

## Truth and Reconciliation Commissions Charts

### Chart composed by Chatgpt AI Global Truth and Reconciliation Commissions

#### Africa

Country	Commission Name	Years	Focus
South Africa	Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)	1995–2002	Apartheid-era abuses
Rwanda	Gacaca Community Courts	2001–2012	Genocide and reconciliation
Sierra Leone	Truth and Reconciliation Commission	2002–2004	Civil war atrocities
Liberia	Truth and Reconciliation Commission	2006–2009	Civil wars (1979–2003)
Kenya	Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission	2008–2013	Post-election violence, colonial abuses
Morocco	Equity and Reconciliation Commission	2004–2005	“Years of Lead” repression
Ghana	National Reconciliation Commission	2002–2004	Human rights abuses under military rule
Nigeria	Human Rights Violations Investigation Commission (Oputa Panel)	1999–2002	Military abuses
Uganda	Commission of Inquiry into Violations of Human Rights	1986–1995	Idi Amin and Obote regimes
Tunisia	Truth and Dignity Commission	2013–2018	Dictatorship-era abuses
The Gambia	Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission	2018–2021	Yahya Jammeh dictatorship
Sudan (proposed)	National Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission	2023–present	Transitional justice amid conflict

## Americas

Country	Commission Name	Years	Focus
Argentina	National Commission on the Disappearance of Persons (CONADEP)	1983–1984	“Dirty War” disappearances
Chile	National Commission for Truth and Reconciliation (Rettig)	1990–1991	Pinochet regime abuses
Peru	Truth and Reconciliation Commission	2001–2003	Civil war and Shining Path violence
El Salvador	UN Truth Commission for El Salvador	1992–1993	Civil war atrocities
Guatemala	Historical Clarification Commission	1997–1999	Civil war and genocide of Maya peoples
Colombia	Truth, Coexistence, and Non-Recurrence Commission	2018–2022	Decades-long armed conflict
Paraguay	Truth and Justice Commission	2004–2008	Stroessner dictatorship abuses
Haiti	National Truth and Justice Commission	1995–1996	Military junta period
Canada	Truth and Reconciliation Commission	2008–2015	Indigenous residential school abuses
United States (local)	Maine Wabanaki-State Child Welfare TRC; Greensboro NC TRC	2004–2015	Indigenous and racial justice
United States (emerging)	California Reparations Task Force; Truth and Healing Initiatives	2020–present	Systemic racism and repair

## Asia-Pacific

Country	Commission Name	Years	Focus
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Timor-Leste	Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation (CAVR)	2001–2005	Indonesian occupation
South Korea	Truth and Reconciliation Commission	2005–present (renewed 2020)	Colonial and Cold War abuses
Nepal	Truth and Reconciliation Commission	2015–present	Civil war atrocities
Sri Lanka	Office on Missing Persons / proposed TRC	2017–present	Civil war disappearances
Solomon Islands	Truth and Reconciliation Commission	2009–2012	Ethnic tensions and conflict
Fiji	Proposed TRC (not implemented)	—	Ethnic and political unrest
Myanmar (in exile)	Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (UN)	2019–present	Crimes against Rohingya and democracy activists

### Europe / Middle East

Country	Commission Name	Years	Focus
Germany	Truth Commission on GDR Past (post-1990)	1992–1994	East German surveillance and abuses
Former Yugoslavia (RECOM)	Regional Commission Initiative	Proposed 2006–	Post-Yugoslav wars reconciliation
Cyprus	Committee on Missing Persons	1981–present	Greek and Turkish Cypriot conflict
Turkey (Kurdish regions)	Local truth efforts	—	Enforced disappearances (unofficial)
Ukraine (emerging)	Truth, Accountability and Memorialization Processes	2022–present	War crimes and civilian trauma
Armenia–Azerbaijan	Proposed South Caucasus Truth Process	2024–	Post-conflict reconciliation

## **Patterns and Lessons**

- Truth alone is not enough — commissions without reparations or accountability often deepened wounds.
- Local participation and ritualization (e.g., Rwanda's Gacaca, Indigenous practices in Canada) create legitimacy.
- Narrative repair — rewriting public history — is as important as material reparations.
- Timing matters — some commissions followed regime change; others (like Colombia) ran alongside peace processes.
- New forms (2020-2025) show a shift toward localized and hybrid truth initiatives (e.g., US racial justice, Ukraine documentation).

