

# **Legacies of Enslavement Project: A Tangible Legacy**

**Keisha Thompson (she/her)  
Programme Manager (Manchester)**

# Who Am I?

- Programme Manager for The Guardian – Legacies of Enslavement Programme
- Recipient of DARE Art Award (Opera North & University of Leeds)
- Research Associate for UoManchester

● Previously, AD/CEO of Contact, Senior Leader of Education at The World Reimagined and Senior Manager at ACE

● Politics and Philosophy Degree

● PGCE in Mathematics

● Experience of applying my artform(s) to various context particularly in dealing with topics of race, gender, class, intersectionality, colonial history, etc

● Devised and deliver antiracism training for Contact in Manchester

## **Terms of Engagement:**

**Accountable space**

**Language**

**Lead with curiosity**

**Manage expectations**

# The Guardian Legacies of Enslavement Programme

*Atoning in the present for injustices of the past*



The  
Scott  
Trust

The  
Guardian

# Restorative Justice

*“Former colonial powers cannot undo the damage inflicted on enslaved and colonised people, but they can **engage in good faith with descendants**, and **address systemic inequalities**.”*

Professor Olivette Otele, academic and member of Guardian Advisory Panel



What does it mean to be a progressive organisation that was born out of the profits of human bondage? How do we support descendant communities in a meaningful, realistic and sustainable way?

**Acknowledgement**

**Apology**

**Action**

# An apology



“As the owners of the Guardian, the Scott Trust apologises to the affected communities identified in the research and surviving descendants of the enslaved for the part the Guardian and its founders had in this crime against humanity, perpetrated against their ancestors.”

**The  
Scott  
Trust**

Without understanding our past, it becomes harder to grasp what the present means

Journal Editorial

Wednesday  
29 March 2023  
12.20 | C£90  
From £2.03 for subscribers

# The Guardian

Newspaper of the year

## Guardian owner apologises for founders' links to slavery

Scott Trust to invest in 10-year programme of restorative justice

**Aamina Siddin**  
Community affairs correspondent

The owner of the Guardian has issued an apology for the role the newspaper's founders had in transatlantic slavery and announced a decade-long programme of restorative justice.

The Scott Trust said it expected to invest more than £10m, with millions dedicated specifically to independent commissioning of research into the 19th-century founders. It follows

independent academic research commissioned in 2020 to investigate whether there was any historical connection between transatlantic slavery and John Edward Taylor, the journalist and cotton merchant who founded the newspaper in 1821, and other Manchester businessmen who funded its creation.

The Scott Trust Legacies of Enslavement report, published today, revealed that Taylor, and at least one of his co-founders, had links to slavery, principally through the textile industry. Taylor had multiple links through partnerships in the cotton manufacturing firm Olden & Taylor, and the cotton merchant company Shuttleworth, Taylor & Co, which imported vast amounts of raw

cotton produced by enslaved people in the Americas.

Researchers from the universities of Nottingham and Hull were able to identify Taylor's links to plantations in the Sea Islands, along the coast of South Carolina and Georgia, after reviewing an invoice book showing that Shuttleworth, Taylor & Co received cotton from the region, which included the initials and names of plantation owners and enslavers. Another of the Guardian's early financiers, the West India merchant Sir George Phillips, co-owned the Sucre sugar plantation in Guyana, Jamaica.

He unsuccessfully attempted to claim compensation from the British government in 1815 for what he

**COTTON CAPITAL** SPECIAL REPORT

This awful history must reinforce our determination to expose racism, injustice and inequality

**Katharine Viner**  
Editor-in-chief  
Journal →

regarded as the loss of his human property, which was 10th people. His partner, however, successfully claimed £1,000 in 1815 in compensation, which, according to the most conservative estimate, is worth approximately £200,000 today.

Alongside an apology "to the affected communities identified in the research and surviving descendants of the enslaved for the part the Guardian and its founders had in this crime against humanity", the trust also apologised for early editorial positions that served to support the cotton industry, and therefore the exploitation of enslaved people.

