



A message from the Prime Minister

It is 200 years since Parliament passed the Act to abolish the slave trade in the British Empire – the start of a long road to abolition.

The slave trade was a profoundly inhuman enterprise and the bicentenary provides us with an opportunity to express our sorrow that it happened.

It also enables us to remember those who suffered and who campaigned for abolition, and to re-double our efforts to address the legacy of the slave trade and to tackle injustice in the world today.

Among the abolitionists were great parliamentarians, slaves and former slaves and countless ordinary people. In Britain, working class men and women with no vote spoke out against a practice on which their local economies thrived. I welcome the impressive programme of activities in the ports and other cities. This calendar shows a few of them.

Today, ordinary people are continuing to fight for justice and equality, and leading commemorative events. It is important for Government to raise awareness and facilitate, not to tell people how to remember. So I am launching this calendar to show a selection of what is going on. It is intended to inform, encourage you to find out more and stimulate ideas for further action.

As well as reflecting on the past, we want to look to the present and future. In 2007, we will step up our efforts on three sets of pressing issues: the challenges facing the African continent, inequality for people of African and Caribbean heritage in the UK, and the cruelty of modern day slavery such as people trafficking and child labour.

We have a strong programme to address modern slavery, with legislation, international co-operation, enforcement and support for victims. Last year we opened the first human trafficking centre. But we have a lot more to do this year and we will apply pressure wherever we can to end this abhorrent practice.

Our unifying theme of the year is education-learning about our history; access to education for every child in Africa; addressing inequalities in education in the UK; and education to support our fight against contemporary slavery. You will hear about action on all these fronts during the year.

Hundreds of other events will mark the bicentenary at international, national and local level, involving community, faith and cultural groups, schools, local authorities and others.

This anniversary is a chance for all of us to deepen understanding of our heritage, celebrate the richness of our diversity and increase our determination to shape the world with the values we share.

I hope you will get involved in some way. There should be something for everyone. This is everyone's bicentenary.

