



# CIVIL RIGHTS CONGRESS

The Civil Rights Congress was founded in Detroit, Michigan in 1946. It was formed from a merger of three groups, the International Labor Defense, the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties, and the National Negro Congress. Its Director was **William L Patterson**.

One of the most notable things the CRC did was present the petition of We Charge Genocide: The crime of government against the Negro people. This petition was written by the CRC and presented to the United Nations at meetings in December 1951.

This document pointed to the definition of genocide stated by the UN convention of the prevention and punishment of genocide, as any acts committed with the intent to destroy a group in whole or in part.

The US state department forced William L. Patterson to surrender his passport after presenting the petition to the UN. The petition was also presented through Paul Robeson, who together with others signed the petition and handed the document to UN officials in New York City.

The CRC ultimately disbanded in 1956, but helped play an important role in the overall civil rights movement.



## PARTY OF COMMUNISTS USA

Be a part of history

**JOIN THE MOVEMENT**

[Partyofcommunistsusa.net](http://Partyofcommunistsusa.net)

[info@partyofcommunistsusa.net](mailto:info@partyofcommunistsusa.net)

P.O Box 140434

Staten Island, NY, 10314-0434

(718)-979-6563



# Civil Liberties Commission

## Party of Communists USA (PCUSA)



# History of US Communists defending Civil Liberties

**JOHN ABT** was a lawyer for CPUSA leadership, which was indicted by the US government and imprisoned for "subversive activities" during the McCarthy period of the early 1950s.

**ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN** was a labor organizer, was on the central committee of the CPUSA and was on the national board of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). She was expelled from the organization because of her involvement with the communist movement.

**PAUL ROBESON** was an all-star football player in college and baritone singer in Hollywood, but his passport was taken away from him by the US government for speaking out in favor of the Soviet Union and being a communist.

**HENRY WINSTON** was the National Chair of the CPUSA and was sent to prison under the Smith Act. He was blinded in prison, and said "They robbed me of my *sight*, but *not my vision*."



**Claudia Jones, Mrs. Patterson, and Paul Robeson** present *We Charge Genocide* to the UN



## William L Patterson

"The negro people desire equality of opportunity where their contributions to the economic, political and social developments have been of splendid proportions, and in quality second to none.

They will accept nothing less, and continued efforts to force them into the category of second-class citizens through force and violence, through segregation, racist laws and an institutionalized oppression, can only end in disaster" -

**William L Patterson, *We Charge Genocide***

"It is difficult for me to imagine what 'personal liberty' is enjoyed by an unemployed person, who goes about hungry, and cannot find employment.

Real liberty can exist only where exploitation has been abolished, where there is no oppression of some by others, where there is no unemployment and poverty, where a man is not haunted by the fear of being tomorrow deprived of work, of home and of bread.

Only in such a society is real personal and every other liberty possible, and not [just] on paper." - Joseph Stalin

As communists, we hold true and defend all our civil liberties, which we've gained through struggle, up until now in our country, and we aim to expand our civil liberties to those which other countries have gained.

1. Such as the right to work which was afforded to all in the Soviet Union, no one should be jobless and worrying about tomorrow.



2. The right to free healthcare which all Developed countries have, every one gets sick, therefore every one should get taken care of.



3. We need the right to free education just as they have won in Cuba, where anyone can learn in the field of their choice.



4. No one should be homeless, we all need somewhere to rest and feel safe, housing must be a right for all just as it is in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.



5. Workers need the right to leisure and paid vacations, where you can enjoy your life and spend much needed time with your family and explore this beautiful world, the same they've gained in France during "le Front populaire".



6. Clean air and the right to a healthy environment must be fought for in our country, how can we enjoy any of our civil liberties without this basic human rights

