

Museum Manifesto for Tolerance and Inclusion

In light of the changing political landscape in the US, including the recent travel ban, and an increase in racism and intolerance in the UK since the EU referendum, the Museums Association has issued the following *Manifesto for Tolerance and Inclusion*.

Values:

The first principle of the Museums Association's Code of Ethics is Public Engagement and Public Benefit. The Code of Ethics says that museums and everyone who works in and with them should:

- treat everyone equally, with honesty and respect
- support freedom of speech and debate
- work actively in partnership with existing audiences and reach out to new and diverse audiences.

The Museums Association has recently discussed the additional values that it will use to guide its work as a campaigning membership body and these include:

- being passionate about diversity and equality
- having the courage to say what we believe
- working collaboratively, inclusively and ethically.

We believe strongly that our ethics and values can help guide our work as individuals and institutions in the challenging times in which we live.

Practical actions:

As well as adhering to these values, there are practical actions that museums can take:

- ensure our venues are welcoming to all
- use our diverse collections to tell the rich stories of immigration from and to the UK, and the role it has played in shaping place, community and culture
- use our trusted spaces for debate and discussion and to challenge ignorance, intolerance, prejudice and bigotry
- engage proactively with refugee and immigrant communities and the groups and organisations that represent them
- engage in contemporary collecting with our diverse communities to ensure that we tell the widest range of stories
- take part in Refugee Week 19-25 June, organised by the Refugee Council www.refugeecouncil.org.uk
- demonstrate support and solidarity for colleagues who are living and working in the United States or those who want to travel there, who might be subject to discrimination
- demonstrate support for staff and colleagues in the UK who might be affected by the travel ban, either professionally or personally.