

Press Release:

Manchester Museum announces support of Diverse Curriculum Charter

Manchester Museum, part of The University of Manchester, is delighted to announce its support of a new Diverse Curriculum Charter. Launched by Afzal Khan, MP for Manchester Gorton, schools can sign up to the charter to show their commitment to delivering a truly diverse and anti-racist education.

The Diverse Curriculum Charter is open to all primary and secondary schools in the Manchester Gorton constituency. It has been developed in collaboration with The Black Curriculum, following difficult conversations had during the last year regarding racism and inequality in our society. The global Black Lives Matter protests, debates on dismantling institutional racism, and the terrible toll of COVID-19 on Black, Asian, and minority ethnic communities have shown that young people today are still growing up in a society plagued by racism.

Manchester Museum is committed to building understanding between cultures, and inclusion, imagination and care are values that are at the heart of everything we do. Over the last year we have made an active commitment to accelerate the process of tackling institutional racism across all our work. We also believe it is essential that diversity should be at the heart of both formal and informal teaching and learning, and fully embedded, not just within history, but across all areas of the curriculum.

The Diverse Curriculum Charter is in perfect alignment with the work that we are already doing. Manchester Museum from Home, the platform for our online activities and resources, includes a section 'The things they didn't teach us', which raises awareness of overlooked histories through exhibitions and projects: www.mmfromhome.com/the-things-they-didn-t-teach-us. The Manchester Museum Podcast invites open and honest conversations about how we reframe the Museum's role in shaping the present and future together: www.mmfromhome.com/podcast. Also, Multilingual Museum, our new collaborative project with Multilingual Manchester, launched last month, has already become an effective space to recognise and celebrate diversity: <https://multilingualmuseum.wixsite.com/multilingualmuseum>.

Manchester Museum is proud to be one among many organisations who are supporting the Charter. Other supporters include: The Black Curriculum, Manchester City Council, The Runnymede Trust, National Education Union (Manchester District), GMB North West & Irish Region, Unison, UCU (University of Manchester Branch), Kids of Colour, Impact of Omission, The Equality Act Review, National Association

of Head Teachers (Manchester Branch), Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre & Education Trust, Explore Learning, Manchester Metropolitan University, The University of Manchester, and Equal Education.

We are in agreement with Afzal Khan who firmly believes that now is the time for a concerted effort to teach anti-racism as part of a powerfully diverse curriculum. And that this is the chance to educate our young people about how they fit and are connected in our society.

Afzal Khan MP said :

"I am extremely proud that Manchester Museum have endorsed my Diverse Curriculum Charter. The Museum already engages in fantastic work to promote diversity and social responsibility, but I am hopeful that by partnering in this initiative, we will encourage an even greater scrutiny of diversity in education and bring a renewed commitment to positive change across Manchester.

"What we teach our young people matters. Too often, the contributions of Black, Asian, and other minority ethnic groups are eliminated not only from our telling of history but from our all aspects of our teaching. That is why I firmly believe that all children – no matter their race or background – should be given the opportunity engage in a wide-ranging curriculum which truly reflects the make-up of British society today. We know that our museums can play a crucial role in this by serving as spaces for identity-forming, truth-telling and educating. I look forward to working closely with Manchester Museum to support their work in developing a rich sense of belonging and identity for young people in our city."

Esme Ward, Director of Manchester Museum, said:

"Manchester Museum wholeheartedly supports Afzal Khan and the Diverse Curriculum Charter. It's vital that a wide-ranging curriculum reflects all lived experiences, heritage, and opinions, nurturing in young people a sense of belonging, understanding and compassion. Manchester Museum is a place for curiosity, imagination and sharing, and a natural partner for the Diverse Curriculum Charter. We look forward to working together to support schools, teachers, young people and families, in realising the ambitions and principles set out in the charter."

ENDS

Notes to Editors

About Manchester Museum

Manchester Museum, part of The University of Manchester, first opened in 1890. It is the UK's largest university museum with a collection of about 4.5 million items from every continent. Its combination of the academic and the popular is what makes the Museum so distinctive and lies at the heart of its widespread appeal. The Museum's vision is to build understanding between cultures and a sustainable world. Every year over half a million people visit. Over the next two years, Manchester Museum is working towards an exciting new £13.5 million project *hello future*, to transform and develop the Museum becoming more inclusive, imaginative and caring to the diverse communities it serves.

The *hello future* transformation includes:

- A beautiful two-storey extension
- A new Exhibition Hall
- South Asia Gallery
- Lee Kai Hung Chinese Culture Gallery
- Belonging Gallery
- A new space for learning and environmental action
- New entrance and visitor facilities with focus on inclusive and accessible design

www.manchester.ac.uk/museum

@mcrmuseum

The Diverse Curriculum Charter

in collaboration with **THE BLACK CURRICULUM**



We are committed

To **ensuring** the provision of a wide-ranging curriculum that reflects the make-up of our society and empowers our minority ethnic communities

To **reviewing** and diversifying the decision-makers, academic sources, and content of our curriculum to include broader British histories of empire, enslavement, colonialism, migration, and emancipation

To **providing** a diverse and accessible curriculum that covers the contributions Black, Asian and other minority ethnic communities have made to the UK across our history

To **equipping** staff with the knowledge and tools they need to teach anti-racism and racial literacy across all subjects through development and training

To **looking** beyond the curriculum at embedding a culture of anti-racism and racial literacy at all levels of leadership, teaching and learning

To **raising** the attainment and agency of all young people in the UK by providing an inclusive education that offers a rich sense of belonging and identity

Proudly endorsed by

