



PRESS RELEASE:

For Immediate Release

CALL FOR STAR TREASURES NOMINATIONS FROM THE NORTHWEST

Culture Northwest is today launching the **Star Treasures** programme. This new initiative is in direct response to the **Minister for Culture, David Lammy**'s call for a consultation on the best way for the UK to implement the **1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the event of Armed Conflict** and its two Protocols.

As part of the **Star Treasures** programme, **Culture Northwest** is calling for nominations from the region for cultural property that should be protected under the Treaty in the case of armed conflict. The Treaty exacts a promise from member countries that they will not destroy designated cultural property despite any armed conflict that may be on-going.

Culture Northwest already recognises and supports cultural gems in the region via the **Star Turns** programme, shining the light on otherwise hidden achievements from the Northwest so that others can be inspired by their success.

Star Treasures aims to recognise and nominate the cultural property of the region to the **Department of Culture, Media and Sport** ensuring the protection of the heritage of the Northwest under the terms of the convention.

David Lammy, Minister for Culture said "Ratification of the Convention and accession to its Protocols will strengthen the UK's commitment to the protection of our own heritage, highlight our civil duty as part of an international community to respect the cultural property of other nations and demonstrate that the UK takes seriously its commitments in the area of international humanitarian law."

Loyd Grossman, Chair, Culture Northwest added, "The Northwest is a region of remarkable diversity and richness. Each city, town and village houses historic buildings that are fundamental to our heritage and culture. We must ensure that the Northwest's cultural property is a priority for The Government when nominating the property to be protected under the 1954 Hague Convention".

The Government hopes to include every Grade 1 listed building, all world heritage sites and the entire contents of our national museums and galleries. **Culture Northwest** welcomes nominations from the region for the **Star Treasures** programme by **25th November 2005**.

Culture Northwest will collate all nominations and submit the Northwest's nominated Star Treasures to DCMS by the **deadline of 2nd December**.

David Lammy, Minister for Culture, will announce the top cultural treasures in early 2006

Further information can be found at

http://www.culture.gov.uk/global/press_notices/archive_2005/dcms114_05.htm or by emailing aoife.flanagan@nwda.co.uk

Ends

For further media information please contact Aoife Flanagan, **Culture Northwest** on 0161-8177413 or aoife.flanagan@nwda.co.uk

Notes for Editors:

Culture Northwest is a thinking, networking and advocacy organisation. Culture Northwest is the Cultural Consortium for England's Northwest, established in 1999 by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, and its role is to drive the Regional Cultural Strategy. Culture Northwest's core funding is predominantly provided by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Northwest Regional Development Agency.

More information on the Star Turns programme can be found at www.culturenorthwest.co.uk

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