

EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Monthly Newsletter by Saint Helena Equality and Human Rights Commission

On this day in Saint Helena history:

27th May 1839:

Slavery on St Helena is abolished by the Ordinance for the abolition of slavery in the island of St Helena (it was abolished in the rest of the Empire from 1st August 1834).

15th May 1907:

The Lace Making industry is resurrected by Ms Penderel Moody.

21st May 1945:

St Helena's Day is celebrated for the first time as a Public Holiday with Victory Sports on Francis Plain.

13th May 1966:

Florilla Mary Augustus becomes the first St Helenian to reach 100 years since records began. (She dies four days later.)

MAY



CULTURAL DIVERSITY



What is cultural diversity?

Cultural diversity, or sometimes referred to as multiculturalism, is a quality of diverse and many different cultures. Cultural Diversity a system that recognizes and respects the existence and presence of diverse groups of people within a society. The system values their socio-cultural differences and encourages each individual to celebrate it.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission are embarking on a journey of listing the building blocks of Saint Helena's tangible and intangible culture, to ensure the visibility and awareness of the significance of cultural heritage and to encourage further dialogue and safeguarding.

These cultural building blocks can be described as the direct production of Saints as a cultural group or elements that it has borrowed, integrated and potentially adapted from another cultural group through group-level interactions.

The importance of cultural heritage is not the cultural presence itself but rather the wealth of knowledge and skills that is transmitted through it from one generation to the next. The social and economic value of this transmission of knowledge is relevant for minority groups and for mainstream social groups on island.

GENDER-INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE



What is gender-inclusive language?

Gender-inclusive (or gender-neutral) language is language that does not discriminate against gender identities and/or groups.

Gender-neutral language or gender-inclusive language is language that avoids bias towards a particular sex or social gender. In English, this includes use of nouns that are not gender-specific to refer to roles or professions, formation of phrases in a coequal manner, and discontinuing the blanket use of male terms. For example, the words policeman and stewardess are gender-specific job titles; the corresponding gender-neutral terms are police officer and flight attendant. Other gender-specific terms, such as actor and actress, may be replaced by the originally male term; for example, actor used regardless of gender. Some terms, such as chairman, that contain the component -man but have traditionally been used to refer to persons regardless of sex are now seen by some as gender-specific. An example of forming phrases in a coequal manner would be using husband and wife instead of man and wife. Examples of discontinuing the blanket use of male terms in English are referring to those with unknown or indeterminate genders as singular they, he or she, or s/he, and using humans, people, or humankind, instead of man or mankind