

Date: 27th January 2023

Subject: National Slavery Memorial Day

Report of: Salford City Mayor, Paul Dennett

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider a request from Salford City Council to support a call for a national Slavery Memorial Day.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The GMCA is recommended to support the motion presented by Salford City Council to call on the Government to declare a national Slavery Memorial Day and to consider making slavery a compulsory national curriculum schools' subject.

Contact Officers:

Andrew Lightfoot, Deputy Chief Executive, GMCA

Julie Connor, Director of Governance & Scrutiny

Background

The GMCA has received the following motion and request from Salford City Council following a meeting of it's Council held on 16 November 2022:

- "1. Slavery was practiced by several nations, including the United Kingdom, for decades. In the process fortunes were made and those forced or sold into slavery suffered many indignities including beatings, shackling, and appalling living conditions. Many died, some were tortured and likely all were traumatized.
2. There is already a Holocaust Memorial Day, and the Srebrenica massacre is also marked annually.
3. It would help to better understand the impact of slavery if an annual Slavery Memorial Day, or similar event, was established ideally nationwide, so that current and future generations are made more aware of the appalling suffering and the destruction of well developed cultures because of the horrors of the slave trade.
4. Slavery should be more publicly acknowledged and studied, taught in all of our schools and given the same local and national level of importance as the Holocaust.
5. Although the transatlantic slave trade is covered in the national education curriculum in the UK, it is not compulsory for primary and secondary schools therefore, it would be great to request that the slave trade should become a compulsory subject/topic for our primary and secondary schools.
6. A Slavery Memorial Day would also help to further raise the profile of modern day slavery which this Council has already debated. Modern slavery was recently highlighted in the revelation by the Olympian, Mo Farah, who tells us he was trafficked.

This Council requests that:

1. This motion be sent to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, the LGA and His Majesty's Government, seeking their support.
2. The Council call on the Government to declare a national Slavery Memorial Day.
3. The City Mayor consider declaring a local Memorial Day, and call on H.M. Government to consider making slavery a compulsory national curriculum schools' subject."