

Museum Essentials: Working Ethically

Hannah Crowdy transcript

One of the key areas of our work where we really apply the Code of Ethics is when we're looking at The Troubles, particularly with our work on our new gallery 'The Troubles and Beyond' and all the collecting activity we've done.

In Northern Ireland we're still dealing with the legacy of the past. It's history that's still very live, very difficult for people in many ways, so ethical considerations come into play all the time.

The collections are a link between our past, our present and the future; the conflict is in theory in the past but we're still dealing with the impact and legacy of that and it affects our thinking about what we want our future society to be, and collections are the key to that and the stories that collections hold.

Based on our own work we've done on the Troubles and how we've applied the ethical code in our practice there I think the result of that is that we have a much better gallery, we have much better engagement with the public because we have actively used ethics.

The code very much encourages us to work in partnership to collaborate with communities, with different stakeholders and there's so many different stories so many different experiences related to the Troubles.

It can be very difficult subject matter; the views can be very intense and they can be upsetting to people so we're very open to different voices and experiences and in turn we encourage others that work with us to be open in the same way.

When they understand that we have really strong ethical principles, that we apply to our own work and in the way that we approach working with them, it really helps build trust and respect, and it helps them to understand what our role and purpose is as a museum in society.

If you can weave ethical principles and ethical practice through everything you do, you're much stronger much more effective and you bring others along with you.