The restorative justice fund will support projects in the Caribbean, the

### Britain is 'strikingly unprepared' for climate crisis impact

**Damian Carrington**  
Environment editor

The UK is "strikingly unprepared" for the impacts of the climate crisis, according to the Climate Change Committee, which said there had been a "lost decade" in efforts to adapt for the impact of global heating.

The CCC, the government's official climate adviser, said climate damage would inevitably intensify for decades to come.

It has warned repeatedly of poor preparation in the past and said government action was now urgently needed to protect people and their homes and livelihoods.

The extreme heatwave in 2022, when temperatures surpassed 40°C for the first time, was an example and a warning, the CCC said. More than 5,000 people died early, 30% of hospital operations were cancelled, rail lines buckled, wildfires raged and farmers struggled with a drought. "It won't be long

**METROPOLITAN NASHVILLE PU**

### School shooter told friend 'something bad is coming'

A child weeps as she is driven from the Nashville school where six people were shot dead. It emerged yesterday that the killer told a friend: 'You'll hear about me on the news after I die.' **News Page 24 →**

**The  
Guardian**

# Scott Trust Legacies of Enslavement Programme Overview

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

### Research

#### Truth seeking and telling

More research into Guardian's links to transatlantic enslavement (inc Brazil):

- Tracing and honouring the lives and resistance of enslaved people
- Exploring Manchester's links and wider context

## REDRESS

### Restorative Justice

#### Partnerships in Jamaica & Sea Islands, US

##### Throughout 2024:

- Engagement with descendant communities, civil society, institutions
- Identification of impactful initiatives in line with community priorities

## RECKONING

### Raising Consciousness

#### Museums, communities, schools, live events

Partnerships and programmes to raise awareness about the Guardian, Manchester and the UK's links to transatlantic enslavement and extreme wealth and inequality generated

## ACCOUNTABILITY

### Reporting and Bursaries

#### Cotton Capital, Correspondents, Long Wave

- 2 Caribbean
- 2 US race equality
- 2 UK community affairs
- 2 South America
- 2 Africa

#### Bursaries & routes into journalism

- 3 new bursaries in UK
- Schemes in US and Australia
- UK fellowships



## My focus in Manchester for 2025

### Convening

Regular events with various communities groups, key cultural institutions and other key actors in the city to allow for networking, mapping and galvanising.

Pan-African Congress in October - 80 Year Anniversary

### Education

Resources with Guardian Foundation

Training for teachers and educationalists

Young people engagement

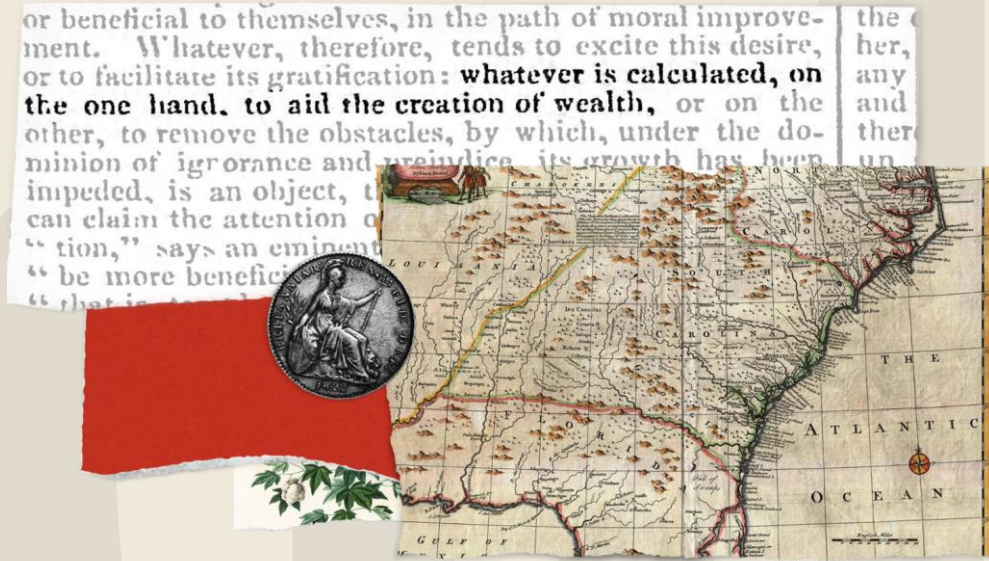
### Advocating / Partnering

Partnerships - SIM

Supporting various strategies from MCC and GMCA

# Cotton Capital and Legacies of Enslavement

## Can a media organisation repair the harm it caused?



What happens in your brain when you think of the word:

