

2013 STATE OF BLACK AMERICA®

REDEEM *the* DREAM

JOBS REBUILD AMERICA

For Immediate Release

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NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE'S STATE OF BLACK AMERICA FINDS UNEVEN PROGRESS IN THE PURSUIT OF EQUALITY

After 50 Years, Inequities in Employment, Earnings Virtually Unchanged

Washington, DC – The National Urban League's (www.nul.org) *State of Black America* report released today concludes that despite social and economic gains, the African-American equality gap with whites has changed little since 1963—the year of the Great March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom and the height of the civil rights movement.

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Great March, this year's *State of Black America—Redeem the Dream: Jobs Rebuild America* includes a 50-year retrospective analysis conducted through the lens of **The Equality Index**®. The report shows that while the African-American condition has improved, including achievements in educational attainment and employment, this progress has occurred largely *within* the Black community. Double-digit gains in education, employment and wealth contrast sharply with the single-digit gains made in those same areas compared to whites.

The report credits the civil rights measures enacted to open the doors of opportunity for Blacks for the progress made in education and standard of living:

Education:

- The high school completion gap has closed by 57 percentage points.
- There are more than triple the number of Blacks enrolled in college.
- For every college graduate in 1963, there are now five.

Standard of Living:

- The percentage of Blacks living in poverty has declined by 23 points.
- The percentage of Black children living in poverty has fallen by 22 points.
- The percentage of Blacks who own their home has increased by 14 points.

But these gains stand in stark contrast to the decided lack of progress in closing the equality gap with white Americans:

- In the past 50 years, the Black-White income gap has only closed by 7 points (now at 60%).
- The unemployment rate gap has only closed by 6 points (now at 52%).
- As in 1963, the Black/white unemployment ratio is still about 2-to-1—regardless of education, gender, region of the country, or income level.

“The State of Black America 2013 report highlights a reality that Black people have lived with for years—the fight for full equality is far from over,” said Marc H. Morial, President and CEO of the National Urban League. “If we are to move forward toward lasting economic recovery and full equality and empowerment, we must redouble our fight for sustainable solutions with a keen focus on jobs for all Americans.”

“This year’s State of Black America report underscores that employment remains the biggest barrier to equality in our country,” said Chanelle P. Hardy, SVP for Policy and Executive Vice President of the Urban League’s Policy Institute. “The National Urban League will continue to push for policies that support job growth now and for the next generation—such as the *Urban Jobs Act* and the *Project Ready STEM Act*.”

To further mark the anniversary of the Great March in 1963, ***The State of Black America—Redeem the Dream: Jobs Rebuild America*** includes a special collection of essays from those who were in the vanguard of the civil rights movement, such as Rep. John Lewis; and those who continue to be inspired by it, including Congressional Black Caucus Chair, Rep. Marcia Fudge.

As in past years, ***The State of Black America—Redeem the Dream: Jobs Rebuild America*** features essays from an esteemed group of thought-leaders from corporate America, not-for-profit organizations, government, academia and media a platform who provide insightful analysis and thoughtful commentary on the theme of this year’s publication. Our essayists for 2013 include:

- ❖ Dr. Gail Christopher from the Kellogg Foundation, commenting on the Black-white Equality Index.
- ❖ Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr., detailing the pivotal civil rights work undertaken during his tenure.
- ❖ Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jonathan Capehart, discounting the myth of a post-racial America in the age of Obama.

For more information about ***The State of Black America—Redeem the Dream: Jobs Rebuild America***, please visit www.nul.org.

About the National Urban League

The National Urban League (www.nul.org) is a historic civil rights organization dedicated to economic empowerment in order to elevate the standard of living in historically underserved urban communities. Founded in 1910 and headquartered in New York City, the National Urban League spearheads the efforts of its local affiliates through the development of direct service programs; and through the public policy research and advocacy activities of the National Urban League Policy Institute in Washington, DC. Today, there are nearly 100 local Urban League

affiliates in 36 states and the District of Columbia, providing direct services that impact and improve the lives of more than 2 million people nationwide.

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