

## **Position On UN Talks, Reparations**

### **Cowdrey**

I do believe that human slavery should be recognized as a crime against humanity.

I feel that human slavery is so widespread that it is mainstream, and it would be impossible to “criminalize” every insidious realm and supporter of it.

However, I also believe that a step in the right direction is to recognize crime where it lands and to create streamlined processes in which criminalization is possible, even on a 1-1 scale, creating a modern system in which victims of slavery today, and every person, are able to establish monetary boundaries in the case that they fall victim of labor trafficking, of coercion that leads to slavery, of nonconsensual pornography, and other specific categories of slavery.

I stand with the US on the position of rejecting monetary reparations for the transatlantic slave trade. I reject the vocabulary that it is “the” worst atrocity that humans have contributed to.

My modern position is that I feel that kin of the ancestors of the transatlantic slave trade should be recognized, of course, but that I feel they already are very much recognized. 98% of the world is very much aware of this historical wrong. There have been other atrocities humans have faced that are far less underspoken, for example, white slavery and genocide, I bring up Acadian genocide, as Acadians worked alongside Africans on plantations and suffered immeasurable loss of bloodline population. At this time in history, the Acadian population remains small, while other populations, such as Africans, remain quite large in comparison.

While a white person’s suffering may be “culturally” and “politically” labeled as less “difficult,” the facts remain, Acadians were victims of ethnic cleansing, genocide, and slavery. As a result, their population then and now remains smaller than other populations. At this time in history, still, being white seems to be a sort of “cloak” to be on the receiving end of infinite harms.

Today, “men of color” are largely participating in human trafficking, with whites being victims. All over the world, traffickers assume the risk of targeting white victims because this race remains vulnerable, seen as a sort of “invisible” race, yet the reality is far more grim. We see rapid dwindling of populations among whites, who are mercilessly targeted, commit suicide, and are victims of societal abuse, yet their suffering remains repressed because of their skin color.

No black man today is vilified as much as the “white male,” which illusion is that he is the enemy of all, enemy to all nations, including our own, America. Yet reality shocks the conscience, as white males “at the top,” older aged men, are left behind, their labor no longer useful, their bodies weathered and beaten by their work. White males may turn to drugs, the streets, or commit suicide. There will be no reparations for these men who have been vilified by their society, which they supported laboriously.

The harm committed against them will not be recognized, certainly not as fiercely as other historical injustices. Their voices have fallen on deaf ears. They cried out, other forms of slavery existed. It is not the 1400s, 1500s, 1600s, 1700s, 1800s. No one that lived then is alive today. Yet the people of today are to bear the responsibility of bloodlines past, which they have no control over in this lifetime; they were simply born.

The US citizens of today cannot be held financially liable for the atrocities of the past committed. This, in itself, is a form of labor slavery, in which the US is already suffering the cost. Furthermore, we go on to look at modern atrocities, of violent crime, of looting, of modern slavery. The assumption is that these subjects are different, yet today we are all affected by modern crime, but we do not all remain victims of the transatlantic slave trade.

Today, we fight modern slavery, whose victims are of all races and colors. We see a war in formation, and we raise our flag for the justice of our people today. Today, we share one nation, one world, and one present day conflict, modern slavery.

We move forward with this position and continue our work to address the violence of today's age.