

Black Panther Party Platform (1966)

- 1. We want freedom. We want power to determine the destiny of our Black Community.*
We believe that black people will not be free until we are able to determine our destiny.
- 2. We want full employment for our people.*
We believe that the federal government is responsible and obligated to give every man employment or a guaranteed income. We believe that if the white American businessmen will not give full employment, then the means of production should be taken from the businessmen. . . .
- 3. We want an end to the robbery by the white man of our Black Community.*
We believe that this racist government has robbed us and now we are demanding the overdue debt of forty acres and two mules. Forty acres and two mules was promised 100 years ago as restitution for slave labor and mass murder of black people. . . .
- 4. We want decent housing, fit for shelter of human beings.*
We believe that if the white landlords will not give decent housing to our black community, then the housing and the land should be made into cooperatives so that our community, with government aid, can build and make decent housing for its people.
- 5. We want education for our people that exposes the true nature of this decadent American society. We want education that teaches us our true history and our role in the present-day society.*
- 6. We want all black men to be exempt from military service.*
We believe that black people should not be forced to fight in the military service to defend a racist government that does not protect us. . . .
- 7. We want an immediate end to police brutality and murder of black people.*
. . . . The Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States gives a right to bear arms. We therefore believe that all black people should arm themselves for self defense.
- 8. We want freedom for all black men held in federal, state, county and city prisons and jails.*
We believe that all black people should be released from the many jails and prisons because they have not received a fair and impartial trial.
- 9. We want all black people when brought to trial to be tried in court by a jury of their peer group or people from their black communities, as defined by the Constitution of the United States. . . .*
- 10. We want land, bread, housing, education, clothing, justice and peace. And as our major political objective, a United Nations-supervised plebiscite to be held throughout the black colony in which only black colonial subjects will be allowed to participate for the purpose of determining the will of black people as to their national destiny.*