**DOG**

# *What is structural racism?*

ERIC WILLIAMS

*Quote from historian and first president  
of Trinidad and Tobago*

Slavery was not born of racism: rather, racism  
was the consequence of slavery.

EMMA DABIRI

*What White People Can Do Next*

In the history of humankind, 'white people' are  
babies. You have only existed since 1661! (To be  
fair, so have 'black people'.)

ROBERT P BAIRD

*The Invention of Whiteness*

By 1640 or so, the rough treatment of  
indentured servants had started to diminish  
the supply of Europeans willing to work on  
the sugar and tobacco plantations, and so the  
colonists looked increasingly to slavery, and  
the Atlantic-sized loophole that enabled it, to  
keep their fantastically profitable operations  
supplied with labour.





### *about us*

Holding Her Space is a community-based prenatal, birth and postnatal doula service that supports new mums and mums-to-be on the delicate journey into motherhood. We provide non-clinical, holistic and personalised support for women and families throughout the stages of pregnancy and parenthood. Based in Manchester and established in 2018, our team is passionate about improving outcomes for mums from African and Caribbean communities through a variety of services and also working alongside partner organisations to bridge the gap of care received.

They were six times more likely to experience this pregnancy complication than their white counterparts, who made up 47.2% of these cases despite making up 70% of all deliveries.

Pre-eclampsia is a serious pregnancy complication that causes high blood pressure and protein in the urine, affecting between 1% and 5% of pregnant women across the UK. The condition can lead to serious complications for the mother and baby. Superimposed pre-eclampsia is when preeclampsia complicates another existing condition such as high blood pressure.



# *How does this relate to the health sector?*



**Life Sciences Vision Policy Paper, 2021**

**Goldacre Review, 2022**

**Data driven processes requires public trust**

**Trust - trustworthiness - equity**



**Click here to download the Stay Strong App**

iOS and Android versions available.

Overview

Collaborators and acknowledgements

Resources

Latest news

Publications

#### Who is the AIMhi app for?

The AIMhi Stay Strong App is an innovative tool that addresses the mental health and wellbeing concerns of First Nations Australians using a cross-cultural approach. The app is based on more than 15 years of research and collaboration within the [Aboriginal and Islander Mental Health Initiative \(AIMhi\)](#). It is designed to promote wellbeing by reviewing strengths, worries and the goals or changes people would like to make in their lives.

The AIMhi Stay Strong App assists service providers to deliver cost-effective, evidence-based wellbeing interventions to First Nations clients. It is designed to provide an effective, visually appealing, culturally relevant, low-intensity intervention suitable for clinician supported delivery in a variety of primary care, specialist care and community settings.

CAHN  
Community Action Health Network

## Hospital Discharge Service

Practical support primarily for Black Caribbean and African patients that are ready for discharge but may need some support to settle at home?

#### CAHN offers

- 7 days a week referral 09:00 – 19:00hrs
- Trained volunteer befrienders – (daily telephone check in for 3-7 days)
- Practical support such as prescription collection, hot/cold food, household energy, etc.
- Signposting to other VCSE organisations or agencies

To make a referral, complete a form at <https://portal.cahn.org.uk/hospitaldischarge>

For further information email [hospitaldischarge@cahn.org.uk](mailto:hospitaldischarge@cahn.org.uk) or call/text our Helpline 07710 022382

