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## **Worshipful Company of Coopers of London Statement**

The Worshipful Company of Coopers of London – is a City of London Livery Company incorporated by Royal Charter in 1501 but with a history that goes back many centuries.

The Coopers Company unreservedly acknowledge and condemn the many insidious evils of slavery over the centuries up to and including the present day.

In particular the enormous harm caused by the trans-Atlantic Slave Trade from 1663 to abolition in 1807 whose effects are still being felt today in many ways today.

The Company recognise that no doubt there were members of our Company who benefited either directly or indirectly from the transatlantic slave trade

Over the many centuries the Coopers Company was focussed on the trade of the coopers within the City of London, supporting and regulating our craft as well as on education and charity - historically focussed on the East End of London.

Today that regulatory role has gone but the Education and Charity remain as strong as ever.

The Company operate an open recruitment policy and welcome people from all backgrounds who share our values in respect to giving something back to society.

The school and college we support also operate an open enrolment policy as do our affiliations.

**The Court of the Worshipful Company of Coopers of London – June 2021**