



**CARICOM**  
REPARATIONS COMMISSION

## **CASE STUDY TWO: CARICOM**





## TYPE OF REPARATIONS:

- ☒ Apology
- ☒ Repatriation
- ☒ Rehabilitation
- ☒ Education

## MECHANISMS:

- ☒ Legislative
- ☒ Administrative

## TARGET:

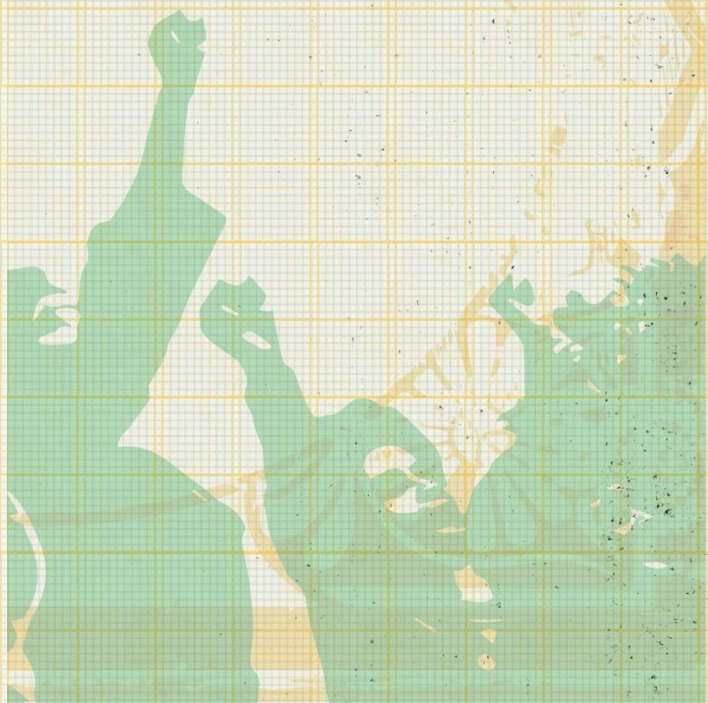
- ☒ European nations who hold or held colonies in the Caribbean, Central and South America.

## BENEFICIARIES:

Indigenous and African descendant communities in the Caribbean who have experienced genocide, slavery, slave trading, and racial apartheid.

## OUTCOMES:

- ☒ While none of the European countries targeted have met all of the reparations demands, CARICOM's campaign has kept the issue of reparations for colonialism, slavery, and genocide alive in the international community and has kept the issue within conversations at the United Nations.



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:



- ☒ What kinds of pressure do you think the international community could put on the European countries targeted by CARICOM to push them toward meeting any of the reparations demands?
- ☒ What should be key elements of an African knowledge program?
- ☒ In addition to potentially getting reparations, what other benefits could come from the CARICOM countries working together to develop this set of joint reparations demands?

## NOTES FOR DISCUSSION:

## WHAT HAPPENED?

In 2013, the Caribbean Community, or CARICOM, a group of 20 countries in the Caribbean, Central and South America working together for cooperation and economic integration, began discussions about Reparations for Native Genocide and Slavery, and to lay out a case for reparatory justice for the region's Indigenous and African descendant communities who experienced forms of genocide, slavery, slave trading, and racial apartheid.

In 2014, CARICOM developed a 10-point plan for reparatory justice demanding:

- ☒ A full formal apology, as opposed to "statements of regrets" that some European nations have Issued.
- ☒ Repatriation, asserting the legal right of the descendants of more than 10 million Africans stolen from their homes and forcefully transported to the Caribbean as enslaved chattel and property to return to their homelands.
- ☒ An Indigenous Peoples Development Program for survivors.
- ☒ Cultural institutions through which the stories of victims and their descendants can be told.
- ☒ Attention to the "public health crisis" in the Caribbean: the Caribbean has the "highest incidence of chronic diseases which stem from the nutritional experience, emotional brutality, and overall stress profiles associated with slavery, genocide, and apartheid."
- ☒ Eradicating illiteracy, as Black and Indigenous communities of the Caribbean were left in a state of illiteracy, particularly by the British.
- ☒ An African knowledge program to teach people of African descent about their roots.
- ☒ Psychological rehabilitation for healing and repair of African descendant populations.
- ☒ Technology transfer for greater access to the world's science and technology culture.
- ☒ Debt cancellation to address the "fiscal entrapment" that faces Caribbean governments that emerged from slavery and colonialism.

**OPPORTUNITIES:** If successful, this case could be a model for future reparations campaigns aimed at seeking reparations from other colonial powers.