People's Agenda, ACLU, NAACP, Urban League & Others Call for Civil Rights Protections



Unifying under the theme "United to Save Us," legislators, nonprofit leaders, labor organizers, and faithbased advocates held a press conference at the Georgia Capitol, mobilizing over 350 supporters to call for passage of the Georgia Civil Rights Act of 2025. PHOTO CREDIT: Jerome

Dorn, InDaHouseMedia

ATLANTA — The Georgia Coalition for the People's Agenda, ACLU, NAACP, Urban League, League of Women Voters, faith-based organizations, and labor unions joined forces under the umbrella United to Save US for Georgia Civil Rights Lobby Day at the Georgia Capitol, mobilizing more than 350 advocates to push for the passage of the Georgia Civil Rights Act of 2025, coinciding with President Trump's recent address to Congress last week.

The day began with a morning rally at Liberty Park outside the Georgia Capitol, followed by advocacy training and direct

engagement with lawmakers. The day culminated in a press conference where coalition members condemned legislative attacks on civil rights, immigration, and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) policies, as well as concerns over the dismantling of federal departments and mass layoffs.

Sponsor of House Bill 670, also known as the Georgia Civil Rights Act of 2025, Rep. Jasmine Clark (D-Lilburn), emphasized the urgency of enacting comprehensive civil rights protections, stating, "Georgia is not only behind in the nation but in the region. We have fewer protections against discrimination than our neighboring states. Given Georgia's history of slavery, Jim Crow laws, and recent attacks on DEI, this legislation is long overdue." State Senator Sonya Halpern (Senate District 39), who introduced a companion bill in the Senate, added, "I introduced Senate Bill SB320 to make sure we are codifying civil rights for every person in the state of Georgia. These bills are not just another piece of legislation—they're a statement of our values, a reinforcement of rights and a commitment to fairness under the law."

Nichola Hines of the League of Women Voters highlighted the bill's role in strengthening voting rights, stating, "HB 670 and Senate Bill 320 directly reinforce the Georgia Voting Rights Act, helping to protect voters from suppression and providing tools to combat discriminatory election practices."

Beyond voting rights, advocates emphasized the broader significance of these protections." Andrea Young of the ACLU stated, "We must recognize that it is Georgia's diversity that has created one of the most powerful economies in the nation. We are protecting our individual civil rights, but we are also protecting the golden goose that makes Atlanta the place that influences everybody. That makes Georgia the place that people want to move because we have such a vibrant economy."

Helen Butler of the Georgia Coalition for the People's Agenda connected the coalition's mission to recent movements,

stating, "The first day of legislative session we had a coalition of women here at the Capitol declaring we're united, unapologetic, and unstoppable. The same thing applies to this coalition; we're united, we're unapologetic, and we're not going to stop until our communities receive the protections they deserve."

Rev. Dr. Jerry Black, pastor of Beulah Missionary Baptist Church, closed the press conference with a powerful message: "It is a privilege for me to stand in unison with the many groups represented here, showing that clergy and faith leaders across the state are standing with you. We are in this fight for justice. We, the faith leaders, decided that we can no longer sit quietly. We've got to move beyond the walls of our churches. We've got to come together as one people."

The Georgia Civil Rights Act of 2025 aims to provide comprehensive civil rights protections by banning discrimination in employment, housing, and public spaces, establishing law enforcement accountability measures to prevent racial profiling, and protecting whistleblowers from retaliation.

The United to Save US coalition remains steadfast in its fight for justice and civil rights protections for all Georgians. For more information or to join the coalition, visit thepeoplesagenda.org.

Media Questions Of The Week

What is The Weeknd preparing for his Super Bowl Half-Time Show that he has invested \$7 million dollars of his money into?Â



Will Salt-N-Pepa <u>apologize</u> to Spinderella for excluding her from their Lifetime biopic and group status?



Will the NAACP and Bebe Winans be able to educate country singer <u>Morgan Wallen</u> about his usage of the <u>n-word</u> especially after his sales increased after the incident?Â

Media Questions Of The Week

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Should Jussie Smollet receive an NAACP Image Award in light of all the confusion regarding his famous legal problem?Â

[youtube id="5ho88VXJTBg"]

Did race have anything to do with \hat{A} <u>Lil Nas X's</u> "Old Town Road" being removed from *Billboard's* Hot Country Songs chart even though the song topped the Apple Music Country chart and is categorized as such on Soundcloud and iTunes? \hat{A}

Google & EJI Take Center Stage At NAACP Image Awards Tonight With Andra Day Performance Of Strange Fruit

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Andra Day will perform "Strange Fruit" tonight at the NAACP Image Awards on TV One as part of the Equal Justice Initiative's Lynching In America movement. EJI collaborated with Google last year to bring their research about lynching in America online for millions to access. Day recorded Billie Holiday's 1939 classic "Strange Fruit" to vocalize her support.

Lynching In America brings EJI's multi-year investigation into more than 4,000 racial terror lynchings that took place in the United States between the Reconstruction Era and World War II to life. The goal of the project is to spark a national conversation about America's history of racial violence and forms of injustice that exist today including racially-biased capital punishment, excessive sentencing, disproportionate sentencing of racial minorities, and police abuse of people of color.

Google has given more than \$2MM in grants to the Equal Justice Initiative as part of its focus on inclusion. EJI is opening the Â National Memorial for Peace and Justice in April in Montgomery, AL to commemorate the victims of lynching. Please visit eji.org to learn more.

The NAACP Image Awards will air tonight on TV One at 8 PM ET.