

Unfinished Business

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I wrote this song as an ally, from my non aboriginal perspective. The lyric was inspired by the Uluru Statement from the Heart, especially the phrase referring to 'the unfinished business of Australia's nationhood.'

Verse 1

What happened in this country, what happened on this land
A strong and ancient people, suffered at our hands.
No I didn't pull the trigger and I didn't wage the wars
But the damage is still with us, only the truth can move us forward.

Verse 2

Well the truth's not always pretty, and it just might break my heart
But I'll join with hearts already broken, across this land of ours.
I can't help but thinking what I learned when I was small
That the truth can set us free, it just might liberate us all.

CHORUS 1

Cos we got, unfinished business, (this land was stolen in our name)
Unfinished business, (now there's no one here to blame)
Unfinished business...
Gonna listen to the truth, make it right
Let's teach our kids the truth, make it right

Verse 3

Makarrata, an agreement after struggle the Yolngu say
Well I'm humbled by the idea, kind of blown away
That after all this struggle, after all this pain
That this strong and ancient people, still wanna walk with me this way

CHORUS 2

Cos we got, unfinished business, (this land was stolen in our name)
Unfinished business, (now there's no one here to blame)
Unfinished business...
Makarrata, Treaty, make it right
Oh makarrata, Treaty, make it right
Makarrata, Treaty_____, let's make it right

N.B. 'Makarrata' is a word from the Yolngu language. This direct quote from the Uluru Statement explains the idea of Makarrata:

'Makarrata is the culmination of our agenda: the coming together after a struggle. It captures our aspirations for a fair and truthful relationship with the people of Australia and a better future for our children based on justice and self-determination. We seek a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and truth-telling about our history.'