



REPORT DECOLONIAL REPARATIONS CONFERENCE 2023

COLONIAL DAMAGE DISCUSSED (HIGHLIGHTS)

- **Mental damage and lack of self esteem amongst (descendants of) colonized people:** looking down on our own culture, how we value which cultural objects are worth preserving.
- **Commodification of cultures:** selling cultural objects due to lack of financial means which led to those objects now being in European museums rather than in the communities.
- **Art for the sake of art:** western art is often decorative, without larger purpose while art from other cultures functions as storytelling or communication.
- **Food system:** the way we eat and what we have access to.
- **Trade food policies:** how food is dealt with in The Netherlands impacts lower income countries, limited access to healthy and nutritious food for Black and Brown people.
- **Health issues:** Limited access to healthy food which led to higher instances of diabetes and high blood pressure.
- **Lack of empathy amongst (descendants of) colonizers:** lack of instinct on how to operate in different communities, intellectualizing things you're talking about rather than speaking from lived experience.
- **Energy poverty:** pushing more expensive "green gas" rather than electrification which keeps people in energy poverty while making more profit within energy companies.

IDEAS MOVING FORWARD

Decentralized educational system for social movements

- Set up an autonomous national network of educational centres that educate people on social struggle.
- Holistic practice where different social issues are connected.
- Co-creation of curriculum, link regional, national and international curricula.
- Link theoretical knowledge to skills needed in activism, such as debate and organization, so that people become confident in confrontation.
- Annual conference to stay connected.



Decolonial reading group
with film evenings and
dinner focused on
education.



**Dinner & Healing
sessions** to build
community.



Decolonial manifesto
with demands for
reparation.



INPUT DEMANDS DECOLONIAL MANIFESTO

GENERAL REMARKS

- **Contextualize our vision and position**, specifically speaking from the Global North in solidarity with the Global South.
- Make explicit we see **human and nature relations** as connected.
- Integration of **cosmovision**.
- **Make it accessible** in language, design and distribution including people who are not engaged in activist circles but who are politically conscious.
- Make sure it's **applicable to different working fields**.
- Define **different visions/horizons** we are working towards.
- Take the approach of **non-reformist reform** approach.
- Set up a **process for input and consultation** in organizations and communities beyond this conference.



Food justice

- Food sovereignty.
- Food autonomy.
- Decentralized structure of the food system, shift to local food systems.
- Fair fishing: Sea access, ensure everyone gets everything they need in their diet in an ethical way.



Education & Research

- Stop collaboration with and knowledge production for parties with neocolonial practices.
- Decolonize the curriculum.



Indigenous rights

- Land reform.
- Land return.
- Support Indigenous diaspora.



Undocumented people

- Be allowed to integrate and work without restrictions.
- Reparation earnings: calculate what a refugee could have earned if they could have worked and give this amount of money.
- Regulate migration: work visa, opportunities for asylum seekers, make work as accessible as possible.
- Improve conditions regarding housing, education, shelter, health care.
- Abolish borders: free movement of people.
- Divestment by Dutch governments from border militarization, like Frontex.
- Grant secure residence status or permit through regularisation.



Economy

- Debt cancellation.
- Hold World Bank accountable.
- Create an independent wealth fund not controlled by the State, but by critical mass, invest where needed.
- International trade system reform with implementation Equal Trade Certification where owner/producer of raw materials gets the shares along the whole value chain, ensure equality in resource management.
- Abolish multilateral development banks, like IMF.
- Abolish export trade agencies that are currently supporting Dutch companies to do business abroad for "development aid".
- Democratize financial loans: let people decide what they invest in.
- Collectivize companies, elect manager democratically.
- Accountability mechanisms for conglomerates: remove power from current decision makers, remove chokehold from conglomerates who only act within colonial interests.



Climate justice

- Waste less, increase living standard: shift focus from "stop eating meat" to "keep food past expiration date".
- Pay loss and damages for consequences of climate crisis to countries in the Global South.
- Degrowth: produce what we need, move away from growth accumulation and resource extraction.



Other demands

- Abolish monarchy.
- Bring down multinational organizations in The Netherlands.
- Education about colonial past.
- Subsidize organizations that are active in decolonization.
- Pay Indonesia back the debt of 4 billion euros.
- Abolish intellectual property rights.
- Direct democracy: citizens assembly who gives advice to government to implement a proposal.





INPUT FOR HOW TO MOVE FORWARD

STRATEGIES

- **Coalition building:** decolonial coalition of different movements with shared points of unity, shared agenda, communication with each other and mutual aid, for instance through food, meditation and community.
- **Evaluation:** internal, external, methodologies, actions.
- **Leadership:** foster leadership that comes from unity and community and goes beyond icons.
- **Moral principles:** create moral ground for people organising in the Global North.
- **Dialogue:** create dialogue between groups in Global North and Global South.
- **Evidence based information:** have info and sources ready, including sources from Indigenous philosophies and the Global South.
- **Transition management:** create safe spaces to discuss to foster confidence.

CURRENT CAMPAIGNS TO CONNECT WITH

- **Regularisation campaign:** tap into the current movement on regularisation.
- **Degrowth campaign:** tap into the current movement on degrowth.

PRINCIPLES

- **Agency and consultation:** nothing about us without us.
- **Non-repetition:** make sure colonial violence doesn't happen again.

WAYS OF ENGAGING INSIDE SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

- **Monitoring & evaluation:** explore possibilities for a global feedback loop based on idea – action – evaluation
- **Intergenerational trauma:** create space for mourning and healing
- **Media sources:** create more independent media sources.
- **Unite the left:** engage in uniting left manifesto.
- **Bigger coalition:** find ways to build coalition of people with interconnected movements, for instance by setting up an agenda and infrastructure for solidarity for protests, promote each other's actions and events.
- **Undo divide & conquer:** explore resources and needed efforts for collective community building.

WAYS OF ENGAGING OUTSIDE SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

- **Tokenization:** address tokenization of decolonization within NGO's and institutions
- **Patents:** question patents by the Dutch state in health care.
- **Peoples council:** explore alternative legal and political frameworks to define social justice.
- **Political lobby:** engage with political parties so they will take up issues and demands of the manifesto.
- **Beneficiaries reparations:** make sure reparations benefits the people who are/were affected by colonialism.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- **Community care:** explore possibilities for a separate document for community work, with emphasis on care beyond resistance, including tools for healing and vision for your community, with care for intergenerational trauma and healing.
- **Community building:** connect community building with engagement in direct action.
- **Community spaces:** create community spaces to build alliances.
- **Community based work:** recognize not everyone is politically active. If you are politically active make sure you keep an ear in the community and translate the needs into action while building trust overtime.

THINGS TO BE MINDFUL OF

- **Reciprocity:** be mindful of reciprocity in knowledge sharing rather than extractivist ways of gaining knowledge.
- **Internalized coloniality:** be mindful we're not reproducing colonial principles and dynamics, such as extractivist thinking.
- **Neocolonialism:** be mindful of links between universities and neocolonial companies, like Unilever and Campina
- **Recolonization:** be mindful of recolonization of Caribbean communities through conditions for economic support, especially since the pandemic.
- **Intergenerational approach:** be mindful of the colonial legacy of 500 years and the need for an intergenerational approach in decolonization.
- **Connection theory and experience:** be mindful of connecting lived experiences to intellectual properties