

Reparative Journalism Video Series: Video #2

What Journalists Can Learn from Global Repair Movements

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Watch Video 1: [▶ A Journey Toward Reparative Journalism](#)

Transcript

[00:00]	<p>Hi, I'm Diamond Hardiman. I'm the reparative journalism program manager here at Free Press, and today we're gonna talk about what journalists can learn about repair from global justice movements.</p> <p>In our last video, we talked about the U.S. journalism industry's history of anti-Blackness, and how that legacy still impacts Black communities and other communities of color today.</p>
[00:28]	<p>I was inspired to break out of journalism's silos to learn from other social justice movements about how we can heal longtime harms, and what I've learned is that repair has the opportunity to bridge journalism's past to the possibilities of its future.</p> <p>So what can journalists learn about repair?</p>
[00:47]	<p>First, truth commissions</p> <p><i>"Seldom if ever in history have winners been as generous towards losers, as the new leaders of South Africans have been toward the men who inflicted apartheid on them."</i></p> <p>Many nations that have perpetrated human-rights abuses have used truth commissions "in the hope of resolving conflict left over from the past."¹</p>

¹ [Truth commission - Wikipedia](#); [Truth Commission: South Africa | United States Institute of Peace](#)

<p>[01:08]</p>	<p>In South Africa, a truth commission gathered more than 20,000 testimonies from victims of the apartheid regime, along with testimonies from some perpetrators, to try and create a more accurate public narrative of how apartheid functioned.</p> <p>What if truth commissions encouraged journalists and storytellers to practice repair by reporting a more nuanced and accurate account of how the media have harmed BIPOC communities?</p> <p>One place journalists can start is by revisiting coverage of a historic event and centering perspectives and voices the original narrative excluded.</p>
<p>[01:46]</p>	<p>Second, #LANDBACK</p> <p>#LANDBACK is a decentralized, global and centuries-old Indigenous movement working to “protect and restore ancestral lands to the care of Indigenous people.”²</p> <p><i>“The earth is in crisis right now, and people need the knowledge that we have.” - Chief Anne Richardson, Rappahannock Tribe, via ABC News</i></p> <p>Above all, #LANDBACK prioritizes the reciprocal relationship between Indigenous people and the land. This includes partnering with other groups to center Indigenous values in all land stewardship and restoring Indigenous sovereignty when opportunities arise.³</p>
<p>[02:18]</p>	<p>#LANDBACK goals are rooted in each Indigenous nation’s local context. Present-day calls to action include defending communities’ water rights against oil companies, protecting ancient plant seeds, and campaigning for the return of sacred sites that monuments like Mount Rushmore sit on.</p> <p>What if #LANDBACK encouraged journalists and storytellers to practice repair by building reciprocal relationships with BIPOC communities that publications have harmed or ignored?</p> <p>One place they could start is by building reciprocal relationships with Indigenous people by centering their information needs throughout the reporting process.</p>

² [The Healing Work of Returning Stolen Lands - YES! Magazine Solutions Journalism](#)

³ [Land Back: Because Colonialism Does Not Spark Joy - We R Native](#); [Land as a social relationship – Briarpatch Magazine](#); [Land Back: A Necessary Act of Reparations - Non Profit News | Nonprofit Quarterly](#); [What Is the Land Back Movement? A Call for Native Sovereignty and Reclamation | Teen Vogue](#)

<p>[02:57]</p>	<p>Third, reparations</p> <p><i>[Collection of news clips with people saying "Reparations."]</i></p> <p><i>"Should America pay reparations to its Black citizens ..." - Bob Simon, 60 Minutes (1997)</i></p> <p>"Reparations is a process of repairing, healing and restoring a people injured because of their group identity."⁴ This movement is gaining momentum worldwide in response to the history of colonialism and enslavement endured by people across the African diaspora and beyond.</p> <p><i>"What do we want?" "Reparations!" "When?" "Now!" - "California Reparations Task Force final report released," ABC News (2023)</i></p> <p><i>"The matter of reparations is making amends and direct redress - but it is also a question of citizenship." - Ta-Nehisi Coates, C-SPAN 3 (2019)</i></p>
<p>[03:35]</p>	<p>Calls for repair include exploring the history of racism in the United States at federal and local levels, as well as programs dedicated to addressing the Black-white wealth gap through homeownership and updates to school curricula.</p> <p>What if reparations encouraged journalists and storytellers to practice repair by creating holistic ongoing processes to respond to how newspapers have fueled violence against BIPOC communities?</p> <p>One place journalists could start: creating an investigative series to highlight how news coverage has multiple harmful impacts on Black communities, affecting everything from jobs to housing to schools.</p>
<p>[04:17]</p>	<p>As we look at all of these different movements from around the globe, I really hope that we can find overflowing possibilities in our capacity to respond to journalism's history of harm.</p>

⁴ [Home | National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America](#)

	<p>We can begin doing that by prioritizing our relationships with BIPOC communities, by telling more accurate stories about past harms, and by taking a holistic look at journalism's impact on community infrastructure.</p> <p>But most importantly, we can look at what repair looks like to each community.</p> <p>In our next video, we're gonna see how repair is coming to life through storytelling, media and journalism. Thanks ya'll.</p>
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