

This is an interview from Timeout Magazine, published in May 2006

David Lammy (Minister for Skills): We are looking at the possibility of a blue plaque here. We need to ensure that more black and ethnic minority people who are a part of this country's history are memorialised.

Arthur Torrington (The Equiano Society): There's a plaque to Equiano in Riding House Street, but it's a green plaque [solely a Westminster-based scheme], and recently we found the grave of Equiano's eldest daughter, Johanna, in Apley Park cemetery in Stoke Newington. What's sad about Equiano's story is that he was unrecognised even by the abolitionists. I have a copy of Thomas Clarkson's writings against slavery and, in 500 pages, Equiano is never mentioned.

DL: I think he would have been quite pleased that 200 years later, he is central in an official government publication.



Your task is to write a letter to English Heritage and ask them to put up a plaque for Olaudah Equiano

?? Address your letter to the Blue Plaques Team, English Heritage, 1 Waterhouse Square, 138 - 142 Holborn, London, EC1N 2ST

?? Introduction: explain who you are and what you are asking for.

?? Explain where should the plaque go? The plaque should be placed at 111 Maze Hill, Greenwich, which is where Equiano first lived when he came to England in 1755, and was taught to read and write.

?? Give reasons why Equiano deserves a blue plaque by writing about his life and achievements.

?? Conclusion: explain the main reason Equiano deserves a plaque – what makes him so important that future generations should know where he lived in our country?