

Government of the Netherlands

Follow-up to apology for slavery past

Follow-up steps taken to date

Progress meetings

To ensure a careful process, with active involvement from descendants and other stakeholders in all the phases of the process, two progress meetings were held in the past six months: in St. Maarten on the 1st and 2nd of October 2023 and in The Hague on the 31st of January 2024.

1. European Netherlands



Dialogue sessions in European Netherlands

Over a period of 18 days, we spoke with 270 descendants throughout the country and online about commemorating the slavery past and about their ideas for social initiatives. The results of the dialogue sessions were compiled into a final report.

Free change of name Temporary scheme to allow descendants to change their names. This may lead to the launch of a permanent scheme. € 14,9 million	n	Multi-year research programme Impulse to research into the complex impact of the slavery past on the present.	€ 1,7 million
Anti-discrimination policy Broad public communication on fighting discrimination and racism, and on further increasing the findability and visibility of anti-discrimination agencies. € 1,7 mil	llion	Knowledge centre The national slavery museum includes a knowledge centre with a Kingdom-wide reach and options for digital access to the museur	
Knowledge synthesis Knowledge synthesis and an exploratory study into how multiple parties can promote a social norm over a number of years aimed at preventing discrimination and racism.	€ 3,8 million	Health and wellbeing Interventions to counteract the impact of slavery on the health and wellbeing of descendants.	€ 1,7 million
Learning network for municipalities Support for municipalities in identifying the impact of the slavery past in their own local context.	€ 1,1 million	Education Giving the slavery past a structural place in special, primary and secondary education, viewed from a wide perspective.	€ 0,8 million
Heritage Investments in the conservation and further development of museums and archives, and the protection of cultural heritage.	€ 4,5 million	Scheme for social initiatives From the 16 th of February to the 16 th of March 2024, the scheme for social initiatives was the subject of an Internet consultation in the European Netherl The outcomes will be taken on board in the further elaboration into a final sch	



2. Caribbean region of the Kingdom

Policy reinforcements

Available € 33,3 million

The islands will draw up recovery agendas based on priorities per (island) country and the promises already made.

Scheme for social initiatives

Available € 33,3 million

From the 1st of March to the 1st of April 2024, the scheme for social initiatives was the subject of an Internet consultation in the Caribbean region of the Kingdom. The [outcomes] will be taken on board in the further elaboration into a final scheme.

3. Suriname

Funds have been made available for Suriname consisting of \leq 33.3 million for policy reinforcements and \leq 33.3 million for social initiatives.

Suriname intends to set up a platform on which a number of representatives of the groups most involved will have a seat, and to conduct a targeted dialogue about the allocation of the available amounts.

Memorial Committee

In the coming period, the government will continue the dialogue with the NiNsee and other organisations engaged in commemoration in the Kingdom and Suriname with the aim to set up a Memorial Committee.



The government supports the initiative of the Amsterdam municipal authorities to set up a National Slavery Museum in Amsterdam.

Memorial Year

By now, around 200 projects have been supported in the European Netherlands and the Caribbean region of the Kingdom. These include projects relating to visual arts, heritage, performing arts and literature, but also podcasts, dialogues, safe space sessions, workshops, commemorative events and celebrations.

An amount of €1.6 million remains for projects of the Cultural Participation Fund, for which applications can still be submitted up to and including the 1st of May 2024. The fund will appoint scouts to support initiators in both parts of the Kingdom in submitting project applications.

The Slavery Past Memorial Year will end on the 1st of July 2024, but there will be no end to commemoration or to attention for the slavery past.