What is the Edinburgh Slavery and Colonialism Legacy Review?

Following the Black Lives Matter protests of summer 2020, City of Edinburgh Council agreed a set of actions to address historic racial injustice and stem modern day discrimination.

Its report stated: "Committee recognises... that cities, including Edinburgh, should acknowledge and address their roles in perpetuating racism and oppression in the past as part of the process of challenging it in the present."

One of the actions agreed was the establishment of an independent Review to consider and make recommendations on Edinburgh's slavery and colonialism legacy in the civic realm. Human rights activist Sir Geoff Palmer was appointed as Chair, and a Review Group was set up of people living and working in Edinburgh and from a range of different backgrounds to support this work.

Why participate in the public consultation?

The Review Group wants to hear from Edinburgh residents about the most constructive ways that their city could address issues of historic racial injustice and make Edinburgh a fair and welcoming place for everyone.

It is also seeking views about a selection of prominent public features including monuments, street names and buildings, which it considers illustrative of the many aspects of Edinburgh life and society shaped by the city's legacy of slavery and colonialism.

The findings from the consultation will inform the Review Group's recommendations and will feature in a report to be brought to Council committee for consideration in 2022. This will help the Council decide which actions it will progress, and what the priorities for change might be.

How to get involved

The online consultation is hosted on the Council's website at: www.edinburgh.gov.uk/slaverycolonialism. It is open until 19 January 2022.

Background information about the Review can be found at: www.edinburgh.gov.uk/edinburghslaverycolonialism