteenth commemorative celebration outside the United States, taking place at Christiansborg Castle in Accra, Ghana—a UNESCO World Heritage site for its role in the European colonial influence in West Africa and the Atlantic slave trade; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting and proper that this Legislative Body recognizes and honors those committed individuals and organizations who work unremittingly seeking justice, renouncing racism, and advancing human rights for all, thereby fostering and preserving the ideals of

equality, peace, and justice for the world, and for our beloved Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the Conference on Slavery, the Transatlantic Slave Trade, and Reparatory Justice, the first extra-territorial Juneteenth celebration outside the United States, in Accra, Ghana from June 17-19, 2026; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to H.E. John Dramani Mahama, President of the Republic of Ghana.