

Recovered Histories: Reawakening the narratives of enslavement, resistance and the fight for freedom.

Dear Colleagues,

As part of the 2007 bicentenary commemorations, Anti-Slavery International has launched the **Recovered Histories** online resource (www.recoveredhistories.org).

Recovered Histories for the first time makes accessible over 800 pamphlets relating to the Transatlantic Slave Trade, looking at its history from a range of perspectives, including the enslaved and the enslavers, the supporters and the abolitionists. Accompanying the website is a portable 17 panel exhibition and an education pack which can be used in conjunction with the National Curriculum subjects of History, English and Citizenship at different Key Stages.

2007 has provided a basis for creating dialogue about Britain's role in the Transatlantic Slave Trade, both as a leading 'slave trading' nation which profited greatly from the forced labour of Africans on Caribbean plantations and as an abolitionist nation which saw an unprecedented mass mobilisation in Britain rising against the tide of enslavement. Many have fought hard during this bicentenary year to commemorate and highlight the voices of the enslaved Africans and the African abolitionists who fought tirelessly for their own emancipation, and whose struggle paved the way towards British and European anti-slavery mobilisations and campaigns.

Recovered Histories seeks to continue this work beyond 2007 and to further explore a history that has shaped Britain and the rest of our world in profound ways. It is vitally important that the legacies of the Transatlantic Slave Trade which continue to affect all of us today are addressed with accurate information in order to foster greater and more effective community cohesion.

Recovered Histories will link groups and organisations from across the UK in dialogue and practical work around these issues. The project includes:

1. Facilitating a series of regional seminars in March 2008 (dates tbc) to bring together a wide range of groups and organisations who are working on these issues and who are interested in making links, creating sustainable networks and sharing appropriate practice. We hope this will include grassroots community organisations, youth clubs and associations, women's groups, faith groups, as well as schools, libraries, local authority departments, development education centres and museums. The seminars will also introduce participants to the available resources and their effective use in a variety of local and national settings.
2. Anti-Slavery International forming a range of regional partnerships with institutions and/or grassroots organisations whose role will be to facilitate on-going work on these issues with local and regional groups (for example educational institutions, student bodies, faith groups and community groups etc).

Partners will also take responsibility for distributing a free portable lightweight exhibition within their designated region.

3. Providing free training and support for partners on how to utilise and promote the **Recovered Histories** resources within designated regions.
4. Facilitating a series of regional events in September/October 2008 (dates tbc) to showcase some of the work taking place in the different regions. We anticipate this bringing to the fore some examples of the partnership work taking place since the March seminars as well as presenting models of good working practice on these issues, and involving new groups and organisations in the growing networks.

If you would like to be part of this project, there are a number of ways you can get involved now:

- Register your interest in attending the closest regional seminar to you, and we will keep you posted about dates;
- Do you know of, or work at a venue which might be suitable to host a regional seminar or showcase? All suggestions of venues in England, Ireland, Scotland or Wales are welcome – this is a national project.
- Do you know groups, organisations or networks who might be interested to know about or get involved in this project? Could you forward this information to them?
- Do you know particularly of community groups or organisations who are working on these issues and who might be keen to know about this project and possibly to get involved?
- Would you be able to distribute some of our project postcards about **Recovered Histories**? If so, let us know and we will post you some.
- Would you be willing to share information about this project with people through word of mouth? Not everyone has regular access to technology and it is important that everyone has an opportunity to participate if they would like to. If willing, please do use creative ways of awareness raising so that we can reach as many people as possible.

If you would like to discuss any of the above in more detail or would like to get involved, please do contact Angelina Osborne at recoveredhistories@antislavery.org or 0207 501 8937

We look forward to hearing from you soon.
With best wishes,

Angelina Osborne
Outreach Officer, **Recovered Histories**

Free resources on the
Transatlantic Slave Trade

