

### **Leadership styles iii: Social issues**

Claire, National Museums Liverpool

really seeks to be a part of social change.

With that in mind, can you tell me

a bit more about what it's like

to work with multiple community agendas?

Within the International Slavery Museum

we have a lot of approaches from groups

who have a very strong social

or political agenda and we welcome that.

We don't sit on the fence as an organisation

and we're quite open with our views

in terms of who we support and who we don't.

We've worked with groups

who do a lot around anti-racism campaigns.

It's not a difficult shift.

Our leadership, I suppose, is David Fleming

as our director, he's very much around.

We're not a neutral space.

And I think, a lot of museums,

I suppose, want to remain neutral

but we feel that if we're going to be

leaders in our way, in terms of being

a campaigning museum, where we actually move

from just having discussions and doing activities,

we actually want to make changes for people

within their communities, we're going to have to nail

our flag to the ship pole on one particular side.

That's what we do.

You mentioned your director there.

How essential is top-level support?

Having a very clear direction

from our director around social inclusion and

around participatory practice, has;

a) it's opened doors in terms

of building new relationships

and partnerships because we're able

to, we're not risk-averse.

He's very supportive in terms

of us establishing relationships

with new groups, for example

the Anthony Walker Foundation,

a local group to Liverpool.

Their son was a victim of hate crime.

He was murdered in Liverpool several years ago.

We were able to have conversations with that group.

It went from, we're horrified,

just as an organisation

in terms of what happened

to your son but actually we

can do something about it.

We dedicated our education room

in Anthony Walker's memory.

We worked very actively

with the family and the foundation.

The head of the International  
Slavery Museum is now a trustee.

We do a lot of partnership work  
in terms of we host activities,  
we support their young volunteers programme,  
we've done art activity,  
we've done exhibitions, we've trained  
some of the young youth ambassadors  
in terms of interview skills.

We've supported the festival,  
they have an annual festival,  
so we have a lot of events.

Now, we wouldn't have been able  
to do that, I think, if our leadership  
was less ambitious in terms of how he  
really genuinely believes  
that the International Slavery Museum  
can challenge people's behaviours  
around racism and discrimination.