

Nijmegen, face up to your colonial and slavery past

Nijmegen, acknowledge the past

Acknowledge that we share a history. That that history is part of a larger system. The attached historiographical exploratory booklet that is explicitly intended to serve as a first step towards getting to know more about that history. We are asking you to dig deeper, to look at it from a broader perspective. to focus on financial gain, war violence and colonialism close to home, in our own city. Complete the story of Nijmegen.

Nijmegen, recognise the past

Recognise that happened in former colonies in West and East is also felt in our city today by many Nijmegen citizens. Help Nijmegen citizens of all ages and backgrounds recognise how the colonial past and the history of slavery are reflected in society today. The painful traces and the cultural enrichment make our colonial past visible. Let this be the turning point. The moment we remember who we are and where we came from. Do us justice.

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Supporting organisations:

Amnesty International Nijmegen - IndoFILMCafé - Stichting Stil Verleden - Pelita - Netwerk Diversiteit (HAN)
Stichting PION - The Mansion - Dare to Decolonize - Bureau Wijland - New Rootz - Freedom Collective

Dutch culture and contemporary history are steeped in the colonial slavery past and its legacy. This story has been told too one-sidedly for too long and deserves broadening and deepening. This also goes for Nijmegen's story. In our city, past, present and future are connected to each other too. Only when we acknowledge and recognise, we can truly move forward together.

This is an appeal to our city council:

Nijmegen, explore how we move forward together

Explore with us how we can structurally anchor the colonial past of Nijmegen in our physical space and in the hearts and minds of all Nijmegen citizens. Invite us, so that we can explore our options and realise our future as a united Nijmegen. Dear city council, we rely on your willingness to embrace Nijmegen's complete past, to recognise its consequences in the present, and to find out what is needed to move forward together through sincere dialogue. The ball is in your court.

Nijmegen, February 1, 2023