

# STATEMENT FROM ENGAGE LIVERPOOL TO THE 42<sup>ND</sup> SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

**26.06.18 BAHRAIN**

My presence here is a testimony both to the commitment shown by UNESCO WHC and your Chair Sheika Haya to the importance of civil society in the protection and conservation of the designated properties but also to the commitment and determination of the citizens of Liverpool who have made possible my participation with many small donations in a crowd-funding exercise to enable our voice to be heard amongst you today.

Firstly I want to thank you for the inspirational support given by the World Heritage Centre in Paris, and especially by Dr Isabelle Anatole-Gabriel, to our efforts in Liverpool to save our site from deletion. I think the report you have received demonstrates that significant changes have been made and important decisions taken that I hope will lead to our removal one day from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

I want to assure you that the people of Liverpool hugely value our inscription as a UNESCO WHS and are committed to making sure that our designation isn't lost. We completely support the recommendations in the Desired State of Conservation Report and recognise the substantial steps taken by the State Party, Liverpool City Council and Peel Holdings which have contributed to this new moment in our relations with UNESCO. Considerable gratitude must be expressed to the members of the Liverpool World Heritage Board established as a Task Force by Mayor Anderson.

As a civil society actor Engage Liverpool is this autumn inviting three similar WHS cities to come to Liverpool and share with us the insights and policy decisions that have enabled them to make the most of their WHS status – Strasbourg, Hamburg and Bordeaux. We are playing our part in protecting and developing our WHS status and we thank you for supporting and encouraging us by your decision today to continue on this path with hope and courage.