

17 November 2022

Dr Linda Doyle, Provost and Chair
Board of Trinity College Dublin
College Green
Dublin 2, IRELAND
Via email: [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Repatriation of human remains in College collection to Inishbofin, County Galway

Dear Dr Boyle and Board Members,

On behalf of the American Anthropological Association and its 8,000 members, at the request of the Trinity Legacies Review Working Group, we write to urge you in the strongest possible terms honor the request of the residents of Inishbofin and commit to return ('repatriate') all human remains contained in the College's research collections to their descendant communities, including 13 crania currently housed in the College's Old Anatomy Building. They are part of a set of 24 crania in the Haddon-Dixon Collection at Trinity College taken from the communities in the west of Ireland in the 19th Century.

The ethical treatment of human remains held in research collections requires that scientists and collection managers consult closely with descendant communities on appropriate curatorial and custodial measures. The fact that the 13 Inishbofin crania were stolen, and that this theft was acknowledged by Haddon in his diary, is of serious concern. The way in which these remains came to be in the College's possession is compelling evidence that the wishes of the descendant community should be honored today, and doing so is an important step in advancing ethical scientific practice, rather than being seen as an impediment to advancing science. We urge the Board to commit to returning these remains to their community of origin without delay.

If I can provide additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



(Dr) Edward Liebow
Executive Director

