

HOUSING AND THE LAW: LESSON 8: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. You listened to arguments for and against reparations. Which argument is more persuasive? Why?
2. In “The Case for Reparations” excerpt, written in 2014, the H.R. 40 bill had not yet been introduced in the House. Five years passed before it was finally introduced in January 2019. The bill argues for reparations to make up for the lasting harm caused by slavery. Should the bill also consider reparations to fix issues caused by housing discrimination?
 - a. Why or Why not?
3. This unit detailed the ways federal, state, and local polices impacted discriminatory housing practices. Given what you know, what level of government should intervene to fix racial discrimination in housing practices? Why?
4. Read the following quote: “But while the people advocating reparations have changed over time, the response from the country has remained virtually the same. “They have been taught to labor,” the *Chicago Tribune* editorialized in 1891. **‘They have been taught Christian civilization, and to speak the noble English language instead of some African gibberish. The account is square with the ex-slaves.’**
 - a. What is a counter-argument to this position?
 - b. Do you think that the ability to assimilate into society justifies systematic oppression? Why or Why not?
5. “We inherit our ample **patrimony** with all its incumbrances; and **are bound to pay the debts of our ancestors.** *This* debt, particularly, we are bound to discharge: and, when the righteous Judge of the Universe comes to reckon with his servants, he will rigidly exact the payment at our hands. **To give them liberty, and stop here, is to entail upon them a curse.**
 - a. Do you agree with this position? Why or why not?

Writing Prompt

Consider the different roles of government and the actions they took to stop or reinforce housing discrimination against African Americans. With that in mind, create an argument about which level of government should be responsible for paying reparations to African Americans and why. Make sure to consider counter arguments in creating your argument.