To the Honourable the General Assembly of North Carolina

The memorial of the Female Benevolent Association of Jamestown, Springfield and Kennet respectfully sheweth

That your memorialists beg leave to call your attention to the subject of Slavery as it exists in this State; an evil which was brought upon us by our forefathers, and is growing with a rapidity which must put at hazard every thing that is near and dear to us.

O! you honoured Legislators, the delegated guardians of our Country's rights! to whom the widow, the orphan and the oppressed of every description look up for safety and protection; is it consistent with the policy of our Country to degrade the Female Slaves, and render them unacquainted with the honours due to Chastity both in speech and behaviour; or is it not degrading to humanity to see the back of the matron exposed to public view, (although a Slave) and severely lacerated by the whip for trivial offences? And is it not still more shocking to see the mother and her infant offspring separated by a Sale; to meet no more perhaps in this world; or have any knowledge of the fate of each other? – both separated and both in slavery. O! you Fathers who have a tender offspring of your own reflect upon this subject, make their case your own; what would your feelings be placed in a similar situation? – humanity is scarcely able to bear the idea. – Our fathers rolled their garments in blood and bathed their countrymen in tears to obtain moral & religious rights; and must a considerable portion of our population be excluded from those benefits