

Since 1858, Section 2 of Article I of the Minnesota Constitution has read, "There shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in the state otherwise than as a punishment for a crime of which the party has been convicted." The passage "otherwise than as a punishment for a crime of which the party has been convicted" has always made slavery via incarceration possible in Minnesota.

Also, Minnesota was involved in slavery long before statehood.

**Slaveholders from St. Louis, Missouri employed fur traders in Minnesota.\***

**Minnesotans sold land to slaveholders and used the money from those sales to build local communities.\***

**Slaveholders invested in the University of Minnesota and almost completely funded the development of towns Belle Plaine and Shakopee.\***

After the Civil War ended in 1865, incarceration became the sole legal means to enslave people.

W.E.B. Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk* (1903): "...when the Negroes were freed and the whole South was convinced of the impossibility of free Negro labor, the first and almost universal device was to use the courts as a means of reenslaving the blacks. It was not then a question of crime, but rather one of color, that settled a man's conviction on almost any charge."

**Slavery has no place in Minnesota!**  
**Sever all legal links between slavery and incarceration--once and for all!**  
**Support HF 3008!**

\*Information found in the book *Slavery's Reach: Southern Slaveholders in the North Star State* by Christopher P. Lehman (Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2019)