



Global Leadership Summit

Reconciliation and Transformation

Why and how do we work with truth, forgiveness, and reparations when social and economic injustices have been committed? South Africa's approach, in the form of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), is often mistakenly understood to have been limited to the period of 1996–1998. What is not clear, is how this TRC process only formed the initiating part of the longer-term programme of transformation in South Africa; it was meant to further reconciliation across all sectors of society through various interventions. In the EU, countries such as Germany and Britain, for example, are called upon to account for past historical injustices in former colonies, with notions of reparations, forgiveness, and reconciliation taking on various forms of contentious modalities.

In Canada, a TRC for Alaskan native tribes has been in progress for some time now, attempting to find ways of acknowledging the truth of discrimination and racial injustice, and promoting the development of diversity and inclusion in a polarised space. In the USA, a conscious decision seems to have been taken in many spheres to work with transformation and not reconciliation, with the understanding that transformation will promote growth as well as the social and economic inclusion of all members of society in the USA. What do we learn from each other?