Funded by

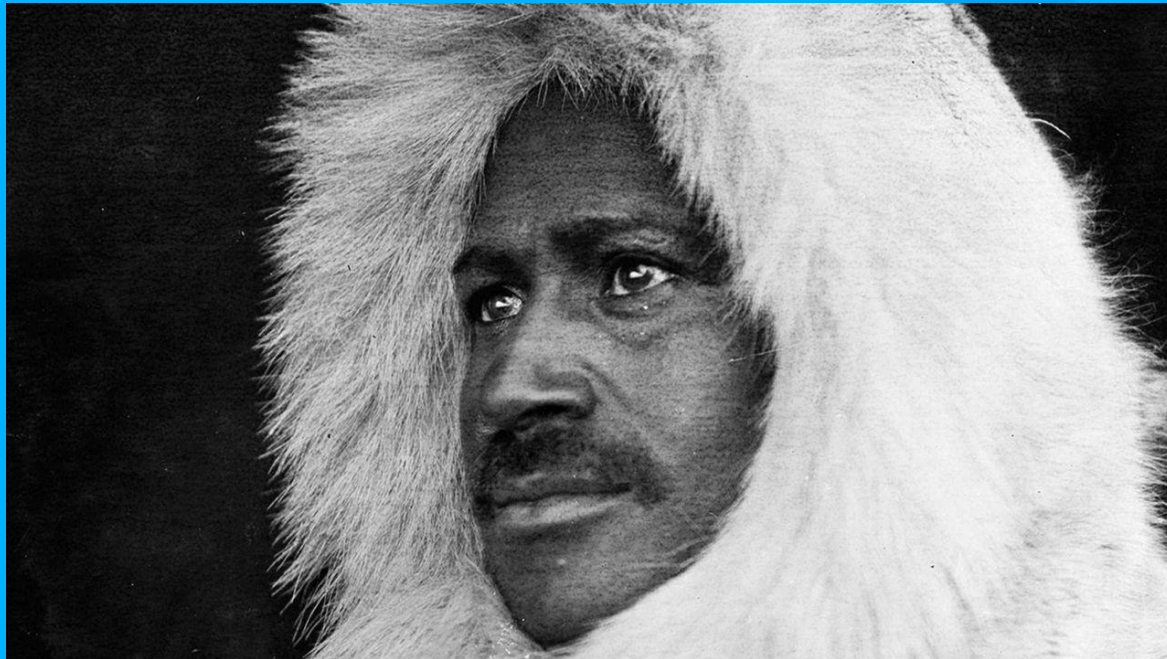


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# Next Elegant Step?

*Adrienne Maree-Brown (Emergent Strategies)*



# Why has the Guardian launched a restorative justice programme?



**Academic research, commissioned by the Scott Trust sets out a range of connections between transatlantic slavery and John Edward Taylor the founder of the Manchester Guardian in 1821, and the other Manchester businessmen who funded the newspaper's creation.**

- Taylor had links to slavery through partnerships in cotton manufacturing and merchant firms which imported raw cotton produced by enslaved people in the Americas
- Nine of the eleven men who loaned Taylor money to found the Manchester Guardian had similar links to the slavery economy
- One of these men, Sir George Philips, was an enslaver of people as co-owner of a sugar plantation in Hanover, Jamaica. In 1835, Philips unsuccessfully attempted to claim compensation from the British government for 108 people enslaved on the plantation.

# The Guardian's restorative justice programme

**AIM:** To atone in the present for the injustices of the past

- **RESEARCH:** Truth-seeking and telling about Guardian founder and funders links to transatlantic enslavement
- **REDRESS:** Developing restorative justice partnerships in Sea Islands/Low Country region and Jamaica
- **RECKONING:** Strengthen knowledge and awareness of Manchester and UK's growth and prosperity as linked to transatlantic trade and enslavement
- **ACCOUNTABILITY:** New correspondent roles and editorial formats to cover Black diaspora and amplify news and legacy issues for global Black audiences. Bursaries, cadetships and fellowships to support greater diversity and access to careers in journalism and media.

## AIM:

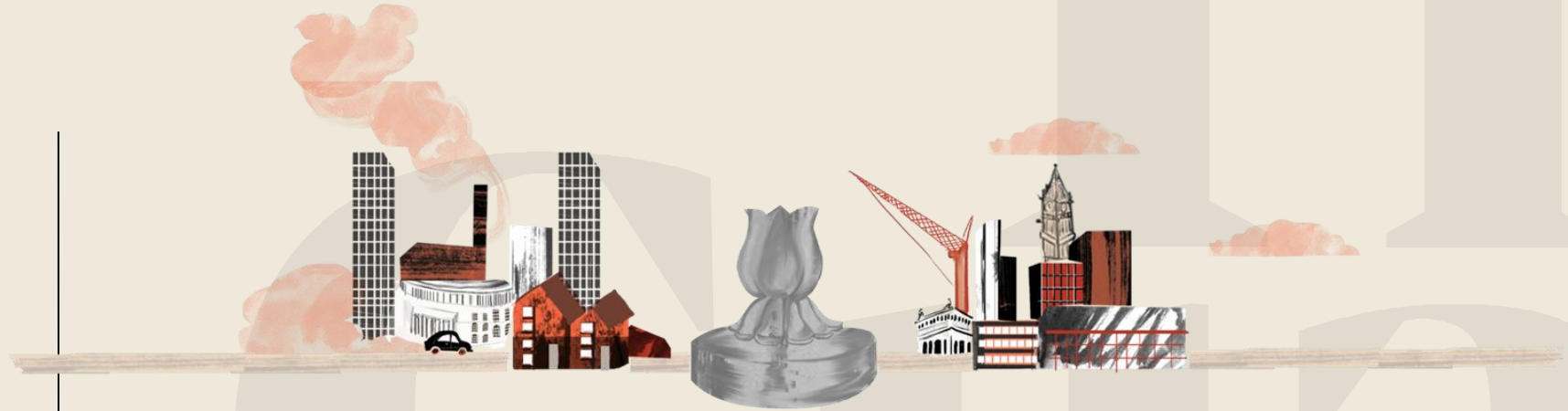
“Telling the story - We aim to celebrate the story of the city more creatively, inclusively, truthfully and powerfully through culture. We embrace Manchester’s varied origin stories, including celebrating the diaspora that brought our people to the city and openly recognising our economy’s post-colonial legacy. We will strive to ensure that culture can be used to explore a wide range of issues in a city where artists have freedom of expression.”

