

05/12/2022

To whom it may concern,

In response to Trinity Legacies Review Working Group's call for submissions on the future of human remains that originated in Inishbofin, Co. Galway, Inishbofin Development Company CLG is requesting that the remains be returned to Inishbofin without any further delay and that an apology be made by Trinity College Dublin from behalf of the academics who stole these human remains from St. Colman's Monastery.

We'd like to stress that no other outcome from this consultation process is acceptable, or right, by any standard. These remains were removed illegally without permission and returning the remains has cultural and religious significance to our island community. The geographical, religious, and cultural link of these remains to Inishbofin has clearly been demonstrated and the remains are well documented. Trinity College Dublin has proved no continued, reasonably foreseeable research potential regarding the remains. Also, no scientific, educational, or historical value of these remains to Trinity College Dublin, the museum sector or the general public has been demonstrated.

There are no reasons for these remains to be stored at Trinity. They only bear value to the community they are undeniably linked to. No matter who they were and where they originally came from, Inishbofin or elsewhere, these people were part of the island community of Inishbofin and deserve to rest in peace in this sacred place they were laid to ground in.

We are hopeful that the right decision will be made on this. However, should the decision be to not to return these remains, we expect the decision-makers to equally prove with undeniable evidence and existing research plans why these illegally removed remains should continue to be stored at Trinity, explaining what scientific, educational, and historical value and use these remains have to Trinity College Dublin, the museum sector, and the general public.

Inishbofin Development Company CLG is happy to support the process of returning the human remains to the island and to work in collaboration with Trinity College Dublin or any other agency involved in the process of doing what is right.

Yours,



Tuuli Rantala
Community Development Coordinator
Inishbofin Development Company CLG

Inishbofin Dev. Co. is a not-for-profit community organisation working to improve the quality of life and the socio-economic, economic, educational, infrastructure, environmental, arts, cultural, heritage and administrative sustainability and requirements of the island.