

## WINDRUSH FOUNDATION

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The Right Honourable  
Deputy Prime Minister  
Nick Clegg MP  
70 Whitehall  
London, SW1A 2AS

22 March 2012

Dear Mr Clegg,

I refer to my letter dated 22 December 2011 and am grateful for your reply of 16 March 2012, received yesterday.

In order to better explain the subject about which I wrote to you, I am repeating the second paragraph of my December 2011 letter:

'The DCLG response is very disappointing, not having addressed the matter. Instead, the Department was asked to write to me. I do feel insulted that they consider that I requested support from you for our Liberation 1838 project 'application' for further lottery funding, when I am asking you for your comment on the project/initiative for commemorating in 2013 the event of 1 August 1838 (the 175th anniversary of the freedom won by Africans in the Caribbean). We wish to keep alive the memories of our ancestors; if it was not for their survival, we would not be here in the UK. 1 August 1838 marked the birth of the African Caribbean family, because Africans there did not have the opportunity to live as families in the precious three hundred years under enslavement. The slave-masters had prevented this.' You will see from the above that I am talking about **Slavery** and not the **Slave Trade**. The latter was about the trafficking of enslaved Africans; the former was about how they were forced to live in the Caribbean.

Please accept my apology if it seems that I am giving you a lesson in British history, but the British Parliament abolished the trade (trafficking ) of enslaved Africans in **1807**. Parliament abolished Caribbean Slavery on 1 August 1834, but it was not until 1 August **1838** that Africans there walked to freedom.

It is apparent from the first paragraph of your recent letter that you have conflated the two (Slavery and the Slave Trade). You have said, 'Thank you for your letter of 22 December 2011 asking for my thoughts on your initiative for commemorating the events that led to the freedom won by Africans in the Caribbean. Please accept my apologies for the considerable delay in replying. The Slave Trade was a terrible point in British history and

your commitment to keeping alive the memories of those who fought against it is admirable.'

LIBERATION 1838 is not a project about the Slave Trade or its abolition, but about the 1838 liberation of enslaved Africans in the Caribbean. The 200th anniversary of the Abolition Act was in 2007, and the 175th anniversary of African Caribbean liberation is to be celebrated in 2013. Your letter of 16 March 2012 is not a comment on the latter.

The project will help Black youth understand what really happened to their ancestors in 1838 (not 1807), and how Africans in the Caribbean survived after the First of August 1838. Over the years, the British education system has failed to deliver this history in schools. Also, the project will discuss why so many of their descendants live in the UK. We strongly believe that a better understanding of this history will help Black youth in their quest for identity, self-appreciation and value. These are some of the topics that LIBERATION 1838 will cover. We hope also to help the British public to understand and appreciate the shared history with African Caribbean people, because we have found that only a few of the former are not in denial about our shared history, or get directly involved in this type of project.

I look forward to your response to the above.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

Arthur Torrington CBE  
Project Director

cc: The Right Honourable Simon Hughes, MP