**Speak Out - promoting democracy, equality and human rights through education**

Bradford Council and Bradford Hate Crime Alliance invite secondary schools from across the district to nominate two students and a teacher to join a delegation to Bosnia in March 2024. The visit is being organised in association with the Charity Remembering Srebrenica.

Students will join officers and elected members of the Council to deepen their understanding of the events that led to the Srebrenica genocide.

**Background**

On 11 July, in 1995, Bosnian Serb forces, led by General Ratko Mladic, systematically massacred 8,372 men and boys. It was the greatest atrocity on European soil since the Second World War. These individuals are more than just a statistic; they were the fathers, husbands, sons and loved ones of those that were left behind.

Several pictures of a family

Description automatically generated

Ten years ago, **Bradford Council** committed to using the lessons of Srebrenica to tackle hatred and intolerance to help build a better, safer, and more cohesive society for everyone. We do this by:

* Keeping the memory alive through organising commemoration events, which bring together communities to REMEMBER the victims of Srebrenica. Remembering Srebrenica organises the annual UK event that commemorates the EU-designated Srebrenica Memorial Day on 11 July.
* Taking people on the ‘Lessons from Srebrenica’ visits programme.
* Educating children and adults to stand up against hatred and intolerance in their communities.

The students will be expected to collaborate in developing an exhibition to challenge stereotyping hate speech and discrimination. Preparing them to speak out against attitudes that can lead to the violation of human rights.

Students will be in Year 10 or above and have a mature approach to learning about sensitive issues. The delegation will be funded through Bradford Hate Crime Alliance (BHCA) in conjunction with the City of Bradford MDC. However, all delegates will be expected to make a contribution of £350 to demonstrate their commitment to the ethos of the visit. This may be part or fully funded by schools at the discretion of each school. All transport, accommodation and all meals are included.

**The Programme**

* The Old Town of Sarajevo – prior to the Bosnian War this was a place of diversity where the cultures of east and west lived together in harmony.

* The Siege of Sarajevo – museums and places of interest reflecting the impact of the siege on the people of Sarajevo.

* Tuzla – the mortuary where the exhumed bodies are identified using DNA.

Srebrenica – Potocari, the battery factory where people sought refuge, the Memorial and the Cemetery at Srebrenica where the victims of genocide are buried.

The delegation will meet with survivors of the genocide and hear the first-hand accounts of their experience.

**Transport**

* Coach travel from Bradford to Manchester airport for the 06 10 flight to Sarajevo, via Frankfurt.

* Coach travel throughout the tour.

* Return travel from Sarajevo to Manchester, via Vienna. Return coach travel to Bradford arrival early afternoon.

**What is expected of school?**

* We would ask schools to select two students and a member of staff to participate in the delegation, ensuring that they follow their own safeguarding and due diligence policies. (Risk assessments will be provided). You may wish to select reserves in case of illness.
* Schools will participate in or have already participated in Bradford MDC’s Speak Out programme – Remembering Srebrenica
* Support the students in raising their contribution through opportunities for fundraising.

* Opportunity to implement their pledge through sharing their learning within their school and wider community.

**What the City of Bradford MDC / BHCA (Bradford Hate Crime Alliance) will provide:**

* Away Day for students to meet with fellow students and to develop an understanding of the events which led to the genocide.

* Briefing meeting for parents.
* Pre-visit meeting for the full delegation.
* Transport to and from Manchester airport.

* Risk assessment. It is not feasible to risk assess every place on the itinerary.

* Bosnia / Srebrenica programme led by Remembering Srebrenica Guide. (<https://srebrenica.org.uk/>)

The education element of the pre / post visit experience will be led by Jenny Fox and Geraldine Cooper both of whom have teaching experience. Jenny works in BMDC Children’s Services and leads the ‘Speak Out’ programme which includes workshops on Remembering Srebrenica. Geraldine now works for Bradford Hate Crime Alliance but previously worked on BMDC’s Stand Up Speak Out Make a Difference programme which included workshops on Remembering Srebrenica. Geraldine led a delegation of Secondary students to Bosnia in 2017.

For further information or to express interest please contact Geraldine Cooper:

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