

# EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Monthly Newsletter by Saint Helena Equality and Human Rights Commission



## SEPTEMBER 2020

This month in Saint history for human rights.

**27th September 1680:** It is decided by the Island Council that women are forbidden to board visiting ships - except in daylight and in the company of their husbands.

**13th September 1723:** Residents petition in protest about others freeing 'Blacks' and demand that no more be permitted to be freed. Number of 'free Blacks' given as 20.

**13th September 1952:** The first Amateur Radio station starts operating from St Helena.

info from

<https://sainthelenaisland.info/inthismonth.htm>

## CULTURAL RIGHTS

Cultural heritage is to be understood as encompassing the resources of individuals and groups, which they wish to transmit to future generations. This includes tangible heritage composed of sites, structures and remains of archaeological, historical, religious, cultural or aesthetic value, as well as intangible heritage comprising traditions, customs and practices, vernacular or other languages, forms of artistic expression and folklore. Ruperts Valley, in its entirety along with tangible and intangible properties, serves as a site of history and memory for the African Diaspora and Saint Helenians. Risk to any cultural property damages the cultural heritage of all humanity, since each people makes its contribution to the culture of the world.



## CONFRONTING SLAVERY'S LEGACY OF RACISM TOGETHER

One devastating legacy of the transatlantic slave trade was racism. Historically, it was used to justify the enslavement of Africans. And today, it has led to people of African descent being relegated to the poorest and most marginalized sectors of society. The 2020 theme underscores the reality that lasting effects of the transatlantic slave trade, including racism, continue to divide societies across the globe and hamper our advancement towards a world that respects human rights and enables sustainable development for all. Only through confronting these legacies can we truly promote inclusion and move forward together.





## STATE OF DEMOCRACY

If democratic systems do not offer a reliable framework for ensuring opportunities for political participation, and if market-based economies do not guarantee fair and reliable rules of competition and social inclusion, then not only will they lose their appeal, they will erode into anti-democratic structures. The EHRC would like to invite the public to express their views and opinions on the state of democracy in Saint Helena. The survey has been compiled to identify democratic deficits and increase our understanding of the democratic needs and opportunities that exist on Saint Helena. This public opinion survey is now available upon request from the Equality and Human Rights Commission Office:

Email: [annina@humanrightssthelenas.org](mailto:annina@humanrightssthelenas.org)

OR

collect a copy directly from our offices

## WEB ACCESS FOR ALL

It's hard to imagine St Helena achieving its 10 year targets if the internet remains a costly utility, enjoyed only by groups able to afford it or use it to its fullest potential. The Policy for Communications Networks and Services tackles this issue by offering an independent regulator to ensure the service is affordable, fair and of quality. Many nations have adopted a similar approach but St Helena presents the additional challenge of profit vs population size. If we wish to remain true to five national goals, quality, affordable internet must be offered to every single person on St Helena. In effect, we'd be making internet access a human right on St Helena.



## THIS MONTH

- 8 September. International Literacy Day
- 15 September. International Day of Democracy
- 21 September. International Day of Peace
- 28 September. International Day for Universal Access to Information



**CHARLES EVAN HUGHES: WHILE DEMOCRACY MUST HAVE ITS ORGANIZATIONS AND CONTROLS, ITS VITAL BREATH IS INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY**