

Legacies of Enslavement Programme Plan 2026–2030 Executive Summary



The Scott Trust *Legacies of Enslavement Programme* was launched on 28 March 2023, setting out the intention to atone for this history, starting with a formal **apology**. Over the past three years the programme has focused on engaging descendant communities in Jamaica and the Sea Islands; regional and national bodies, civil society organisations, academics and reparations experts to identify what repair for transatlantic enslavement could look like, and how an institution like the Guardian could respond.

Process and Timeline

2020 An **academic review** is commissioned by the Scott Trust into the history of the Manchester Guardian, founded by John Edward Taylor in 1821.

March 2023 Scott Trust **apologises** for the fact that John Edward Taylor, and his funders, profited from transatlantic enslavement - a **crime against humanity** - through their business dealings in cotton and sugar. The *Legacies of Enslavement Programme* is launched, setting out the intention to atone for this history.

June 2023 - present day Capacity and expertise is brought into the Legacies of Enslavement team to design and deliver a programme of repair. This has focused on engaging descendant communities in Jamaica and the Sea Islands; regional and national bodies, civil society organisations, academics and reparations experts to identify what repair for transatlantic enslavement could look like, and how an institution like the Guardian could respond.

April 2026 A four-year programme plan is launched.

Programme Plan 2026-2030

Over the period 2026-2030, the Legacies of Enslavement programme has the following goals and objectives:

GOAL 1: *Contribute to realising repair for descendant communities linked to the Guardian's founders*

In Jamaica we will:

Economic and climate justice

- Improve access to quality education and skills training in hanover parish
- Fund climate resilient post-hurricane reconstruction work, including supporting economic justice initiatives in hanover parish

Culture, history and community

- Honour the memory of the enslaved people of the Success plantation
- Organise community dialogue and convenings aimed at repair and healing

Future generations

- Support national initiatives aimed at decolonising curricula across the education system
- Partner with universities to expand access to high quality training in journalism

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In the Sea Islands region we will:

Economic and climate justice

- Improve access to education, advice and legal support to strengthen Gullah Geechee community land retention and land use
- Fund locally-led schemes to mitigate the impacts of the climate emergency and economic inequality

Culture, history and community

- Support community efforts to preserve and memorialise Gullah Geechee culture and heritage
- Organise community dialogue and convenings aimed at repair and healing.

Future generations

- Partner with regional HBCUs to expand access to further education in priority areas

GOAL 2: *Support reparatory justice and truth-telling efforts in the UK and globally*

- Promote truth-seeking and telling about transatlantic enslavement and its legacies
- Raise consciousness of Britain's historical involvement in slavery through heritage, cultural and educational partnerships and exchanges
- Increase the scope and ambition of Guardian journalism in covering underreported regions, and descendant communities affected by enslavement, around the world
- Create new opportunities for entry-level and mid-career journalists from underrepresented groups

Activity so far

To date, the Legacies of Enslavement Programme has:

- Engaged over 900 people across descendant communities, civil society, and experts to understand repair and how the programme can enable it
- Launched the [Long Wave](#) newsletter designed to connect people across the African diaspora launched in October 2024 which has over 35,000 subscribers
- Secured a partnership with the Science and Industry Museum to create a [landmark exhibition](#) on Manchester, Cotton and Enslavement to be launched in early 2027
- Created eight new correspondent roles covering east and west Africa, South America and the Caribbean, alongside expanded teams in the US and UK.
- Expanded Guardian bursary, fellowship and cadetship schemes for entry-level journalists within the UK, US and Australia

Programme components

In summary, the Legacies of Enslavement programme combines:

- **Community-led repair** Providing resources and support to community-led initiatives aimed at repair in Jamaica, the Sea Islands (and Brazil)¹
- **Strengthening voice and accountability** Delivering high-quality journalism via our new correspondents and [newsletter](#) covering underreported regions and descendant communities affected by the legacies of enslavement across the world
- **Truth-telling and raising consciousness** Commissioning and publishing independent [research](#) and cultural, heritage and educational partnerships to improve public knowledge of Britain's historical involvement in slavery, its global impact as well as the lasting wealth and broader inequality it generates.

¹The Guardian founders' connections to Brazil have been uncovered in recent stages of academic research. We will be sharing the latest research conducted by the Wilberforce Institute at the University of Hull later in 2026, followed by a process of engagement to scope the repair work in Brazil.