



Incarcerated
firefighters are paid
\$1 of hazard pay
per hour while risking
their lives on the fire lines.¹

End Slavery for Good



5 states have taken the steps to end involuntary servitude.⁴

Let's end slavery in California for good.

ACA 3 would put the California Abolition Act on the November 2022 ballot. This act would amend the state's constitution to read "Slavery and involuntary servitude are prohibited."

Ending Slavery in California: 5 things to know

1. Slavery and involuntary servitude is still legal in the US.

The Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibits slavery and involuntary servitude but contains a loophole that permits both practices “as a punishment for crime.” California has a similar loophole in its constitution: “Involuntary servitude is prohibited except to punish crime.”

2. There is a bill that would end slavery in California.

Language of **ACA 3**: “Slavery and involuntary servitude are prohibited.”

3. This matters – a human life is worth more than a dollar an hour.

California uses the loophole to force 100,000 people, disproportionately of color, to work for no pay, or as little as 8 cents an hour, and punishes them if they refuse. The incarcerated fire fighters who risk their lives to protect our state and homes receive hazard “pay” of \$1 an hour.

Prisoners who refuse to work lose “privileges” like family visits and outdoor exercise.

74% of prisoners in California are Black or Latinx.

4. The Episcopal Church supports ending slavery without exception.

In 2018, General Convention passed a resolution stating its opposition to all human slavery at any time and supporting efforts for changing the Constitution’s language to end slavery “without exception.”⁵

“We find in both the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament a way of doing justice that is also a way of being compassionate and humane.”⁶

– Presiding Bishop Michael Curry

5. Honest pay reduces re-offending.

Reduced re-offending means we save some of the over \$13 billion Californian taxpayers spend each year on prisons.

“Fair pay shows respect for incarcerated people and would allow them to save money to get back on their feet after they return to society.”⁷ – Grunfeld & Shinn-Krantz, Ending Involuntary Servitude in California

You can be a key part of the movement to end slavery for good.

WRITE, EMAIL, OR CALL your State Senators urging them to pass ACA 3 before the June 30, 2022 deadline. findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov

JOIN PRESIDING BISHOP MICHAEL CURRY AND DIOCESAN BISHOP MARC ANDRUS in joining the national movement to end slavery, Free at Last. freetatlastcoalition.org

URGE CONGRESS to end slavery today. Use the Episcopal Public Policy’s Network’s messaging tool to send a message to Congress. episcopalchurch.org/ministries/office-government-relations/action-alerts/

What questions do you have?

Bring them to the Q&A session at Grace Cathedral with members of the Social Justice Working Group! August 7, 2022, after the 11am service, in the Nave.

 GRACE CATHEDRAL

End Slavery for Good

1. Incarcerated firefighters are paid \$1 of hazard pay per hour while risking their lives on the fire lines. Incarcerated Firefighters in California, KQED 2. Most incarcerated Californians are paid between 8 to 37 cents per hour. Wage Policies, Prison Policy Initiative 3. Black people make up just 6% of California’s population but 29% of our prison population. 2019 Analysis, Sentencing Project 4. Colorado, Utah, and Nebraska have already closed their slavery/involuntary servitude loopholes. Oregon and Vermont have placed the issue on this November’s ballot. 5. “Urge Congress to end slavery without exceptions”, Office of Government Relations, The Episcopal Church 6. Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, Grace Forum, May 15, 2022, Grace Cathedral YouTube Channel 7. Gay Grunfeld and Marc Shinn-Krantz, “Ending Involuntary Servitude in California”, Reprinted from Los Angeles and San Francisco Daily Journal, March 10, 2022. Research for this infographic provided by Gay Grunfeld and Marc Shinn-Krantz, Rosen, Bien, Galvan and Grunfeld LLP