

Dear Marvin Rees, Hugh Brady and Judith Squires

As members of staff and students at the University of Bristol, we are writing to express our support for the removal and disposal of the statue of the slave trader Edward Colston from Bristol city centre on 7th June. That statue has been a stain on our city for far too long.

Now that the statue has come down, we are calling on **Bristol City Council and the Mayor** to guarantee that:

- -The statue will not be replaced in any public position in Bristol, other than in a museum.
- -If it is placed in a museum it should be in a context of understanding why and how it was removed.
- -No public money is spent on its restoration.
- -You will write to the CPS asking them not to prosecute the demonstrators for taking this long overdue responsibility into their own hands.
- You will fully stand by the decision by Avon and Somerset Police Superintendent Andy Bennett to police by consent on the afternoon of June 7th

In addition, we are calling on the **University of Bristol** to recognise the importance of this historical moment, and commit to:

- -Rapid removal of all reference not only to Colston, but to slave-holding individuals and organisations that profited from slavery in the names of University buildings and the University logo.
- This includes overturning the decision not to rename the Wills Building
- -Undertake a transparent review of the historic and current governance of the Society of Merchant Venturers who were instrumental in blocking attempts to remove the statue and <u>change its misleading inscription</u>, as this will help to inform the University's future relationship with that organisation
- Expand bursaries and fee waivers for Black students wishing to undertake undergraduate and postgraduate study at the university
- Work with and consult local communities on the redesign of the logo and on the University's response to its ties with transatlantic slavery

Many of the 300+ staff and student signatories below have committed to undertaking the short term and long term work that is needed to support you in creating a more inclusive and decolonised city and campus. We request that the City Council and the University of Bristol each acknowledge receipt of this letter no later than 16th June 2020, sent to: cbh-publicity@bristol.ac.uk

Sincerely,

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