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## Whitelandia And State Sanctioned Discrimination Against Black Americans in Oregon

**WHITELANDIA** is a single word description of what Oregon Original Constitution defined in its **Article I Bill of Rights, Section 35** and **Article II Suffrage And Elections, Section 6** that stated:

*"No free negro, or mulatto, not residing in this State at the time of the adoption of this Constitution, shall come, reside, or be within this State, or hold any real estate, or make any contracts, or maintain any suit therein; and the Legislative Assembly shall provide by penal laws, for the removal, by public officers, of all such negroes, and mulattoes, and for their effectual exclusion from the State, and for the punishment of persons who shall bring them into the State, or employ, or harbor them."* and *"No Negro, Chinaman or Mulatto shall have the right of suffrage."*

**State sanctioned discrimination against Black Americans in Oregon** is discrimination established by laws, actions and activities of the federal, state and local governments to deny opportunities, rights and citizenship to Black Americans.

1. Have, in the past and today, the governments of the State of Oregon and of the counties and cities in Oregon used their laws to discriminate against Black Americans in Oregon?
2. Have, in the past and today, these Oregon laws conditioned White Oregonians to believe that it is legally okay to discriminate against Black Oregonians?
3. Have, in the past and today, these Oregon laws conditioned Black Oregonians that there is nothing they can do about Oregon laws that discriminate against them or that cause White Oregonians to discriminate against Black Oregonians?
4. Should Oregon be a State of the United States of America that only White Oregonians can benefit free of discrimination from what Oregon offers?
5. What roles have the public and private institutions played in this state sanctioned discrimination against Black Americans in Oregon and how that discrimination continues to be a destructive force today?
6. Is Oregon education system designed to help all people in Oregon to understand the history of Oregon treatment of Black Americans?
7. Is Oregon judicial system designed to protect the rights and treatment of Black Americans?

Painful history is hard for people to share and understand, but it is easy for people to try to avoid knowing. Yet we need to know it so that we can move forward to benefit all. Do you want to know how these early provisions of the Oregon Constitution affected White Oregonians' attitudes and actions toward Black Americans or Black Oregonians? **"Whitelandia, the 90-minute documentary"** will be a good start.