

WHY WE ARE PROTESTING OUTSIDE TODAY

We are Bristol residents concerned about Colston founder day/charter day ceremonies about to take place in the city's cathedral today and next week, following public of words spoken by the Bishop in last year's ceremony. In 2014 he stated that Edward Colston had: *'lived a life of significance'* [and there] *'may be still some speculation on some of the circumstances around his business roots right here'*

It is not speculation but *fact* that the bulk of the money Colston gave away 'for charitable purposes', which built two of your schools, was generated off the backs of African slaves working in sugar plantations. Is this charity?

The memory of Africans (mere commodities under slavery) forcibly removed from their West African homelands, branded, their names taken from them, working under the sun, the slave driver lash at their backs, should be remembered, whenever the name Colston is mentioned.

Colston used his money to court influence and power in the city and Parliament. He lends money to the Bristol City Corporation (city council) one year and becomes a member of the society of the Merchant Venturers the next.....

Ceremonies held in a cathedral, private or otherwise, presided over by the Bishop of Bristol, with hundreds of Bristol children in attendance, where the Bishop chooses to speculate over this fact and not give dignity to the memory of African ancestors who were dehumanised, are perverse.

We are using our presence to provide balance in education. Use the central library next door and the internet to find out the truth about:

- Edward Colston and other Bristol slave traders
- The Merchant Venturers
- The slave and sugar trade in Bristol
- Slave rebellions in America and the Caribbean
- The movement for the abolition of slavery
- Talk to your parents and teachers at school

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