

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.
A DECLARATION
BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
IN GENERAL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED.

WHEN the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one People to declare the Rights which they hold, that they may be better ascertained, it is the Duty of those who represent them in Assembly, to declare those Rights, that they may be preserved to their Posterity.

Amongst the many Acts which the Divine Power has ordained for the good of the human Race, it is the Duty of the People, to elect Representatives, who shall have the Power to declare the Rights of the People, and to declare the Causes which justify them in withdrawing from their former Obedience, when they shall be found to be contrary to those Rights.

It is the Duty of the Representatives of the People, to declare those Rights, which they hold, and to declare the Causes which justify them in withdrawing from their former Obedience, when they shall be found to be contrary to those Rights.

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By Order and in Behalf of the Congress,
JOHN HANCOCK, President.

Attest,
CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.
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