

1 July 2020

Dear Cllr Thomas,

We are writing to you concerning the replacement of the statue of Sir Thomas Picton within City Hall. We wish to propose a community-led solution which celebrates the life of Louisa Calderon, instead.

We undoubtedly find ourselves in a momentous time; events across the globe have provided an opportunity to re-assess race relations in our communities and address the United Kingdom's colonial past. While statues of slave traders continue to be taken down around the world, the question of what is to be done with the empty plinths left behind by these statues and how to address their history is undoubtedly posed. These are questions that should be answered by the communities in which these statues have long stood. Indeed, in the case of the statue of Picton, residents of Cardiff ought to have a say.

We propose replacing the statue of Picton with an artwork of Louisa Calderon, his most famous victim who until now has not had justice for Picton's crimes against her.

Louisa was a 14-year-old 'Mulatto' girl who, having been accused of aiding another man in a house robbery, was tortured, and held in chains for 8 months. Prior to this, she had been kept as a 'mistress' by a white slave owner since the age of 11. The gory details of her torture are well documented in literature. The torture was signed off by the then governor of Trinidad, Picton, at the request of one of the island's most influential planters, Begorrat. Picton, being the first tried for misconduct in the exercise of his official duties in service abroad, was found guilty but never sentenced, and later acquitted.

Louisa travelled to the UK and spoke in court, despite her fighting spirit and bravery, she did not see justice and disappeared into historical obscurity. It is time to set things right.

Statues on public display should reflect, at the very least, the embodied ideals of society. We believe in a Wales that makes amends for the past, that protects children from sexual abuse and harm, and that feels just as much as we do for Louisa Calderon. Our monuments should reflect this.

In this regard, we believe the most appropriate course of action should begin with the community taking an active part in this discussion. We believe that replacing the statue of

Picton with that of Louisa Calderon would be the best course of action for the community. It is a statement of intent and commitment to publicly addressing Wales and the UK's colonial history. It is also a statement of courage and determination on the part of the council to uphold the values that our society stands for today. Those that have been victimised and silenced in the past will not be silenced anymore. On the contrary, let the council demonstrate its readiness to lead, bringing to light to historical and present wrongs and showing the way forward towards a more equal and just future.

We hope you will find our proposal most agreeable.

Signed:

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|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Takura Aldridge | 33. Emina Redzepovic | 66. Bassmala Elbushary |
| 2. Fadhili Maghiya | 34. Hannah Sheppard | 67. Izzy McLeod |
| 3. Raphael Esu | 35. Jennifer Farnell | 68. Hoda Alshaibani |
| 4. Umalkhaire Goran | 36. Hoda Al Shaibani | 69. Lucemo mlewa |
| 5. Daouda Conte | 37. Cath Mulogo | 70. Hoda Alshaibani |
| 6. Sarah Younan. | 38. Amy Saunders | 71. Jake Griffiths |
| 7. Claire O'Shea | 39. Taya Ford | 72. Ellie Walker |
| 8. Aileen Burmeister | 40. Emma Westcott | 73. Tamunodokubo |
| 9. Basma Kamel | 41. Eden-Mae Davies | Joshua Whyte |
| 10. Wanitta Adzangoa | 42. Kelsey Gauchi | 74. Pafue Christy |
| 11. Natalie Jones | 43. Vicky Ford | Nganjimi |
| 12. Frank Kamau | 44. Amelia May Welsh | 75. Shoruk Nekeb |
| 13. Abu-Bakr Madden | 45. Lloyd James | 76. Jameelah |
| 14. Liz Small | 46. Ciara Ford | Williams-Baffoe |
| 15. Dr Donald Mlewa | 47. Aimee Lewis | 77. Farhan Khawaja |
| 16. Zazi Chris Campbell | 48. Alice Willis | 78. Nicole Ready |
| 17. Vanessa Fada | 49. Dattyl Wilson | 79. Kamala Suliman |
| 18. O'Molemo Thamae | 50. Shellwy Davies | Bakheit |
| 19. Sara Ibrahim | 51. Gemma | 80. Lucas Bikram |
| 20. Emertha | Treharne-Foose | 81. Chloe Giles |
| Uwanyirigira | 52. Joseph Baxter | |
| 21. Justina John | 53. Olivia Brooks | |
| 22. Justina Eghosa | 54. Alexandeer Szekely | |
| Aimufua | 55. Lowri Williams | |
| 23. Sibani Roy | 56. Lauren James | |
| 24. Donald Mutale | 57. Sue Mclucas | |
| 25. Carol Adams | 58. Jayne Boucher | |
| 26. Fanta Bamba | 59. Philip Westcott | |
| 27. Uzo Iwobi OBE | 60. Donna Jones | |
| 28. Simba Chibarika | 61. Wendy Lewis | |
| 29. Jill Duarte | 62. Bhavna Patel | |
| 30. Beth Kid | 63. Andrew Ogun | |
| 31. Peter Gilbey | 64. Andrew Ogun | |
| 32. Cat Jones | 65. Wanitta Adzangoa | |