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# Headquarters Central Bureau of Relief, D.C.

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# Headquarters Central Bureau of Relief, D. C.,

326 Pennsylvania, Avenue.

Washington, D. C., October 31st, 1889.

TO THE EARNEST ADVOCATES OF THE EQUAL EXERCISE OF POLITICAL AND CIVIL RIGHTS FOR THE COLORED AMERICAN CITIZENS:

THIS Organization is formed for the purpose of co-operating with the various organizations in this country, having for their purpose the obtaining of a free and equal exercise of the political and civil rights and privileges for the Colored American Citizen in the United States, as are guaranteed them by the Constitution and Laws of this Government.

In parts of this country—especially in the Southern States—the colored citizen is prevented, by force and fraud, from exercising the rights of an American that are guaranteed to them and other citizens by the Constitution and Laws of our common country. They are in those states subjected by systematic lawlessness to personal outrages, by intimidation, whippings, burnings and lynchings—murdered even in the court house, while under the care of the court officers; their property wantonly destroyed, and they are made powerless to defend or protect the sanctity of their families.

This disgraceful and barbarous condition of affairs is assented to, if not encouraged, by the local governments of those States; and the general government has, for nineteen years, failed to apply any redress or remedy against these inhuman outrages upon its colored citizens.

Believing, however, that a spirit of justice exists among the American people, and that public sentiment condemns such acts of barbarity, upon this class of Americans, and believing that all true citizens will give their moral support to all proper efforts to remedy these wrongs, and believing that a united and continuous effort by the colored people will help to change this dangerous condition of affairs,

Therefore, this organization, situated at the National Capital, earnestly desiring to assist in relieving our people from their terrible sufferings, and to encourage and promote organized effort among themselves and the true friends of good government in all sections of this country have issued this circular-letter as an earnest appeal to all just and humane citizens, without regard to Sex, Race, Creed, or Political Faith, to assist their effort to remove this foul blot upon American civilization. We ask them to denounce it throughout this land, with voice and pen, through pulpit and press and by petitions to State legislatures, and to the Congress of the United States, for such State and National legislation as will remedy these wrongs; and to continue their efforts until this vile remnant of slavery is exterminated from the land, and the disgrace of it removed from the American nation.

And, finally, we ask the ministers of every church in this country to offer on Thanksgiving Day special prayers against these outrages, and to invoke Divine influence upon the minds and hearts of Citizens, Law-makers, Judges and State Executives as will cause them to seriously reflect that a continuance of these crimes against millions of colored American citizens is an alarming menace to the safety of this government, for **permitted violation** of law and constituted authority in one section of this country, instigated by prejudice against the **color** of a citizen, will become emboldened by success and seek other sections, causes and victims to gratify its prejudices and passions; it will war upon Religious Creeds, Nationalities, Industries; Communism will be emboldened to unfurl its Red Flag; Anarchy will reign supreme, unless the powers of government, State and National, promptly suppress these lawless acts, impartially enforce the laws and maintain the rights of all citizens, without regard to race, color or previous condition, in every State of this Nation.

Very respectfully presented in behalf of Seven Millions of outraged Colored American Citizens, by the BUREAU OF RELIEF.

## Officers and Executive Committee of the Bureau.

Hon. P. H. CARSON, D. C.;	Hon. R. H. GLEAVES, S. C.;	Hon. C. M. FERGUSON, Tex.;
R. A. DAWSON, N. J.;	WM. H. JONES, D. C.;	C. A. STEWART, D. C.;
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WAYNE CURRY, Mass.;	J. W. FREEMAN, D. C.;	W. C. MARTIN, S. C.;
ROBT. CAMPBELL, S. C.;	GEO. C. MASON, La.;	J. B. F. BROWN, Mich.

A call for a NATIONAL CONVENTION of Colored American Citizens, to be held at Washington, D. C., on the First Monday of February, 1890, has been issued by the Bureau.