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Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission



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Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission Releases Final Report on Racial Terror Lynchings

For Immediate Release

Historic Report Documents 38 Lynching Victims, Offers 84 Recommendations for Repair

ANNAPOLIS, MD – On December 9, 2025, the Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission (MLTRC) submitted its final report to the Maryland General Assembly, marking the culmination of more than six years of scholarship, community engagement, and spiritual reckoning with Maryland's history of racial terror lynching between 1854 and 1933.

The MLTRC represents the first state-sponsored effort in the United States to investigate, document, and reckon with the history of racial terror lynching within its borders. The report chronicles the stories of 38 documented victims of racial terrorism and offers 84 comprehensive recommendations for repair and reconciliation. The full report is available on the MLTRC's [website](#).

"This work represents an opportunity to investigate and address 38 open murder cases – crimes against humanity for which no one was ever held accountable," said Dr. David O. Fakunle, MLTRC Chair. "There is no statute of limitations on murder, and the systems that enabled racial terror lynching did not disappear in 1933. They transformed into today's racial wealth gap, disproportionate incarceration rates, and persistent racial inequalities."

About the Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission

The Maryland General Assembly established the Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 2019 to research, document, and make recommendations to address Maryland's history of racial terror lynchings. Over six years, the MLTRC:

- Held fourteen public hearings across Maryland
- Listened to descendants, historians, community leaders, policymakers, experts, and advocates
- Examined thousands of pages of archival records and historical evidence
- Visited sites where violence occurred and communities gathered in remembrance
- Identified 84 recommendations in the following categories: an apology and acknowledgement of responsibility; material reparations; criminal justice reform; community healing; education; mental health; symbolic initiatives; and implementing the reforms.

For more information, contact mltrc@maryland.gov.

Common Questions

The MLTRC represents a sacred commitment to truth-telling, accountability, and repair for crimes that have shaped Maryland's institutions and fostered racial disparities for generations. The report directly anticipates questions about this work:

Why honor those accused of crimes? The MLTRC emphasizes that none of the victims received due process or fair trials. Pioneering journalist Ida B. Wells documented that many rape accusations used to justify lynchings were spurious, involving clandestine consensual relationships that violated social taboos or were entirely fabricated to cover economic disputes.

Why undertake this work 90+ years later? Beyond the fact that there is no statute of limitations on murder, the systems that enabled racial terror lynching continue to cause harm today. The cost of inaction far exceeds the investment required for meaningful repair.

Why extend recommendations beyond direct descendants? Lynching was a system of terror designed to subjugate entire communities. Every Black Marylander who modified their behavior out of fear, lost property, was denied opportunity, or fled Maryland was a victim of this system.

Maryland recently created a Reparations Commission. Is it duplicative of the MLTRC's work? While the Maryland Reparations Commission will consider the impacts of slavery and Jim Crow, the MLTRC focused exclusively on the legacy of racial terror lynchings and designed remedies specifically to address that legacy. We anticipate that the Maryland Reparations Commission will build on our extensive research, findings, and recommendations, while also exceeding the scope of the MLTRC's work. By enacting the MLTRC's recommendations, the Maryland General Assembly will address one component of the disparate and discriminatory treatment that Black Marylanders have endured.

"This report is not an ending, but a foundation for ongoing work in homes, classrooms, courthouses, and communities across Maryland," said Dr. Charles Chavis, MLTRC Vice Chair. "May truth remain our guide, justice our practice, and reconciliation our legacy."