CASHING OUR PROMISSORY NOTE
Race, Justice, and Reparation

“In a sense, we have come to our nation’s capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men, yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check, a check which has come back marked ‘insufficient funds.’ But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. So we have come to cash this check — a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice.”

I Have a Dream, Martin Luther King, Jr., August 28, 1963

Wednesday, February 3, 2021, 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. ET

Find registration information for the Symposium and pre-Symposium lunch at go.tufts.edu/mlk2021

5:00 p.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks
Tufts Students • Katrina Moore, Director of Africana Center • Dr. Anthony Monaco, Tufts University President • Dr. Kerri K. Greenidge, Interim Director, Center for the Study of Race and Democracy • Dr. H. Adai Murdoch, Director of Africana Studies

5:15 p.m. Address by Dr. Jelani Cobb
Ira A. Lipman Professor of Journalism at Columbia University, staff writer at the New Yorker Magazine, and prominently featured in the documentary 13th

5:45 p.m. Q&A Session
Moderated by Dr. Kerri K. Greenidge

6:15 p.m. Concluding Remarks
Reverend Elyse Nelson Winger, University Chaplain

6:20 p.m. Closing Song
Harrison Clark, A22, S-Factor A Cappella Group

This event is part of the Africana Studies Distinguished Lecture Series at Tufts University. This event is sponsored by the Office of the President, the Office of the Provost, the Chief Diversity Officers, the Africana Center at Tufts University, Africana Studies, the Center for the Study of Race and Democracy, Department of Studies in Race, Colonization and Diaspora, the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tisch College of Civic Life, and the University Chaplaincy.