

They tore off my clothes, bound me with ropes, gave me a heavy load to carry, and led me to the town of Bonduku, and from there to the town of Kumasi... from there through Asikuma and Ajumak in the land of the Fanti. There they sold me to the Christians.

Abu Bekr es Siddik, kidnapped 1804

They will remember that we were sold but they won't remember that we were strong. They will remember that we were bought, but not that we were brave.

William Prescott, former slave 1937

I came close to my ancestors and the hard reality of slavery. It made me cry and tremble. I am Cuban, I am Black, I am proud.

Visitor to the existing Transatlantic Slavery Gallery 1994



Support

The International Slavery Museum project has consulted and gained support from many organisations, institutions and individuals including:

Regional

- Liverpool City Council
- The Mersey Partnership
- Community Groups including the Merseyside African Council, Granby Residents' Association, Black Police Association, Kuumba Imani Centre
- University of Liverpool
- Louise Ellman MP for Liverpool Riverside
- The Liverpool Slavery Remembrance Initiative Steering Group
- Historic Society of Lancashire & Cheshire

National

- Department for Culture, Media and Sport
- The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
- Heritage Lottery Fund
- Commission for Racial Equality
- Wilberforce Institute of Slavery and Emancipation

International

- Academic experts
- UNESCO Slave Routes Project
- Barbados Museum and Historical Society
- National Museum of African American History and Culture

This new museum will aim to challenge preconceptions and will address issues which are of relevance to everyone today.

Lloyd Grossman OBE FSA,
Chairman National Museums Liverpool

Project contacts

If you would like to find out more about the International Slavery Museum please contact:

David Fleming, Director of National Museums Liverpool, leading the development of the new International Slavery Museum.
david.fleming@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk Tel: +44 151 489 4201

Tony Tibbles, Keeper of the Merseyside Maritime Museum, responsible for the curatorial and academic team.
tony.tibbles@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk Tel: +44 151 478 4401

Amy de Joia, Director of Development and Communications, responsible for delivering the learning and community programme, outreach and community consultation.
amy.dejoia@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk Tel: +44 151 478 4962

If you would like to find out more information about how to support the project contact:

Sian Cook, Head of Fundraising
sian.cook@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk Tel: +44 151 478 4335

Lois Momoh, Fundraising Manager
lois.momoh@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk Tel: +44 151 478 4786

Development Office, National Conservation Centre,
Whitechapel, Liverpool LI 6HZ United Kingdom

www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/about/development/regular.asp

American donors can donate online at:
www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/about/development/donorsusa.asp

If you would like to join our mailing list for news and events about this and other projects, email:
databaseteam@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk
National Museums Liverpool is an exempt charity,
number XN78412

National Museums Liverpool is registered under the Data Protection Act. Your details will remain confidential and will not be disclosed to third parties.

INTERNATIONAL SLAVERY MUSEUM



NATIONAL MUSEUMS **LIVERPOOL**

International Slavery Museum – Our vision

The transatlantic slave trade was the greatest forced migration in history. It represents a dark stain in the annals of human history. And yet the story of the mass enslavement of Africans by Europeans is one of resilience and survival against all the odds, and is a testament to the unquenchable nature of the human spirit.

In 1994, National Museums Liverpool opened the Transatlantic Slavery Gallery, the first of its kind in the world. This gallery has achieved huge visitor numbers and impact, but there is now a pressing need to tell a bigger story because of its relevance to contemporary issues that face us all.

Our vision is to create a major new International Slavery Museum to promote the understanding of transatlantic slavery and its enduring impact.

Our aim is to address ignorance and misunderstanding by looking at the deep and permanent impact of slavery and the slave trade on Africa, South America, the USA, the Caribbean and Western Europe. Thus we will increase our understanding of the world around us.

**Dr David Fleming OBE, Director
National Museums Liverpool**



Liverpool and the transatlantic slave trade

From about 1500 to the 1870s, millions of Africans were enslaved and transported across the Atlantic by Europeans as a labour force for their American colonies. European trade ships travelled to West Africa to barter goods for enslaved Africans. The infamous middle passage was the second leg, from Africa to the Americas. These ships then returned to Europe with tropical goods such as sugar, coffee and tobacco.

Liverpool ships carried about 1.5 million enslaved Africans across the Atlantic. In the late 18th century, the port was the European capital of the slave trade.

The resistance of enslaved Africans and the abolitionist movement brought the British slave trade to an end in 1807.

Liverpool grew rich on the profits of trading in enslaved people. It is fitting that the city should be the home of the world's first permanent museum devoted to the transatlantic slave trade.

The right place, the right time

The new Museum will open its display galleries on 23 August 2007, Slavery Remembrance Day. 2007 is the bicentenary of the abolition of the British slave trade and the anniversary of the outbreak of the slave rebellion, which created the first independent Black republic of Haiti. The opening of a research Institute will follow in 2010.

The International Slavery Museum will share premises with the Merseyside Maritime Museum at Liverpool's Albert Dock, a World Heritage Site. The location is only yards away from the dry docks where 18th century slave trading ships were repaired and fitted out.

One of the greatest groups of national museums in the world, National Museums Liverpool is ideally placed to elevate this subject onto an international stage. Our existing Transatlantic Slavery Gallery has won worldwide recognition and was central to the development of our award-winning work on diversity and outreach.



This £10m project has two main elements

Phase One: brand new display galleries relating to the transatlantic slave trade and Phase Two: an Institute and visitor-focused resource centre.

Phase One

Our new display galleries will concentrate on the history of transatlantic slavery, its many legacies, and the wider issue of freedom. They will explore life in Africa before the coming of European slavers. Liverpool's role in the slave trade will be detailed. At the centre of the Museum will be the Heart of Darkness gallery, revealing the horrors of enslavement in Africa, the Middle Passage, and slave life in the Americas.

The galleries will highlight contemporary concerns such as human rights, reparations claims, under-development in Africa and the Caribbean, and racial discrimination - examining key questions, such as what it means to be British and Black, and racial stereotyping. Displays will explore how people of African descent have contributed to cultural transformation in both the Americas and Europe.

Phase Two

National Museums Liverpool is negotiating to acquire the former Dock Traffic Office next to the Merseyside Maritime Museum. Opening in 2010, this building will become a resource centre for the understanding of transatlantic slavery.

Central to the Institute's work will be the legacies of transatlantic slavery. National Museums Liverpool's extensive archive collection will be made more accessible through digitization, performances, lectures, research, nurturing local creative talent and lively public events – all these will be within the scope of the Institute.

Learning for a greater understanding

We are building on National Museums Liverpool's nationally acclaimed learning and outreach programmes to develop study programmes and events for general visitors, schools, groups, volunteers and lifelong learners. These will encourage debate about attitudes towards race, ethnicity, tolerance, respect and citizenship.

A partnership with the University of Liverpool will promote the deeper study of the slave trade. Through existing and new collaborations we will expand our academic and museum networks – especially with those places most involved in and affected by the slave trade in the UK, the Caribbean, West Africa and the USA.

