

U.K. to face \$260 billion slave trade bill

21st October 2024



King Charles III is set to face demands to pay \$260 billion in compensation for Britain's role in the transatlantic slave trade. The British monarch will attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government summit later this week. The annual

meeting brings together leaders of 56 member states that were once territories or colonies of the former British Empire. Fifteen Caribbean nations have unanimously agreed to raise the issue of slave trade reparations at the summit. Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley said the U.K. needed to atone for its past atrocities. U.N. judge Patrick Robinson puts the realistic amount of reparations for damage done by Britain during the slave trade at \$25 trillion.

U.K. Foreign Secretary David Lammy has spoken of how his ancestors heard "twisted lies of imperialism as they were...turned into slaves". His ancestors were enslaved. In 2018, he tweeted: "As Caribbean people, we are not going to forget our history. We don't just want to hear an apology. We want reparations." Conversely, Sir Jacob Rees-Mogg, a possible future chairman of the U.K. Conservative Party, suggested Commonwealth countries should pay the U.K. for its role in abolishing slavery. He tweeted: "They ought to pay us for ending slavery. It is not something any other country had done, and we were motivated by Christian charity." The U.K. recently stated there would be no financial redress.

Sources: [bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com) / [thelondoneconomic.com](https://www.thelondoneconomic.com) / [msn.com](https://www.msn.com)

Writing

Countries responsible for the slave trade should pay reparations. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

King Charles / compensation / transatlantic / slave trade / government/ colonies / ancestors / lies / imperialism / history / chairman / future / charity / financial

True / False

- 1) King Charles II is going to a meeting of Commonwealth countries. T / F
- 2) More than 50 countries will attend the meeting. T / F
- 3) The foreign minister of Barbados will raise the issue of reparations. T / F
- 4) A U.N. judge said the damages the U.K. did amounted to \$25 trillion. T / F
- 5) The UK foreign secretary said his ancestors listened to imperialistic lies. T / F
- 6) The UK foreign secretary is the descendant of enslaved people. T / F
- 7) A UK politician said Commonwealth countries should pay the UK. T / F
- 8) The UK said it is considering financial redress. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. demands | a. as one |
| 2. role | b. goodwill |
| 3. summit | c. compensation |
| 4. unanimously | d. meeting |
| 5. atone | e. driven |
| 6. imperialism | f. putting an end to |
| 7. abolishing | g. requests |
| 8. motivated | h. make amends |
| 9. charity | i. empire building |
| 10. redress | j. part |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) Should King Charles III apologise?
- c) What were the 'twisted lies of imperialism'?
- d) What do you think of Jacob Rees-Mogg's comments?
- e) What advice do you have for David Lammy?
- f) What can we do to end modern-day slavery?
- g) Why do you think the UK will neither pay reparations nor apologise?
- h) What questions would you like to ask King Charles III?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. Britain's role in the | a. redress |
| 2. territories or | b. for its past atrocities |
| 3. Fifteen Caribbean nations have unanimously | c. enslaved |
| 4. the U.K. needed to atone | d. charity |
| 5. the realistic amount of reparations for | e. agreed |
| 6. twisted lies | f. transatlantic slave trade |
| 7. His ancestors were | g. of imperialism |
| 8. its role in abolishing | h. damage done by Britain |
| 9. we were motivated by Christian | i. slavery |
| 10. there would be no financial | j. colonies |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about the slave trade?
- How could trade in enslaved people ever happen?
- How sad is it that slavery still exists today?
- Was your country involved in any form of enslavement?
- Should the U.K. pay reparations to countries it profited from?
- How would you calculate the amount of reparations?
- To whom should reparations go?
- What kind of damage did the slave trade do?

Spelling

- The British mrochan
- Commonwealth Heads of Government mimtus
- states that were once etrtesiiorr or colonies
- nations have uulaysinmno agreed
- the U.K. needed to taeon
- its past tcoiitaers
- twisted lies of pamlieiiimsr
- His ncotarssse were enslaved
- We want irepsotaran
- its role in aihsngiolb slavery
- we were metvoitad by Christian charity
- there would be no financial reredss

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. j	3. d	4. a	5. h
6. i	7. f	8. e	9. b	10. c

Role Play

Role A – Financial Redress

You think financial redress is the best form of reparations. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): an apology, a correction of history or the removal of statues of slave traders.

Role B – An apology

You think an apology is the best form of reparations. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): financial redress, a correction of history or the removal of statues of slave traders.

Role C – A Correction of History

You think a correction of history is the best form of reparations. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): an apology, financial redress or the removal of statues of slave traders.

Role D – Removal of Statues of Slave Traders

You think the removal of statues of slave traders is the best form of reparations. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): an apology, a correction of history or financial redress.

Speaking – Reparations

Rank these with your partner. Put the best form of reparations at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| • Financial redress | • Return of cultural items |
| • Apologies | • Correction of history |
| • Renaming streets | • Ending modern slavery |
| • Scholarships | • Removal of statues |

Answers – True False

1	F	2	T	3	F	4	T	5	T	6	T	7	T	8	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.