United Nations logo **United Nations Human Rights Council**

**United Nations High Commissioner**

**for Human Rights**

**Easy to read**

**What people said at a meeting about countries taking control of other countries in the past and the problems that is still causing for people and their human rights**

When countries take over other countries and control them in this way it is called **colonialism.**

A cartoon of a person with curly hair

Description automatically generated with low confidence

# About us

A picture containing logo

Description automatically generated

We are called the **Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights**.

We are part of the United Nations (UN).

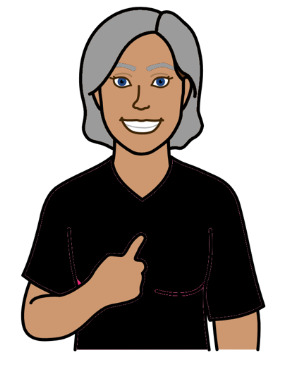
The United Nations is a group of countries that work to make the world better and safer.

**A group of people posing for a photo

Description automatically generated**

Our job is to make sure that

everyone in the world is treated fairly and gets their human rights.



Everyone has human rights.

Like the right to work, go to school and be healthy.

That is what should happen in everyone’s lives.

# A picture containing icon Description automatically generated About this report

This report is about a meeting we had at the United Nations on 28 September 2022.

Different countries and organizations talked at the meeting.

A cartoon of a person with his eyes closed

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

The meeting was about:

* Some countries taking over other countries in the past and controlling them.

A picture containing line, square, rectangle, screenshot

Description automatically generated

* How that is still causing problems for many people and their human rights.
* Ideas for what should happen next.

A picture containing boat, map, ship, drawing

Description automatically generated

When countries take over other countries like that it is called **colonialism**.

But we will just talk about countries taking over other countries and controlling them in this report.

# The main things that people talked about at the meeting

A cartoon of a ship

Description automatically generated with low confidence**What happened when countries took over other countries**

Some countries starting taking over other countries in the past.

For example, some countries in Europe went to other countries in the world and took them over.



They usually did that to get more money and power.

For example, by making money from things that the other country had.

A cartoon of a tree and grass

Description automatically generated with low confidence

Countries treated some groups of people very badly when they took over.

A cartoon of a person holding up his hand

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceFor example, they often took land and other things away from people already in the country.

And they often forced people in the country to change their language, religion and way of life.

A picture containing boat, map, ship, drawing

Description automatically generatedSome countries also did very bad things to many people from Africa.

For example, some countries forced many people from Africa to leave their homes.

A person using a scythe in a field

Description automatically generated with low confidenceThe people from Africa were taken to other countries far away.

They were forced to work for free.

A cartoon of a person with curly hair

Description automatically generated with low confidence

The people from Africa were treated very badly.

They did not have the same rights as other people.

A cartoon of money falling from a pile of coins

Description automatically generated with low confidence

Countries used the people from Africa to get more money and power for themselves.

**Problems for people and their human rights now**

A cartoon of a person

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

A cartoon of a person with her eyes closed

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

Some groups of people are still treated very badly because of what happened in the past.

They are treated badly because of the color of their skin.

That includes many African people and Asian people.

A picture containing vector graphics

Description automatically generated

And people whose families came from Africa and Asia.

It also includes groups of people who had lived in their countries for a long time before other people took over.

A cartoon of a person pointing

Description automatically generated

These groups of people are often still hurt or treated badly by other people.

They might also be blamed for problems in the country.

For example, many Asian people were blamed for problems with a big illness in the world called Covid-19.

A picture containing drawing, container, glass, drinkware

Description automatically generatedMany of these groups of people are often poorer than other people.

A picture containing drawing, clothing, illustration, cartoon

Description automatically generated

Many people find it hard to get the things they need to have a good life.

Like good health care, education and jobs.

A cartoon of a person with her hands crossed

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

More violence can happen to some of these groups of people.

That can be even worse for women and girls and some other people.

A cartoon of a judge pointing at a piece of paper

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

This is happening because many of the problems from the past are still there.

That includes unfair laws and rules that make life worse for some groups of people.

