

Empire, Slavery & Scotland's Museums
Steering Group Meeting

Wednesday, 28 July 2021 at 10.00am on Zoom

Chair: Sir Geoff Palmer

Steering Group members

Abeer Eladany (AE), Curatorial Assistant, University of Aberdeen
Churnjeet Mahn (CM), Reader (English), Strathclyde University
(from 11.05am)

Lewis Hou (LH), Founder, Science Ceilidh; Member, The Anti-Racist
Educator

Zandra Yeaman (ZY), Curator of Discomfort, The Hunterian at
Glasgow University

Lisa Williams (LW), Founder, Edinburgh Caribbean Association;
Honorary Fellow, Edinburgh University

MGS/Project Staff

Sheila Asante (SA), ESSM Project Manager, Museums Galleries
Scotland

Devon McHugh (DM), Senior Partnerships Manager, Museums
Galleries Scotland

Duncan Dornan (DD), Head of Museums, Glasgow Life

Lucy Casot (LC), CEO, Museums Galleries Scotland

Rosie King (RK), Communications Officer, Museums Galleries
Scotland

Gillian Shaw (GS), Executive Assistant, Museums Galleries Scotland

Eithne Ni Chonghaile (ENC), Head of Comms, Museums Galleries
Scotland.

Consultation Partners

Rachel Forrest (RF), University of Glasgow

Fiona Hutchison (FH), Diffley Partnership

Maura Keane (MK), Intercultural Youth Scotland

Ndaye Lisa Badji (NLB), Intercultural Youth Scotland

Mhairi McFarlane (MM), Diffley Partnership
Jovan Rao Rydder (JRR), Intercultural Youth Scotland

Apologies for Absence

Steering Group

Elena Trimarchi (ET), Learning Manager, David Livingstone Trust
Jatin Haria (JH), Executive Director, Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights
Parveen Ishaq (PI), Edinburgh and Lothians Regional Equalities Council
Steph Scholten (SS), Trustee, Museums Galleries Scotland; Member, EthCom, ICOM's Ethics Committee; Director, The Hunterian at Glasgow University
Silence Chihuri (SC), CEO, Fair Justice System for Scotland Group

Project Staff

Miles Greenwood (MG), Curator, Legacies of Empire, Glasgow Life

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| 1. | Introduction and apologies |
| 1.1 | GP welcomed everyone to the meeting, including the consultation partners. |
| 1.2 | Apologies for absence as above were noted. |
| 2. | Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising |
| | Matters arising SA confirmed that all matters arising had been resolved. |
| 3. | Introductions and Updates |
| | RF, a University of Glasgow Museum Studies PG student, introduced herself and her survey examining the existing and future work being done in museums around the legacies of the transatlantic trade in enslaved Africans. She will be completing her dissertation in August 2021. |

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| | <p>FH and MM from the Diffley Partnerships introduced themselves. The Diffley Partnership are producing the public consultation survey and are working with the ESSM project team and Intercultural Youth Scotland (IYS) to produce a draft survey for Steering Group comments.</p> <p>NLB, MK and JRR from Intercultural Youth Scotland (IYS) introduced themselves. IYS is working on engaging with the Priority Communities. This includes focus groups and dissemination of the public consultation survey. They will inform the work that Diffley is doing.</p> <p>MGS staff and project team introduced themselves. The ESSM Steering Group members introduced themselves. LC congratulated GP on his Pride of Scotland Award.</p> |
| 4. | <p>Consultation Update - General update and detail on Museums Sector – Autumn Focus Groups</p> |
| | <p>SA reported that the public consultation was on track and that she and DM were organising museum sector focus groups, including groups of special interest such as Industrial Museums Scotland (IMS) and Paisley Museums (PM). Steering Group members noted the focus on identifying barriers to moving forward within the sector.</p> |
| 5. | <p>Consultation Update - Museums Sector – Chattel Slavery Survey</p> |
| | <p>RF presented her work. She explained how her museums survey was influenced by her own research at Glasgow University and the previous ESSM Call for Evidence survey. She explained her process: ensuring focused questions, using clear language and avoiding ambiguities. RF received 57 responses from 52 organisations, representing over 400 sites. RF reported that the responses had represented a good mix of collection size, location (rural/urban), and type (civic, independent etc). RF explained that her analysis was ongoing and what was involved in this.</p> |

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| | <p>GP thanked RF for her thorough presentation and invited questions. Steering Group members expressed surprise that 39 of the 57 responses had stated that they had nothing in their collections related to chattel slavery. There was discussion around the reasons for this. RF noted that she had identified a link between the 'no' and 'don't know' responses with those who wanted guidance, training and advice.</p> <p>RF confirmed that human remains were not specifically referred to in responses and read out the definitions she had provided for 'direct' and 'indirect links to slavery', with Steering Group members noting that these seemed unambiguous. RF reported that some respondents were very keen to engage further and find out more.</p> |
| 6. | <p>Consultation Update - Public Sector – Diffley Partnership</p> |
| | <p>FH outlined the process for the public consultation that the Diffley Partnership would be undertaking. She reported that Diffley would be working with the Steering Group, and the other project and consultation partners (RF regarding the museums sector and IYS regarding Priority Communities research). She outlined the different channels which would be used including ScotPulse, YoungScot membership and Survey Monkey. The survey would include short, mainly closed, questions along with more open questions.</p> <p>GP thanked the Diffley Partnership for the presentation and invited questions from the Steering Group. Steering Group members asked if there would be questions on ethnicity and FH invited Steering Group member views on equalities questions and whether respondents should be asked to self-identify.</p> <p><i>CM joined the meeting.</i></p> |

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| 7. | Consultation Update - Priority Communities – Intercultural Youth Scotland |
| | <p>NLB introduced IYS' work on the Priority Communities consultation, setting out the approach to ensuring safe spaces for questions to be asked and responded to. She reported that IYS had just employed five youth researchers, and that they would design the survey questions and consultation space and would be responsible for structuring their time. NLB explained how IYS would ensure their work had a wide reach and included a wide range of participants.</p> <p>IYS stressed the need to ensure that disabled people were not excluded from participating. It was agreed that the process needed to ensure that people with limited or no access to digital technology could participate, and JRR emphasised IYS' current commitment to being as accessible as possible – IYS exists for all of Scotland.</p> |
| 8 | ESSM Website/Comms |
| | <p>RK gave an update on the ESSM Resources pages of the MGS website which are now live and, whilst aimed mainly at museum professionals, are intended for wider use too. She explained how the resources section had been collated and reminded the Steering Group that she is keen for them to pass on any resources they would like to be featured.</p> |
| 9. | Any Other Business and Date of Next Meeting |
| | <p>GP thanked everyone for their updates.</p> <p>The next meeting will be on Tuesday 24 August, 10am-12pm</p> |