Human Rights and Labour Museums – versatile and changing roles

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History of the Labour Museums

- The First Labour museums were found after the second World War
- Due to ideological change in the 1960’s
- From margins to mainstream
Diversity of the Labour museums

- Four categories of Labour museums, based on their focus
  - Work and industry
  - Workers’ housing
  - Labour movement
  - All the above – actual Labour museums

- Nordic Countries received their Labour museums in 1980’s and early 1990’s
Changing focus of Labour museums

- Focus has evolved and become more versatile
- The interest in civic society has grown stronger
- Work with marginal phenomena and minorities
The Finnish Labour Museum

- National special museum of social history and working life
- Founded in 1993
- Mission statement: "Museum endorses equal rights and solidarity in society, sustainable development and human rights."
The Red Guardists
Sexual and gender minorities
Disabled people
Final words

- Civic society and human rights issues are important for labour museums
- Labour museums do active and international co-operation with other museums and actors
- WORKLAB – The International Association of Labour Museums
  - http://www.worklab.info
Thank You!

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