

Glossary | Reframing Picton

Amgueddfa Cymru recognises that language is ever evolving and that our language choices can have a lasting effect, especially on marginalised communities.

Language is important; it affects how we understand and exchange information. It has the power to valorise or vilify, and it shapes how we see historical figures.

Language which would have once been considered 'appropriate', we today consider to be completely unacceptable, while some phrases are loaded with historic meaning but are not challenged or questioned.

Our aims as a museum are to provide a wider context to our collections with more inclusive language choices. This handout helps to highlight our language choices which were made when developing the 'Reframing Picton' exhibition with our partners. It also provides further context for selected terms.

Visit our website for more information and to learn more about our aims to decolonise language and our collections
<https://bit.ly/30Awq0t>

BLM

Black Lives Matter (BLM) is a movement which originated in the United States of America to protest against violence against Black people and systemic racism. The murder of George Floyd sparked global outrage making BLM a global movement. Protests also happened across Wales, which have been recorded in a display at St Fagans.

enslaved African people/enslaved labour

We consciously chose to describe the victims of slavery as 'enslaved'. We have chosen to use this word to place the focus of the action on the enslaver rather than on the victim.

Transatlantic trade of enslaved African people

The phrase most used in history books to discuss this period in history is 'Transatlantic Slave Trade'. We have chosen to use 'Transatlantic Trade of Enslaved African People' instead; to focus on the victims as people, who were taken from their homes and forced into enslavement.

12 to 15 million people

The total number of enslaved Africans traded over the centuries of the Transatlantic Trade of Enslaved African People is not fully known, with some sources estimating numbers to be as high as 20 million.

Native peoples

We have chosen to use the term 'native peoples' to describe the indigenous communities that inhabited the Caribbean islands before the arrival of colonialism.

Illegal torture

In the case of Picton's trial, the torture of Luisa was considered illegal purely because she was classified as being free. It is important to highlight that the British legal system created laws that gave legal permissions and justifications for atrocities inflicted on enslaved people, which included torture.

the "unlawful deaths" of enslaved people

Laws which governed the treatment of the enslaved people were not created with the welfare of the enslaved victims in mind. Seen as property, the unlawful death of an enslaved person referred to the loss of one's property instead of a loss of life.

British Empire

"The group of countries that in the past were ruled or controlled by the UK, including Australia, Canada, India, and many parts of Africa" - Cambridge English Dictionary.