



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.

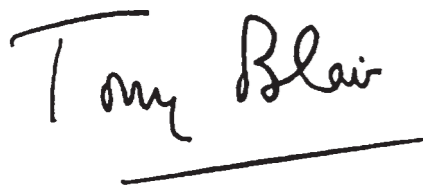
We have a strong programme to address modern slavery, with legislation, international co-operation, enforcement and support for victims. Last year we opened the first human trafficking centre. But we have a lot more to do this year and we will apply pressure wherever we can to end this abhorrent practice.

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

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

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

Royal Mint: **Commemorative £2 coin** launched

www.royalmint.com

17 Jan-30 Oct, Hull City Council and Wilberforce Lecture Trust: **Wilberforce Lectures (1-4)**

www.wilberforce2007.com

18 Jan-1 Mar, National Waterfront Museum and Commission for Racial Equality's Croeso project: **'Let Paul Robeson Sing!'** exhibition

www.museumwales.ac.uk

Jan-Mar, **Small Island Read 2007**, Bristol, Hull, Liverpool and Glasgow read Andrea Levy's Small Island

www.smallislandread.com

FEBRUARY

3 Feb, Royal Naval Museum, Portsmouth Historic Dockyard:

'Chasing Freedom: The Royal Navy and the Suppression of the Atlantic Slave Trade'

www.royalnavalmuseum.org

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

www.vam.ac.uk

20 Feb-17 Jun, Victoria & Albert Museum: **'Uncomfortable Truths'** Exhibition

www.vam.ac.uk

24 Feb, Royal Philharmonia Orchestra: Series of **nationwide concert premieres**, starting at Holy Trinity Church, Clapham, London

www.philharmonia.co.uk/concerts/24feb2007/

MARCH

Mar-Nov, Wisbech and Fenland Museum: **'Clarkson Brothers'** exhibition, Cambridgeshire

www.wisbechmuseum.org.uk

1-25 Mar, **March of the Abolitionists**: The Meridian Walk (Hull to Greenwich)

www.lifelineexpedition.co.uk

17 Mar, National Portrait Gallery: **'Portraits, People and the Abolition of the Slave Trade'** exhibition

www.npg.org.uk

22 Mar, Royal Mail: **Stamps** to commemorate the Abolition of the Slave Trade issued

www.royalmail.com/stamps

22 Mar-13 May, British Museum: **'La Bouche du Roi'** installation based on British slave ship, the Brookes

www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

23 Mar, Premiere of **'Amazing Grace'** film

www.amazinggracemovie.com

24 Mar, Liverpool Anglican Cathedral: **Ecumenical Service of Penitence**

www.liverpoolcathedral.org.uk

25 Mar, **Anniversary of the date of signing of the Abolition Act in 1807**

25 Mar, Bristol Cathedral: **Service of Remembrance and Reconciliation**

www.bristol-cathedral.co.uk

25 Mar, **Re-opening of the Wilberforce House Museum**

www.hullcc.gov.uk

25 Mar, Welsh Assembly/Cardiff City Council: **Commemorative event**, St David's Hall, Cardiff

www.cardiff.gov.uk

27 Mar, Set all free: **National Service of Commemoration**, Westminster Abbey

www.setallfree.net

28 Mar, Yorkshire Forward: **'Wilberforce Cup'** warm-up clipper race from Hull to Rotterdam

www.hullcc.gov.uk

30 Mar, **'African Snow'** play opens at the York Theatre Royal

www.ridinglights.org

APRIL

April-Oct, Roscoe Society (Liverpool): **Roscoe Lectures**- various venues

www.livjm.ac.uk

23 April, British Empire and Commonwealth Museum: **'Breaking the Chains'** exhibition, Bristol

www.empiremuseum.co.uk

MAY

Commission for Racial Equality: William Wilberforce's famous **Abolitionist speech** to Parliament re-enacted, central London

www.cre.gov.uk

May-Oct, National Trust: **'Sugar and Slavery – the Penrhyn Connections'** exhibition, Penrhyn Castle

www.nationaltrust.org.uk

May-Dec 2007, CyMAL, National Library of Wales and National Museum of Wales: **Touring exhibition on Slavery**

www.museumwales.ac.uk

16-19 May, Wilberforce Institute for the Study of Slavery and Emancipation: **'Slavery Unfinished Business'** conference

www.hull.ac.uk

23 May-23 Sept, Parliament: **'The British Slave Trade: Abolition, Parliament and People'** exhibition

www.parliament.uk/slavetrade

24 May-2 Sept, English Heritage: **'Mansfield, Slavery and Justice'** exhibition, Kenwood House

www.english-heritage.org.uk

27 May, Greater London Authority: **Africa Day Reception (City Hall) and Festival (Trafalgar Square)**

www.london.gov.uk

JUNE

Africa Oye Music Festival, Sefton Park, Liverpool

www.africaoye.com

3 June-11 July, **March of the Abolitionists**: The Sankofa Walk (linking London, Bristol and Liverpool)

www.lifelineexpedition.co.uk

AUGUST

23 Aug, United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO): **International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition**

www.unesco.org

23 Aug, National Museums Liverpool: public opening of the **International Slavery Museum**

www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

23 Aug, National Maritime Museum: **Contemporary Commemoration Debate**

www.nmm.ac.uk

23 Aug, Greater London Authority: **'Memorial Day: Joint Cities Initiatives'**

www.london.gov.uk

23 Aug, Merseyside Maritime Museum/Liverpool Culture Company: **Liberation Service**

www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

Aug Bank Holiday, **London Notting Hill Carnival**

www.nottinghillcarnival.biz

SEPTEMBER

Sept (tbc), Greater London Authority: **Freedom Concert**, Hyde Park

www.london.gov.uk

13-15 Sept, School Of History, University of Liverpool: **'Slavery in the Iberian Atlantic'** conference

www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

29 Sept, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery/Equiano Society: **Equiano exhibition** opens

www.bmag.org.uk

OCTOBER

Museum in Docklands: opening of **'London and the Slave Trade'** Gallery

www.museumindocklands.org.uk

Bristol City Council: **Black Bristol Archive** launch

www.bristol-city.gov.uk

Black History Month

www.black-history-month.co.uk