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# Lesson 1– Reparations I



# Imagining Injustice

- Imagine that one day, a group of people have broken into your home, removed all your belongings and left your home in a state that was unlivable. This group of people then sold all the items of value that were taken from your home and heavily profited. You are left destitute. How would you feel?

## Imagining Injustice II

- Imagine, years later, they came to apologize for their mistakes. After selling all your belongings they are still wealthy, and you are still destitute. What would this apology mean to you?

# The Repercussion of the Trans- Atlantic Slave Trade

Racism (not only hate crimes, segregation, racist standards of beauty, Eurocentric education, and Jim Crow, but also the underfunding of Black schools and Black communities, refusing to give Black people loans etc.)

Economic destitution

Criminality and the prison industrial complex

Break down of black communities and families

The continuation and implementation of laws that criminalize Black communities

What needs to be done to correct the historic injustice of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade?

Meaningful apologies

**along with**

- Reparations
- Changing or overhauling laws

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What does the word  
“apologize” mean to  
you?

# What is the function of an Apology?

- An apology should not just be an expression of regret, but also an acknowledgment of responsibility for historic injustices coupled with reparations

A Comprehensive Apology can Include:

- 1. Remorse
- 2. Acceptance of Responsibility
- 3. Admission of Injustice
- 4. Acknowledgment of Harm
- 5. Promise to do better in the future
- 6. Offering Repair (Reparations)

What are  
Reparations?

Material  
Reparations

Immaterial  
Reparations



# Examples of Material Reparations

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## Return of Stolen Land

Ex. Canada, 1999, First Nations Land Management Act—  
Transferred administration of land  
to First Nations

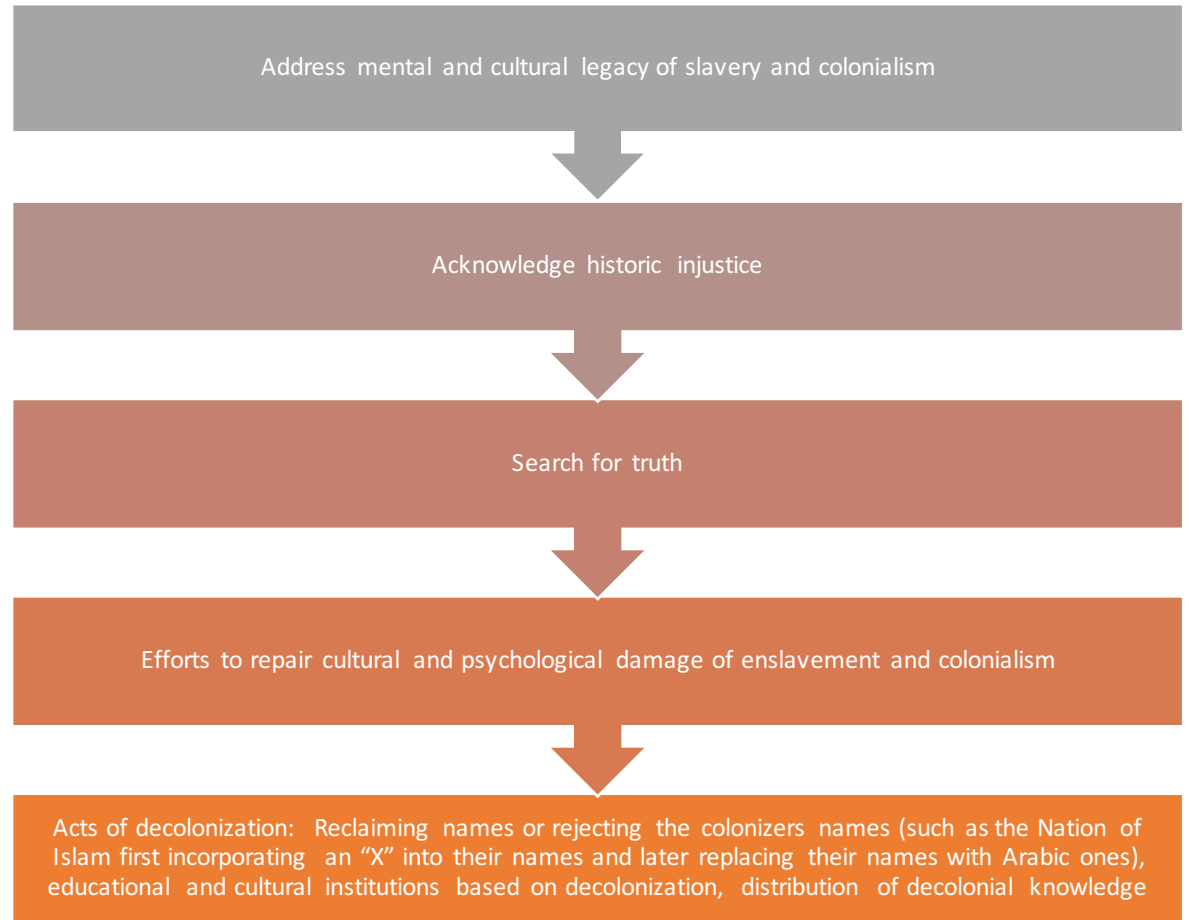
Ex. The Return of stolen and looted art. British government, 2005, enabled the restitution of looted art from 1939-1945 to return art stolen from Jewish peoples

- Monetary Payments

Ex. American government, 1971, granted \$1 billion and 44 million acres of land to Alaskan Natives

- Construction of Material Infrastructure (buildings, facilities)

# Examples of Immaterial Reparations



## Reflect

- Why are both material and immaterial reparations important?
- How do immaterial and material reparations, together, make apologies more meaningful?

# Bibliography

- Hira, Sandew. *20 Questions and Answers on Reparations for Colonialism*. Amrit Publishers, 2014.