



## **Our Commitment to Inclusion and Diversity**

The Northern Ireland Museums Council is committed to helping develop a fair and equitable society, free from discrimination. Through our support for local museums across Northern Ireland, we encourage inclusive and welcoming museums that are accessible to everyone. We support the elimination of prejudice, discrimination, harassment, and victimisation.

We are committed to our duties and responsibilities under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (the Act) which requires us to comply with two statutory duties:

(1) In carrying out our functions relating to Northern Ireland we are required to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between:

- persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation
- men and women generally
- persons with a disability and persons without
- persons with dependants and persons without

(2) In addition, without prejudice to the obligations above, in carrying out our functions in relation to Northern Ireland we are required to have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

### **Over the past 12 months we have:**

- Delivered training courses for the local museum sector that embrace inclusivity
- Maintained and built collaborative partnerships with organisations such as the Alzheimer's Society, Dementia NI and Early Years
- Piloted dementia friendly projects
- Celebrated cultural diversity through our touring exhibition *A Brush with Nature*
- Delivered a programme of Access & Inclusion Audits to seven local museums
- Supported a funding application to explore museums, colonialism, and Northern Irish identity
- Reviewed and updated our Disability Action Plan
- Provided grants to local museums to develop new audiences of different ages, for example with the Playful Museums Festival and The Late Shift

### **Over the next 12 months we will:**

- Update our Equality Scheme
- Ensure our training programme addresses inclusivity and diversity
- Work collaboratively with others to develop inclusive audience engagement programmes for local museums
- Seek to extend the programme of Access & Inclusion Audits