

A Declaration by the Representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in General Congress assembled.

When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

For the purpose of the Declaration, we have been obliged to state the reasons for our separation from Great Britain, and to declare the causes which impel us to the separation. We have also been obliged to state the injuries which we have received from Great Britain, and to declare the measures which we have taken to redress them.

John Hancock, President of the Continental Congress.
John Adams, Vice President of the Continental Congress.
Thomas Jefferson, Secretary of the Continental Congress.
Samuel Adams, Member of the Continental Congress.
James Otis, Member of the Continental Congress.
John Jay, Member of the Continental Congress.
George Washington, Commander in Chief of the Continental Army.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE