OCTOBER IN REPARATORY JUSTICE:

NEWS, REPORTS AND CALLS FOR ACTION

OCTOBER 2025

ADVOCATES, MPS AND STAKEHOLDERS GATHER IN LONDON AS REPARATIONS CONVERGE IN CLOSED PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

"We must come together, all of us, to address this particular wound, this crime against humanity which has contemporary consequences, contemporary manifestations."

– FORMER PRIME MINISTER AND THE GRENADINES PRIME MINISTER RALPH GONSALVES

The All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for African Reparations, chaired by LK MP Bell Ribeiro- Addy, hosted its annual UK Reparations Conference in London on 17 October under the theme "From Resolution to Repair". Speakers included Ghana's Foreign Minister Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa, Barbados's Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley, Saint Lucia's Prime Minister, Lord Marvin Rees, and former Prime Minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines and Senior Advisor/Elder to The Repair Campaign Dr. Ralph Gonsalves.

The conference built on growing international efforts to translate commitment to reparatory justice into action. Previous sessions explored practical approaches of organising for reparatory justice. In its closing statement, the conference called on the UK to establish an All-Party Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry for Truth and Reparatory Justice.

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KING CHARLES III ARRIVES IN THE CARIBBEAN AHEAD OF HIS ATTENDANCE AT CHOGM

The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) comes to the Caribbean in November 2025 for the first time since 2009.

Under the theme "Accelerating Partnerships and Investment for a Prosperous Commonwealth", 56 member nations will gather in St John's, Antigua and Barbuda, from 1-4 November 2025, and it is widely accepted that the subject of reparatory justice and a demand for an apology from the Commonwealth will be central to the discussions amongst heads of government in attendance.

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KING CHARLES TO ADDRESS SLAVERY'S LEGACY AT CHOGM 2026 AS REPARATORY JUSTICE GROUPS PUSH FOR APOLOGY

King Charles is on a nine-day Caribbean tour that ends in Antigua and Barbuda, where he will attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) from 1-4 November. Buckingham Palace has said he will not shy away from the legacy of slavery, but will not apologise, stating that such questions are a matter for governments. The UK government has reportedly ruled against a formal apology.

Caribbean leaders, advocates and reparations commissions say expressions of sorrow are not enough, and continue a call for a full formal apology.

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HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH: EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS FALLING SHORT ON REPARATORY JUSTICE

In an article published on 14 October, Human Rights Watch criticised European governments for failing to address the legacies of colonialism, slavery, enslavement and colonialism. The organisation highlighted the gap between governments' stated commitments to tackling racism and their willingness to pursue meaningful reparatory justice.

It notes the repeated abstention of the UK and several EU states in the Match UN General Assembly resolution declaring the trade a "crime against humanity" and the UK-CARICOM joint-vote calling for concrete action against systemic racism.

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KING CHARLES REFERS JAMAICA'S SLAVERY REPARATIONS PETITION TO THE PRIVY COUNCIL

Jamaica's Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Olivia Grange, announced on 22 September that King Charles III has referred Jamaica's slavery reparations petition to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

The petition, filed on 7 September 2025 on behalf of the people of Jamaica, asks the king, as head of state, to seek an advisory opinion on three questions: whether the enslavement of Africans in Jamaica was lawful under English common law, whether it breached international law, and whether the UK has a legal obligation to provide a remedy. Jamaica is now awaiting directions from the Privy Council on next steps.

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JAMAICA: PRIME MINISTER HOLNESS REAFFIRMS REPARATORY JUSTICE COMMITMENT IN NATIONAL HEROES DAY ADDRESS

In his National Heroes Day address on 19 October, Prime Minister Andrew Holness highlighted reparatory justice, recovery from Hurricane Melissa and the work of the National Reconciliation and Resilience Authority (NaRRA) as key national priorities.

He reaffirmed Jamaica's call for reparatory justice for the historical injustices of slavery, referencing the country's petition to King Charles III while stressing that pursuing reparations does not remove Jamaica's responsibility to build its own prosperity.

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UNESCO LAUNCHES REPARATORY JUSTICE TOOLKIT AT 5TH GLOBAL FORUM AGAINST RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION

The fifth UNESCO Global Forum against Racism and Discrimination is taking place from 20-22 October in The Hague, the Netherlands. Co-organised with the Ministry of the Interior and its National Coordinator against Discrimination and Racism, the Forum brings together advocates, leading experts and community voices to turn commitments into concrete action for racial justice.

Highlights include the presentation of the UNESCO Reparatory Justice Toolkit, efforts to strengthen the Global Alliance against Racism and Discrimination, and coordinated global action on historical injustices and intersecting forms of discrimination.

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UN HUMAN RIGHTS HIGH COMMISSIONER CALLS FOR REPARATORY JUSTICE TO DISMANTLE SYSTEMIC RACISM

"Reparatory Justice... involves exposing and coming to terms with the truth of our common history." – Volker Türk

Speaking at a high-level dialogue on 8 October 2025, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, called for reparatory justice to address racism. He analysed the foundations of systemic racism, noting that it stated that the legacies of enslavement, colonialism and racial exploitation continue to shape today's inequalities, and that genuine reparatory justice is essential to addressing these inequalities.

He acknowledged steps taken by some governments and institutions, including formal apologies, memorialisation initiatives, and efforts to confront historical injustices. However, he stressed that meaningful reparatory justice requires a comprehensive approach combining acknowledgement, restitution, compensation, education, and measures to prevent future harm.

Türk concluded by framing reparations not as a burden but as a collective investment in more equal, dignified societies, and urged states to act at national and international levels.