

Recommendations from EQIA on City Hall Memorabilia by John Kremer

- 1: Existing artefacts other than statues should be removed from the main reception areas (i.e. the Marble Hall and Rotunda) and repositioned in alternative contexts so as not to detract attention from the impressive grandeur of the building itself.
- 2: The Council should be encouraged to seek expert advice on how its existing collection can be presented most effectively for those visiting the City Hall and its grounds. This should extend to specific advice on the preservation of individual items.
- 3: It is recommended that those parts of the building that are routinely visited by the public, including thoroughfares, corridors and designated display areas, should continue to portray the story of Belfast through the appropriate display of artefacts and memorabilia.
- 4: The Council will continue to work with those skilled in interpretive design to develop appropriate narratives in those parts of the building that are frequented by visitors and tours, including thoroughfares, corridors and designated display areas.
- 5: The Council shall continue to liaise with local communities to facilitate the provision and management of temporary exhibitions in the City Hall and its grounds, and to ensure that these exhibitions are deemed appropriate.
- 6: Any signage and accompanying information throughout the City Hall and its grounds must aspire reasonably to accommodate those who may not be able to access written English.
- 7: In designated work areas (e.g. staff offices, kitchens), further to the Fair Employment and Treatment Order 1998, an obligation should fall on the Council to provide an environment where 'no worker feels threatened or intimidated on grounds of religious belief and/or political opinion'; the display of materials more closely associated with one community than another should be avoided in these designated work areas.
- 8: In designated political party rooms, it is recommended that responsibility should continue to rest with each political party to provide and manage what they regard as a good and harmonious environment within that space.
- 9: Where a Council employee may have concerns about working in an environment containing certain displays that he or she regards as likely to disrupt a good and harmonious working environment, then the Council will aspire to accommodate these concerns through an examination of his or her duties, on a case-by-case basis.
- 10: In public function rooms, and including the Registrar's Offices, it is recommended that the Council should continue to ensure that these environments are maintained in a welcoming manner that is not likely to cause offence to those attending functions from any section of the community.
- 11: Displays in the Lord Mayor's Parlour shall continue to be managed by the incumbent Lord Mayor in a reasonable manner that accommodates not only his or her freedom of expression of political opinion but also is mindful of the identities of those visiting that room.
- 12: The Council will continue to liaise with those organisations hosting functions and events to ensure that any temporary displays are not likely to disrupt a good and harmonious environment, and are in keeping with the function in question.
- 13: Where a Council employee may have concerns about working at a function associated with certain temporary displays that he or she regards as likely to disrupt a good and harmonious working environment, then the Council will aspire to accommodate these concerns through an examination of his or her duties, on a case-by-case basis.
- 14: The Council Chamber should be preserved in its present form.