

# P-05-1086 Create a National Museum for Welsh Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic History and Heritage

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 12 Ionawr 2021  
Petitions Committee | 12 January 2021

Reference: RS20/14837-7

**Petition Number:** P-05-1086

**Petition title:** Create a National Museum for Welsh Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic History and Heritage

**Text of petition:** We, the undersigned, petition Senedd Cymru to create a museum to celebrate Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Welsh history.

As part of the national establishment, we hope that the rich heritage of Tiger Bay will be preserved and offer a home for the Tiger Bay Archive.



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## 1. Welsh Government action

The Welsh Government's response to this petition states:

The history of our Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities is an integral part of the story of Wales. Presenting these histories in this essential context requires a collective effort from our cultural heritage bodies at both a national and local level, rather than by a single organisation.

Our focus is currently on ensuring that museums and archives across Wales are able to survive the pandemic. Beyond that, we will work with them and support them to ensure that they have the capability to reflect the richness and diversity of our cultural heritage.

The Tiger Bay archive is currently held safely in Glamorgan Archives, where it is stored in appropriate conditions and in the care of professionally qualified staff.

The Welsh Government has also recently published an **audit of statues, street and building names to address Wales' connections with the slave trade and colonialisation**, led by Gaynor Legal, which can be read [here](#). It is now considering what it does with this information. This report found that there are few Welsh people of Black or Asian heritage commemorated across Wales. The audit says:

It is striking that (pending the Betty Campbell statue in 2021) the only sculpture depicting people of Black heritage is not a monument to named individuals but an anonymous statue group in Cardiff Bay.

Furthermore, it noted other under-represented groups in public commemoration in Wales:

The general absence noted of the commemoration of people of colour is remarkable, as is the lack of commemoration of women, disabled people and significant world figures.

## 2. National Museum action

Earlier this year the National Museum issued statement on the Black Lives Matter movement, which can be read [here](#). It outlines the following things the Museum is doing:

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- We are working with black communities across Wales to build trust and understanding, asking how to make working in the museum a viable option across the board for potential curators, conservators, designers, technicians, palaeontologists and more.
- We are reviewing colonial and racist collections and interpretation with relevant community groups as an urgent priority.
- We are actively collecting the histories, contemporary histories, material culture and art of black communities in Wales and looking at how we can review these collections to better reflect their true histories.
- We are upskilling and educating our own staff in terms of intersectionality, BLM and black communities, including on the use of language and terminology. This includes Trustees, Friends, Patrons and Volunteers.
- Equality and diversity is one of our top priorities and will remain so; we are committed to this work.

### 3. Welsh Parliament action

Although not directly related to the petitioners' concerns, the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee is carrying out a piece of work looking at [Who gets remembered in public spaces?](#)

This is not solely about black, Asian and minority ethnic history in Wales, but the issue of public commemoration more broadly. On 3 December 2020 the Committee took evidence from Gaynor Legall, looking at the audit she had recently led for the Welsh Government. The meeting can be watched [here](#).

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