

Activity - Women in museums and heritage sites

When visiting a museum, art gallery etc. ask the group to keep an eye out for how many women are mentioned as they move around the exhibition. Group members could write down or photograph every woman's name they see as they move around and see who has managed to find the most at the end. Ask the group to think about the way women are included in the exhibits – are there photos of women? Do the photos have a caption that explains who the woman was or not? Is it the same for the men? Are women's achievements celebrated in the same way as men's? Do they have the same emphasis on women's work as on men's work? Are exhibits about women put in less prominent positions than those about men? If you are able to, try speaking with a member of staff from the exhibition and ask them if they are aware of the way women are portrayed, or if they know any additional information about some of the women mentioned in the exhibits. If there is a feedback sheet at the end of the exhibition, or a chance to leave feedback online, try crafting a response as a whole group asking the exhibition to think more carefully about how they portray women – or praising them if they have done a good job!

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