Tony Blair



HM Government



2007 Bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act CALENDAR OF EVENTS



2007 Bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY	<p>Royal Mint: Commemorative £2 coin launched</p> <p>17 Jan-30 Oct, Hull City Council and Wilberforce Lecture Trust: Wilberforce Lectures (1-4)</p> <p>18 Jan-1 Mar, National Waterfront Museum and Commission for Racial Equality's Croeso project: 'Let Paul Robeson Sing!' exhibition</p> <p>Jan-Mar, Small Island Read 2007, Bristol, Hull, Liverpool and Glasgow read Andrea Levy's Small Island</p>	<p>www.royalmint.com</p> <p>www.wilberforce2007.com</p>
FEBRUARY	<p>3 Feb, Royal Naval Museum, Portsmouth Historic Dockyard: 'Chasing Freedom: The Royal Navy and the Suppression of the Atlantic Slave Trade'</p> <p>23-24 Feb, Victoria & Albert Museum: 'From Cane Field to Tea-cup – The impact of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade on Art and Design' conference</p> <p>20 Feb-17 Jun, Victoria & Albert Museum: 'Uncomfortable Truths' Exhibition</p> <p>24 Feb, Royal Philharmonia Orchestra: Series of nationwide concert premieres, starting at Holy Trinity Church, Clapham, London</p>	<p>www.museumwales.ac.uk</p> <p>www.smallislandread.com</p> <p>www.royalnavalmuseum.org</p> <p>www.vam.ac.uk</p> <p>www.vam.ac.uk</p> <p>www.philharmonia.co.uk/concerts/24feb2007/</p>
MARCH	<p>Mar-Nov, Wisbech and Fenland Museum: 'Clarkson Brothers' exhibition, Cambridgeshire</p> <p>1-25 Mar, March of the Abolitionists: The Meridian Walk (Hull to Greenwich)</p> <p>17 Mar, National Portrait Gallery: 'Portraits, People and the Abolition of the Slave Trade' exhibition</p> <p>22 Mar, Royal Mail: Stamps to commemorate the Abolition of the Slave Trade issued</p> <p>22 Mar-13 May, British Museum: 'La Bouche du Roi' installation based on British slave ship, the Brookes</p> <p>23 Mar, Premiere of 'Amazing Grace' film</p> <p>24 Mar, Liverpool Anglican Cathedral: Ecumenical Service of Penitence</p> <p>25 Mar, Anniversary of the date of signing of the Abolition Act in 1807</p> <p>25 Mar, Bristol Cathedral: Service of Remembrance and Reconciliation</p> <p>25 Mar, Re-opening of the Wilberforce House Museum</p> <p>25 Mar, Welsh Assembly/Cardiff City Council: Commemorative event, St David's Hall, Cardiff</p> <p>27 Mar, Set all free: National Service of Commemoration, Westminster Abbey</p> <p>28 Mar, Yorkshire Forward: 'Wilberforce Cup' warm-up clipper race from Hull to Rotterdam</p> <p>30 Mar, 'African Snow' play opens at the York Theatre Royal</p>	<p>www.wisbechmuseum.org.uk</p> <p>www.lifelineexpedition.co.uk</p> <p>www.npg.org.uk</p> <p>www.royalmail.com/stamps</p> <p>www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk</p> <p>www.amazinggracemovie.com</p> <p>www.liverpoolcathedral.org.uk</p> <p>www.bristol-cathedral.co.uk</p> <p>www.hullcc.gov.uk</p> <p>www.cardiff.gov.uk</p> <p>www.setallfree.net</p> <p>www.hullcc.gov.uk</p> <p>www.ridinglights.org</p>
APRIL	<p>April-Oct, Roscoe Society (Liverpool): Roscoe Lectures- various venues</p> <p>23 April, British Empire and Commonwealth Museum: 'Breaking the Chains' exhibition, Bristol</p>	<p>www.livjm.ac.uk</p> <p>www.empiremuseum.co.uk</p>
MAY	<p>Commission for Racial Equality: William Wilberforce's famous Abolitionist speech to Parliament re-enacted, central London</p> <p>May-Oct, National Trust: 'Sugar and Slavery – the Penrhyn Connections' exhibition, Penrhyn Castle</p> <p>May-Dec 2007, CyMAL, National Library of Wales and National Museum of Wales: Touring exhibition on Slavery</p> <p>16-19 May, Wilberforce Institute for the Study of Slavery and Emancipation: 'Slavery Unfinished Business' conference</p> <p>23 May-23 Sept, Parliament: 'The British Slave Trade: Abolition, Parliament and People' exhibition</p> <p>24 May-2 Sept, English Heritage: 'Mansfield, Slavery and Justice' exhibition, Kenwood House</p> <p>27 May, Greater London Authority: Africa Day Reception (City Hall) and Festival (Trafalgar Square)</p>	<p>www.cre.gov.uk</p> <p>www.nationaltrust.org.uk</p> <p>www.museumwales.ac.uk</p>
JUNE	<p>16-19 May, Wilberforce Institute for the Study of Slavery and Emancipation: 'Slavery Unfinished Business' conference</p> <p>23 May-23 Sept, Parliament: 'The British Slave Trade: Abolition, Parliament and People' exhibition</p> <p>24 May-2 Sept, English Heritage: 'Mansfield, Slavery and Justice' exhibition, Kenwood House</p> <p>27 May, Greater London Authority: Africa Day Reception (City Hall) and Festival (Trafalgar Square)</p> <p>Africa Oye Music Festival, Sefton Park, Liverpool</p> <p>3 June-11 July, March of the Abolitionists: The Sankofa Walk (linking London, Bristol and Liverpool)</p>	<p>www.hull.ac.uk</p> <p>www.parliament.uk/slavetrade</p> <p>www.english-heritage.org.uk</p> <p>www.london.gov.uk</p> <p>www.africaoye.com</p> <p>www.lifelineexpedition.co.uk</p>
AUGUST	<p>23 Aug, United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO): International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition</p> <p>23 Aug, National Museums Liverpool: public opening of the International Slavery Museum</p> <p>23 Aug, National Maritime Museum: Contemporary Commemoration Debate</p> <p>23 Aug, Greater London Authority: 'Memorial Day: Joint Cities Initiatives'</p> <p>23 Aug, Merseyside Maritime Museum/Liverpool Culture Company: Liberation Service</p> <p>Aug Bank Holiday, London Notting Hill Carnival</p>	<p>www.unesco.org</p> <p>www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk</p> <p>www.nmm.ac.uk</p> <p>www.london.gov.uk</p> <p>www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk</p> <p>www.nottinghillcarnival.biz</p>
SEPTEMBER	<p>Sept (tbc), Greater London Authority: Freedom Concert, Hyde Park</p> <p>13-15 Sept, School Of History, University of Liverpool: 'Slavery in the Iberian Atlantic' conference</p> <p>29 Sept, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery/Equiano Society: Equiano exhibition opens</p>	<p>www.london.gov.uk</p> <p>www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk</p> <p>www.bmag.org.uk</p>
OCTOBER	<p>Museum in Docklands: opening of 'London, Sugar and Slavery' Gallery</p> <p>Bristol City Council: Black Bristol Archive launch</p> <p>Black History Month</p>	<p>www.museumindocklands.org.uk</p> <p>www.bristol-city.gov.uk</p> <p>www.black-history-month.co.uk</p>