*,Always, Everywhere: Manchester’s Cultural Ambition 2024 to 2034*

# Introductions



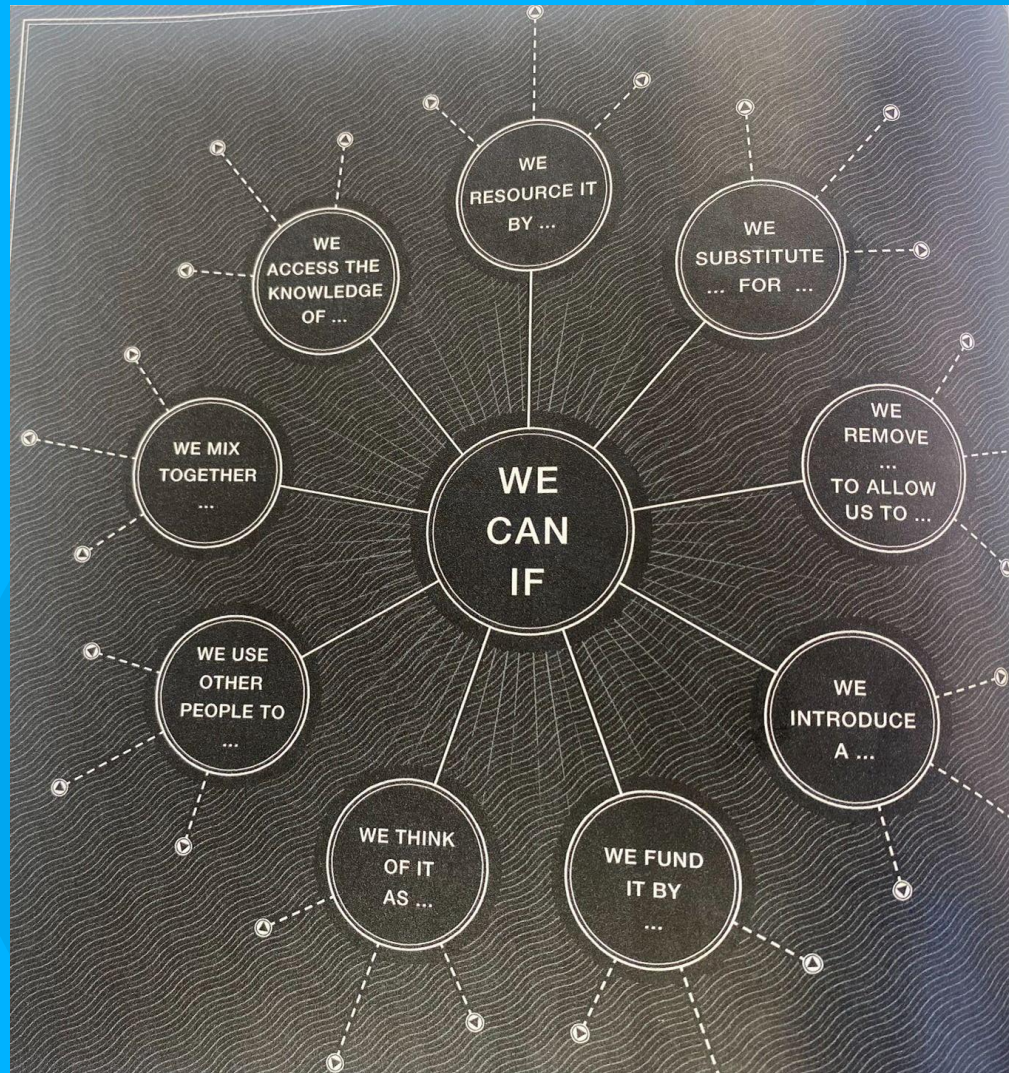
# *What is the role of cultural organisations in society?*