- **🌐 Comparative Insights: What Makes Truth and Repair Work**

<b>Design Element / Psychological Principle</b>	<b>Examples of Where It Worked</b>	<b>Key Mechanisms</b>	<b>Lessons / Cautions</b>
<b>1. Public Truth-Telling as Ritual Witnessing</b>	<i>South Africa, Argentina, Canada</i>	Hearing survivors' testimony in public rituals allows collective witnessing, replaces denial with shared moral reality.	Must ensure <i>safety</i> and avoid retraumatization; performative hearings without follow-up can feel exploitative.
<b>2. Victim-Centered Process</b>	<i>Peru, Colombia, Rwanda (partially)</i>	Puts victims' dignity, memory, and participation at the core — shifting narrative authority.	Risk: instrumentalizing victims for political agendas; requires continuing support and reparations.
<b>3. Acknowledgment by Perpetrators or Beneficiaries</b>	<i>South Africa (select confessions)</i>	Public acknowledgment of harm breaks cycles of denial, creates basis for forgiveness.	Without genuine remorse or consequences, can appear hollow or strategic.
<b>4. Reparations (Symbolic + Material)</b>	<i>Morocco, Chile, Canada</i>	Tangible acts — compensation, memorials, land return, education reform — embody accountability.	Symbolic apologies without restitution reinforce cynicism.
<b>5. Inclusion of Structural &amp; Psychological Dimensions</b>	<i>Colombia, Rwanda</i>	Addressing trauma, fear, propaganda, and dehumanization — not only crimes.	Most commissions underinvest in psychosocial healing.
<b>6. Safe Container / Ritual Space</b>	<i>Ho'o Pono Pono (Hawaii), Gacaca (Rwanda), Indigenous Circles (Canada)</i>	Cultural, spiritual, or communal rituals that hold pain safely; allow moral transformation.	Must be designed to prevent mob justice or shaming.
<b>7. Narrative Repair &amp; Education</b>	<i>Argentina's "Nunca Más", Germany's Holocaust</i>	Institutionalizes memory to prevent denial and repetition; integrates truth into	Without educational reform, collective amnesia returns within a generation.

<b>Design Element / Psychological Principle</b>	<b>Examples of Where It Worked</b>	<b>Key Mechanisms</b>	<b>Lessons / Cautions</b>
<b>8. Balancing Truth and Justice</b>	<i>South Africa TRC (partial success)</i>	national identity. Conditional amnesty for truth revealed tension between retribution and healing.	Excess leniency breeds resentment; excess punishment halts reconciliation.
<b>9. Long-Term Follow-Through</b>	<i>Chile, Canada, Germany</i>	Ongoing reforms, museums, curricula, and reparations funds reinforce sincerity.	Time-limited commissions can create closure illusion — “we did the truth thing, now move on.”
<b>10. Inclusivity &amp; Intersectionality</b>	<i>Colombia, Liberia</i>	Engaging women, youth, Indigenous groups ensures layered truth, not just elite narratives.	Elite or male-dominated processes reproduce injustice.

Minow, Martha. 1998. *Between Vengeance and Forgiveness: Facing History after Genocide and Mass Violence*. Boston, MA : Beacon Press. **12 Goals for TRCs**

1. overcome communal and official denial of the atrocity and gain public acknowledgment;
2. obtain the facts in an account as full as possible in order to meet victims' need to know, to build a record for history, and to ensure minimal accountability and visibility of perpetrators;
3. end and prevent violence; transform human activity from violence—and violent responses to violence—into words and institutional practices of equal respect and dignity;
4. forge the basis for a domestic democratic order that respects and enforces human rights;
5. support the legitimacy and stability of the new regime proceeding after the atrocity;
6. promote reconciliation across social divisions; reconstruct the moral and social systems devastated by violence;
7. promote psychological healing for individuals, groups, victims, bystanders, and offenders;
8. restore dignity to victims;
9. punish, exclude, shame, and diminish offenders for their offenses;
10. express and seek to achieve the aspiration that “never again” shall such collective violence occur;
11. build an international order to try to prevent and also to respond to aggression, torture, and atrocities;
12. accomplish each of these goals in ways that are compatible with the other goals.

In light of this list, truth commissions are not a second-best alternative to prosecutions, but instead a form better suited to meet many of the goals. Indeed, to serve the goals of healing for individuals and reconciliation across social divisions even better, truth commissions would need to diverge even more than they usually do from prosecutions, and to offer more extensive therapeutic assistance and relief from threats of prosecution.

When the societal goals include restoring dignity to victims, offering a basis for individual healing, and also promoting reconciliation across a divided nation, a truth commission again may