



HARVARD

Office of the Vice Provost
for Special Projects

HARVARD & THE LEGACY OF SLAVERY INITIATIVE

AN OVERVIEW

Why did Harvard choose to explore its entanglements with slavery?

Our motto is *veritas*, Latin for truth, and we are an institution of higher learning dedicated to the pursuit and dissemination of knowledge. The Report of the Presidential Committee on Harvard & the Legacy of Slavery, released in spring 2022, builds on work at the University since the early 2000s and documents a number of difficult truths about our entanglements with slavery in order to disseminate knowledge and reveal truth.

Because of what Harvard is and what it stands for, this was the right thing to do.



To learn more about our path forward, please visit our website:

harvard.edu/vice-provost-for-special-projects/

Scan the code below to read the full report



What are the main takeaways from the report?

The report is organized around three key themes:

- 1 | Direct ties to enslavement:** Harvard leaders, faculty, and staff enslaved more than 70 people that we know of during the 17th and 18th centuries.
- 2 | Financial ties:** The University and its donors benefited financially from slavery. In fact, five men who made their fortunes from slavery and slave-produced goods accounted for more than one-third of all private donations and financial pledges during the first half of the 19th century.
- 3 | Intellectual ties:** In the 19th and 20th centuries, our faculty and leaders promoted now debunked theories of race science and eugenics – harmful ideas that underpinned Jim Crow Laws and fascism, and still support claims to rationalize the subjugation of people of color.

The report also shines a light on the resistance, resilience, and excellence of individuals – starting with the first Black students at the University – who struggled against racial oppression, helping to transform Harvard and the world.

What will Harvard do next?

In January 2023, Sara Bleich, PhD, became the inaugural Vice Provost for Special Projects at Harvard University, charged with leading the Harvard & the Legacy of Slavery Initiative. Her team is dedicated to addressing systemic inequities by developing and advancing visible, lasting, and effective actions grounded in Harvard's educational mission and guided by the findings and recommendations of the Presidential Committee on Harvard & the Legacy of Slavery. The Initiative is supported by a \$100 million endowment, pledged by Harvard President Larry Bacow and the Harvard Corporation, which will allow this vital work to continue long into the future.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED



Read the report and explore resources on the H&LS report website.

legacyofslavery.harvard.edu/report
legacyofslavery.harvard.edu/resources



Join our H&LS mailing list to receive our monthly newsletter which includes updates and news related to the H&LS Initiative.

harvard.edu/vice-provost-for-special-projects/newsletter



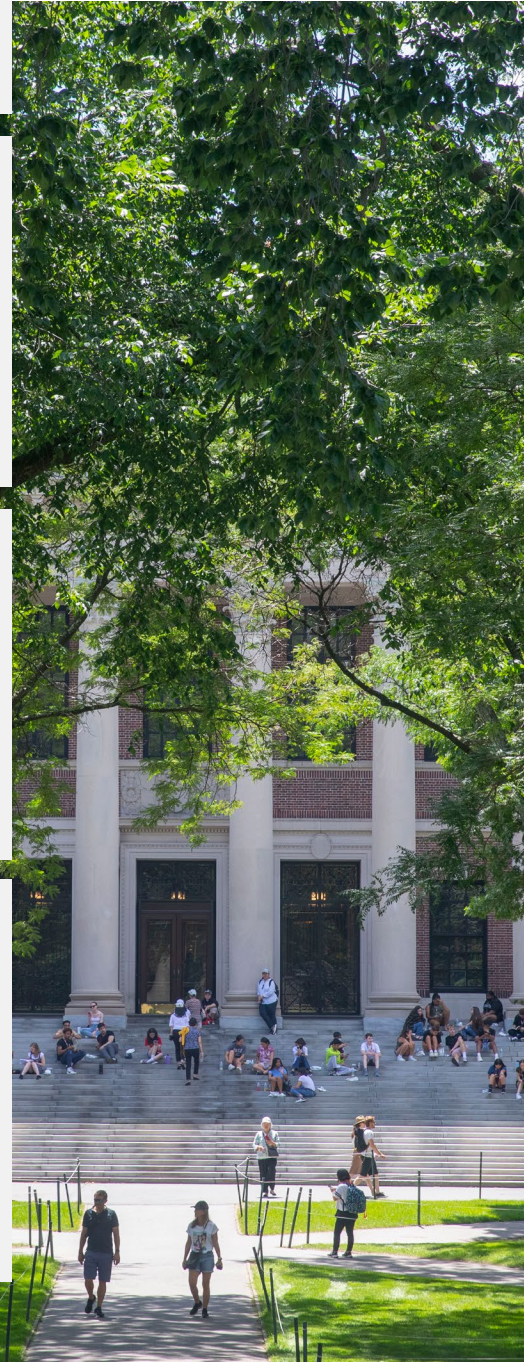
Experience the H&LS self-guided campus tour, which explores Harvard's entanglements with the institution of slavery through 10 stops in Cambridge, MA.

legacyofslavery.harvard.edu/tour-experience



Keep in touch. We welcome thoughts and questions about the Initiative, and how we can work with communities in and around Harvard to address and remediate systemic inequities that are the result of legacies of slavery.

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