**Cluj**-Napoca **2015**  
Koložsvár  
Klausenburg European Youth Capital



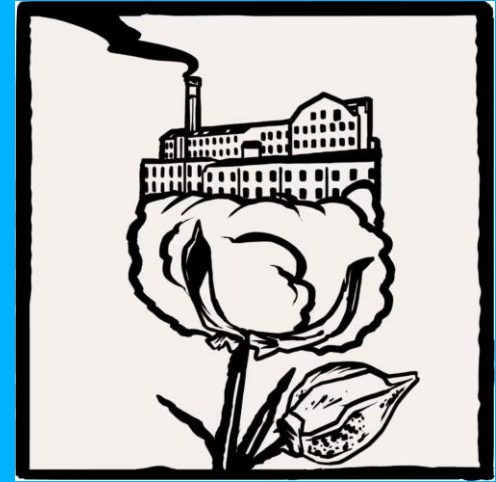


**Beautiful  
Constraints**  
Adam Morgan  
Mark Barden



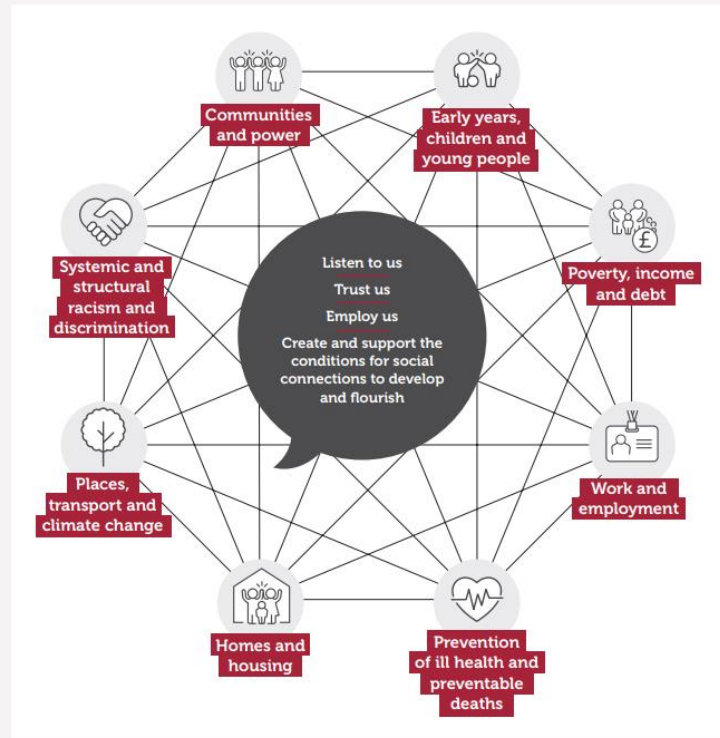
# What is restorative justice?

Process of dialogue between those that caused, and those that affected, by wrongdoing to repair harm



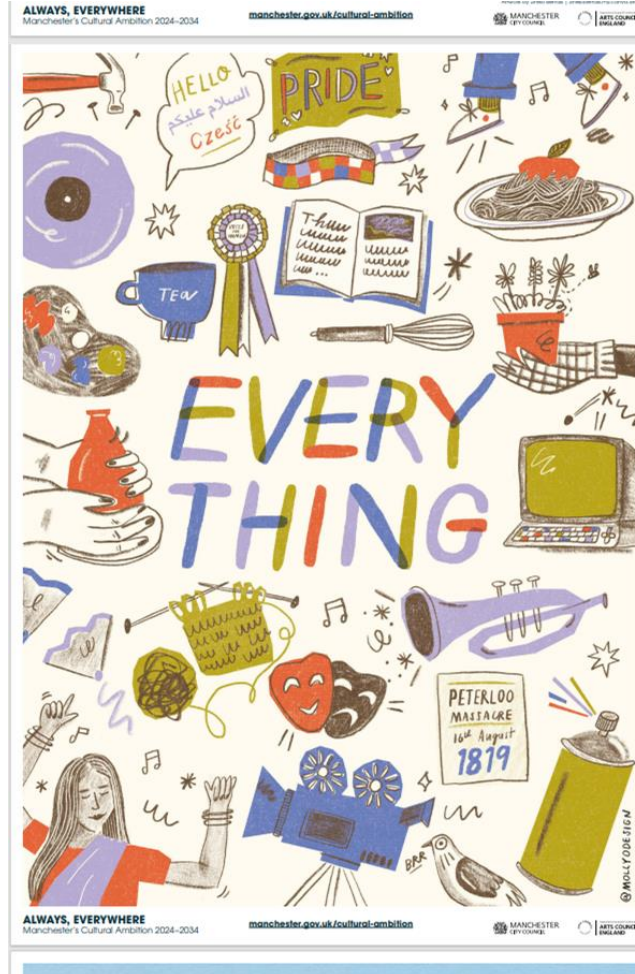
## Building Stronger Communities 2023- 2026

### The Making Manchester Fairer Framework



This strategy supports the Communities and Power theme.