It also includes wrong ideas that people might have about some groups of people.

Like the idea that some groups of people are better or more important than others.

A person sitting at a desk

Description automatically generated with medium confidence**Problems for countries that have less money**

Countries and people have the right to have their own government and decide how their countries are run.

But that is still not happening for all countries.

A person and person standing in front of a computer

Description automatically generated

Many countries that were taken over in the past have less money now. They are in the south of the world.

These countries also have the right to grow and do well.

A group of people standing together

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

That means everyone in the country also has the right to do well.

That is very important for people’s human rights.

A cartoon of a person with her hand up

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

But richer countries are often stopping countries with less money from doing well.

For example, by making it harder for them to borrow money and pay it back.

1. **What people said should happen next**

A cartoon of money falling from a pile of coins

Description automatically generated with low confidence

Many countries have more money and power because they took over other countries in the past and

treated some groups of people badly.

These countries should now start solving the problems they caused.

A person sitting at a desk

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceThere are some things below for these countries to do:

Make sure that all countries can have their own government and be in charge of making their own decisions.

Countries should not be controlled by other countries.

A person and person standing in front of a computer

Description automatically generated

Make sure that countries with less money get their right to grow and do well.

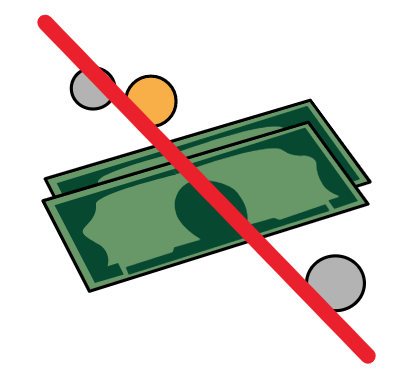
That means everyone in those countries should be able to do well and get their human rights.

That means doing more to help countries with less money to do well.



For example:

Giving more money and support to countries with less money.



Changing unfair decisions and rules that stop countries with less money from doing well.

For example, changing unfair rules about buying and selling things.

And making sure that countries with less money don’t have to pay money back that they owe.

A person standing at a podium

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

**Saying sorry and working to make things better**

Some countries have started to say sorry and try to make things better for people they have treated badly.

Now other countries should do the same.

A picture containing illustration, clipart, cartoon

Description automatically generatedFor example, countries could

say what they have done wrong in the past when they took over other countries.

They could say sorry in public.

They could make sure they tell the truth about what happened.



They could give money and support to people who were hurt.

And they could give things back to countries that they took from them in the past.

A person standing in front of a chalkboard

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

Countries could help people to learn more about the problems from the past.

For example, at school.

A group of people sitting around a table

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

They could look into human rights problems from the past and how they were allowed to happen.

They could take action to stop the same things happening again.

**Things for all countries to do**

A doctor pointing at a piece of paper

Description automatically generated with low confidence

All countries should make sure that everyone is treated fairly and can get the things they need.

Like education, health care and help from the police and courts.

Certain groups of people should not be treated worse than others.

A cartoon of a judge pointing at a piece of paper

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

Countries should work to change unfair laws, rules and ideas that are still there about some people.

For example, ideas that some groups of people are better than others.

A picture containing rectangle, line, screenshot

Description automatically generated

Countries should follow important laws and documents they have made about human rights.

A hand writing on a piece of paper

Description automatically generated with low confidence

That includes laws about stopping certain groups of people from being hurt and treated badly.

A person holding a pitchfork and a bucket

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceThere are also laws to make sure that certain groups of people get their human rights.

That includes groups of people who lived in their country for a long time before other people took over.

They have important rights about things like making their own decisions and owning land.

A group of people holding signs

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

Countries should also make sure that people can speak up safely about their human rights.

At the moment some people are hurt or treated badly if they try to speak up.

United Nations logo

Countries should do what the United Nations tells them to do in their reports.

Countries should also come to other meetings to talk about the things in this report.

A group of people standing together

Description automatically generated with low confidenceThis will help everyone to be treated fairly and to get their human rights.

It will also help countries to make the future better and more peaceful for everyone.

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