

National Coalition for Redress & Reparations



On July 12, 1980, individuals and organizations from Japanese communities from throughout the nation met and formed the National Coalition for Redress and Reparations (NCRP). The NCRP is an active coalition coordinating a nationwide campaign for justice.

The NCRP has two major aims: (1) To seek restitution for losses and injuries suffered by Nikkei (persons of Japanese ancestry) and others who were unjustly evacuated and incarcerated by the U.S. government during World War II, and (2) to seek preventive steps to insure that similar racist acts and violations of constitutional rights will never occur again.

On November 15, 1980, the NCRP sponsored a conference that presented educational, cultural and legal workshops. Over 400 attendees developed strategies for future activities around the campaign for redress and formally adopted principles of unity.

Background to the Redress/Reparations Issue

On February 19, 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, authorizing the immediate evacuation and incarceration of 120,000 Nikkei.

The U.S. government used the pretext of "military necessity" to justify the racist imprisonment of the Japanese, the majority being U.S. citizens. No such roundup of Germans and Italians occurred. For the next four years, Japanese lived in barracks under military guard. The ten concentration camps which housed them were located in the most desolate and remote areas of the United States.

Aside from what they carried in by hand, all personal possessions were left behind. Homes, farms and businesses were lost; bank accounts were frozen; educational and career opportunities were disrupted; and cultural and community ties were destroyed. An estimate by the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank stated that \$400 million worth of property losses alone occurred, expressed in 1942 dollars.

In Alaska, the government conducted a similar crime in the evacuation of natives of the Aleutian Islands. Here again, "military necessity" caused the Aleuts to be taken from their homes and interned in abandoned fish canneries and mines which lacked medical and sanitary facilities. When finally released, they found their historic communities destroyed.

The thin excuse given for the Japanese internment was that of security, suspicion of disloyalty and possibly espionage. Yet, not one Japanese was ever proven to be engaged in such acts and reparation has never been made for the suffering brought by the incarceration.

Principles of Unity and Goals of the NCCR

The following principles were adopted at the NCCR Conference on November 15, 1980, as guides to action.

1. REDRESS/REPARATIONS MEANS MONETARY COMPENSATION TO ALL INDIVIDUALS OR THEIR HEIRS WHO SUFFERED EVACUATION AND/OR INCARCERATION. No sum of money can approach complete compensation for the tremendous social, economic and psychological trauma or the violation of constitutional rights. But meaningful restitution on the part of the U.S. government is imperative and must include monetary compensation to individuals.

The exact amount to be sought will be determined on the basis of information and documentation of losses to the Nikkei community by the government and all other relevant documents which may be used in this determination. Compensation must also include persons evacuated from Central and South American countries, Hawaii, Alaskan Aleuts and others forcibly removed from their homes by the U.S. government. The first generation Issei are to be given immediate priority for direct payments as most are elderly.

2. REDRESS/REPARATIONS MEANS RESTITUTION TO THE JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN THE FORM OF A COMMUNITY FUND — THE EXACT USE OF WHICH TO BE DETERMINED BY THE NEEDS OF EACH

Future Plans

The NCRR seeks to work with all groups and individuals who want to contribute to winning redress and reparations and agree with these principles. We have been preparing and mobilizing for the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians hearings in different cities, and will continue to pressure this commission which was created by an act of Congress and initiated by the Japanese American Citizens League. This commission is mandated to investigate the Japanese and Aleutian evacuation and internment and to recommend appropriate remedies. We are expanding our educational outreach to other communities and nationalities and are urging the commission to make a strong and just recommendation for redress and reparations to the Congress.

The NCRR will also pursue legal and educational research, holding community and house meetings and carrying out national petition drive.

We urge everyone interested to contact our Regional and become members of the coalition.

For more information, contact:

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CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

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MEMBERS and SUPPORTERS OF NCR/R

MEMBERS OF NCR/R: Agape Fellowship (LA), Asian Americans for Community Involvement (Santa Clara), Asian Law Alliance (San Jose), Asian Legal Services Outreach (Sacto), Gardena Committee on Redress/Reparations, (the late) Amy Uno Ishii, Japanese Community Progressive Alliance (SF), Little Tokyo Peoples' Rights Organization (LA), Little Tokyo Service Center (LA), Los Angeles Community Coalition for Redress/Reparations, Manzanar Committee, Nihonmachi Legal Outreach (SF), Nihonmachi Outreach Committee (San Jose), Sacramento Tule Lake Committee, San Diego Redress/Reparations Committee, Southside Peoples' Art Collective (Sacto), Takenoko (Boyle Heights, LA), UNITY Newspaper, West Coast Asian/Pacific Student Union - Southern California Region, West Coast Asian/Pacific Student Union - Northern California Region.

ENDORERS OF NCR/R: American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California, Asian American Legal Defense Fund (New York), Asian State Employees Assn (Sacto), Bay Area Attorneys for Redress, Community Asian Art & Media Project (Oakland), Gordon Hirabayashi (Canada), Japanese American Citizens League (Pacific Southwest District Council), Japanese American Citizens League (Sacramento Chapter) - (San Mateo Chapter) - (Sequoia Chapter), Edward Miyakawa (Oregon), New England Nisei, Pilipino American Alliance (UC Berkeley), Sycamore Church (El Cerrito)