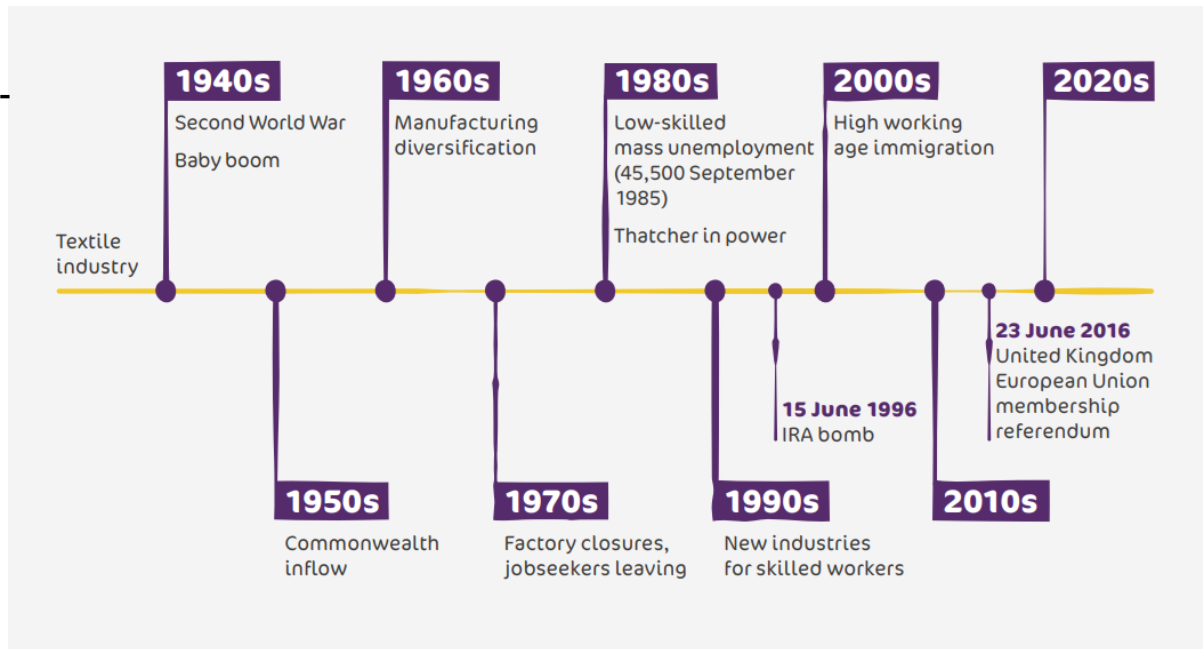
# Always, Everywhere Cultural Strategy 2024-2034



**Thank you**

*legacies@theguardian.com*

## Building Stronger Communities 2023-2026



What we have  
done so far



## The Scott Trust Bursary Scheme



**Cotton Capital**- an exploration of the links that connect the Guardian and Manchester to South America, the United States and the Caribbean.

The  
Guardian

# Scott Trust Legacies of Enslavement Programme Overview

## Guardian Reporting

1 Caribbean, 2 US race equality, 2 UK community affairs, 1 South America, 1 Africa

- First 7 roles: candidates now being selected
- Further 5 roles (12 in total) to be advertised in 2024

## Restorative Justice Fund

Community partnerships in Jamaica and Sea Islands, US

- Programme Director & Coordinator now in place
- Descendant community engagement in Jamaica, US

## Scott Trust Training Bursaries

UK programme expanded to six bursaries, new schemes in USA and Australia

- Three new bursary places in UK awarded on postgrad courses beginning autumn 2023
- Interviews in Australia about to start for 2 FT cadetships
- US bursary scheme to be come

## New Editorial Formats

The Long Wave - new global newsletter featuring material from the African diaspora

- 15'000 subscriptions in first month (target was 10k)

## Legacies of Enslavement Programme

### Overview of Progress across workstreams

#### Mid-career fellowships

- From autumn 2024 begin to explore what works, and potential involvement of academic partners
- Aim is to launch the scheme in 2025

#### UK Partnerships & programmes

##### Manchester, museums and communities. Schools, live events

- Programme Manager (Manchester) in place to advance engagement and partnership work

#### Research partnership with Hull university

##### More research into Guardian's historic links

- Completed further research on Manchester cotton workers, Guardian founders' social networks, Jamaica and Sea Islands
- Research ongoing into Brazil and tracing enslaved people
- Mid 2025 target for public launch



# Emerging themes

## Truth-telling & Memorialisation

- Honoring and memorialisation of the lives, contributions and knowledge of enslaved people as foundation of collective healing
- Transatlantic/diasporic connections an important part of this



Deserted  
storage area  
Savannah,  
Georgia, USA.

# Emerging themes

## Generational legacies

- Wealth - land & property
- Education
- Health & Trauma
- Climate and environmental justice

