

Celebrate Black History

WHEN I LIBERATE MYSELF,
I LIBERATE OTHERS.

I AM SICK AND TIRED OF
BEING SICK AND TIRED.

NOBODY'S FREE UNTIL
EVERYBODY'S FREE.

Fannie Lou Hamer

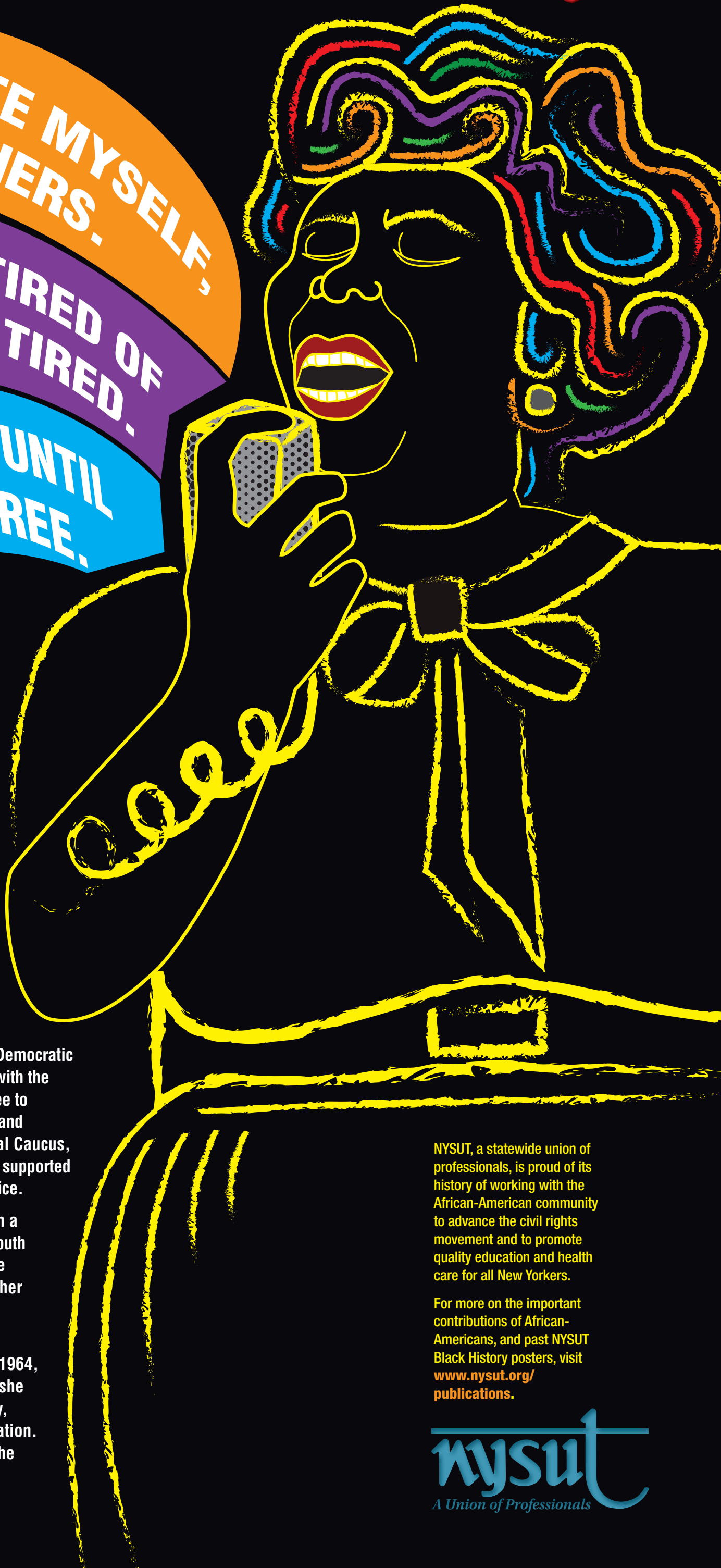


(1917 -1977) was an American civil, voting and women's rights activist who co-founded and vice-chaired the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, which challenged the all-white Mississippi delegation's efforts to block African-American participation at the 1964 Democratic

National Convention. Hamer also worked with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee to organize Mississippi's Freedom Summer, and co-founded the National Women's Political Caucus, an organization that recruited, trained and supported women of all races who sought elected office.

In 1963, Hamer was arrested for sitting in a "whites-only" restaurant in Charleston, South Carolina. Brutally beaten while jailed, she suffered lifelong injuries, a blood clot in her eye and kidney and leg damage.

Hamer announced her candidacy for the Mississippi House of Representatives in 1964, but was blocked from the ballot. In 1970 she led legal action against Sunflower County, Mississippi, for continued illegal segregation. Hamer was posthumously inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1993.



NYSUT, a statewide union of professionals, is proud of its history of working with the African-American community to advance the civil rights movement and to promote quality education and health care for all New Yorkers.

For more on the important contributions of African-Americans, and past NYSUT Black History posters, visit www.nysut.org/publications.

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