

To the Hon<sup>ble</sup>. General Assembly of the State of Connecticut to be held at Hartford on the Second Thursday of Instant May —

The Petition of the Negroes in the Towns of Stratford and Fairfield in the County of Fairfield, <sup>who are held in a State of Slavery</sup> humbly sheweth

That many of your Petitioners, were (as they verily believe) most unjustly torn, from the Bosoms of their dear Parents, and Friends, and without any Crime, by them committed, doomed, and bound down, to perpetual Slavery; and as if the Perpetrators of this horrid Wickedness, were conscious (that we poor Ignorant Africans, upon the least Glimmering Light, derived from a Knowledge of the Sense and Practice of civilized Nations) ~~their poor Slaves~~ should convince them of their Sin, they have added ~~still a more~~ another dreadful Evil, that of holding ~~them~~<sup>us</sup> in gross Ignorance, so as to render ~~Our~~ Subjection more easy and tolerable, may it please your Honour, we are most grievously affected, under the Consideration, of the flagrant Injustice; your Honour who are nobly contending, in the Cause of Liberty, whose conduct excites the Admiration, and Reverence, of all the great Empires of the World; will not resent, our thus freely animadverting, on this detestable Practice; altho our Skins are different in Colour, from those whom we serve, yet Reason & Revelation, join to declare, that we are the

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creatures of that God, who made of one Blood, and Kindred, all the Nations  
of the Earth; we perceive by our own Reflection, that we are  
endowed, with the same Faculties, with our masters, and there  
is nothing, that leads us to a Belief, or Suspicion, that we are  
any more obliged to serve them, than they us, and the more  
we Consider of this matter, the more we are convinced, of our  
Right (by the Laws of Nature, and by the ~~Laws of Jesus Christ~~  
whole Tenor, of the Christian Religion, so far as we have been  
taught) to be free; we have Endeavour'd rightly to understand, what  
is our Right, and what is our Duty, and can never be convinced,  
that we were made to be Slaves. Altho God Almighty, may justly  
lay this, and more upon us, yet we deserve it not, from the hands  
of men. we are impatient under this grievous Yoke, but our  
Preason teaches us, that it is not best for us, to use violent measures,  
to cast it off; we are also convinced, that we are unable to  
extricate ourselves, from our abject State; but we think we <sup>may</sup> with  
the greatest Propriety, look up to your Honour, (who are the Fathers  
of the People) for Relief. And we not only groan under our own  
Burden, but with Concern, & Horror, look forward, & contemplate,  
the miserable ~~condition~~ Condition, of our Children, who are  
training up, and kept in Preparation, for a like State of  
Bondage, and ~~miserable~~ Servitude. we beg leave to Submit,

to your Honours serious Consideration, whether it is consistent,  
with the present Claims, of the united States, to hold so many  
Thousands, of the Race of Adam, our Common Father, in  
perpetual Slavery; Can human Nature endure the Shocking  
Idea, can your Honours, any longer Suffer, this great Evil to  
prevail, under your Government? we entreat your Honours,  
let no Considerations of Publick Inconvenience, deter your  
Honours, from interposing in Behalf, of your Petitioners;  
who ask for nothing, but what we are fully persuaded, is ours  
to Claim. we beseech your Honour, to weigh this matter,  
in the Scale of Justice, and in your great Wisdom and  
Goodness, apply such Remedy, as the Evil does require;  
and let your Petitioners, rejoice with your Honours, in the  
Participation, with your Honour, of that inestimable Blessing,

Freedom and your Humble Petitioners, as in Duty  
bound shall ever pray be.  
dated in Fairfield the 11 Day  
of May A<sup>d</sup> 1779 —

Primes a Negro Man  
Servant to m<sup>r</sup> Wm<sup>o</sup> Murgy of Fairfield

his  
Poine X a Negro man  
Mark  
Servant of Cap<sup>t</sup> Stephen Jenney  
of Fairfield  
in Behalf of themselves and  
the other Petitioners

signed in Presence of  
Jon<sup>th</sup> Murgy