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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Anne Frank Trust one of few UK organisations whose work tackling prejudice-related behaviour shown to be effective

During National Hate Crime Awareness Week, education charity The Anne Frank Trust is proud to announce that it ranks as one of the few organisations in the UK that can show its work tackling prejudice-related behaviour among young people is effective.

The Anne Frank Trust's schools work is being re-funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government as part of the Hate Crime Action plan. It was singled out in a report released last week by the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) as one of the only interventions to have "research to support the effectiveness of [these kind of] programmes"¹

Communities Minister Lord Bourne said:

"The Anne Frank Trust does invaluable work in tackling prejudice in schools and educating our young people with this inspiring story. By working together we can help change attitudes and use this living legacy to prevent all forms of hate crime in the long term."

Research commissioned by the EHRC examined projects nationwide. Only nine interventions were able to demonstrate that their programmes were robustly evaluated and give meaningful results. The Anne Frank Trust, which works with 40,000 young people each year, was among the highest ranking of these proven interventions.

The Trust's evaluation measures include pre and post intervention surveys of teachers and pupils who have been trained by the charity to act as peer educators and guides. All the evaluation measures gave positive results:

- 89% of peer guides have an increased knowledge about what harm prejudice can cause
- 90% of peer guides have an increased respect for other pupils
- 87% of teachers say that peer guides are more likely to challenge discriminatory behaviour

¹ University of Sussex and International Hate Studies Network, 'Preventing Hate Crime', <https://www.sussex.ac.uk/webteam/gateway/file.php?name=preventing-hate-crime-final-report.pdf&site=539> (Oct 2016)

The Anne Frank Trust's work in schools aims to challenge all forms of prejudice and discrimination. The programme uses a 'general approach', working with all pupils rather than a pre-identified few. The EHRC reports that "there is emerging evidence that general approaches to reduce prejudice and related behaviours (for example schools interventions which promote awareness, empathy and social skills) may be effective in improving the situation across protected characteristics [such as age, disability, race, religion]."²

Using the inspiration of teenage diarist Anne Frank, who ultimately died at the hands of the Nazis, school students are trained as peer educators and deliver exhibition tours and presentations to other students. A number later become Anne Frank Ambassadors, and remain as a living legacy of the programme in their schools and communities. There are now nearly 1,000 Anne Frank Ambassadors across Britain, and the idea has been taken on by organisations working in Anne's name across the globe.

Anne Frank Ambassador Nathan said:

"It means a lot to be an Anne Frank Ambassador. You get to tell people what happened to Anne Frank during the Holocaust, and explain how something similar could happen again if we allow hatred to go unchallenged. There are people in my own community who support racist groups and if they knew the facts, rather than just the propaganda, they would change their minds. Doing the Anne Frank Schools Project has given me and my friends have a completely different view than these kinds of groups. I'm now able to challenge prejudice when confronted with it."

Robert Posner, the Trust's Chief Executive Officer said:

"Taking a general approach to combatting prejudice-related behaviour or 'identity based violence', where we work with every pupil in a year group or sometimes a whole school, is working. We can see through the results, shown by our robust evaluation system that using peer educators as influencers, and the universally inspiring words and life of Anne Frank, makes people think and behave differently."

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² Equality and Human Rights Commission, '*Prejudice and Unlawful Behaviour: Exploring levers for change*', <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/research-report-101-prejudice-and-unlawful-behaviour.pdf>, (July 2016), p.148

More information

More information on this release or to request images, contact:

Siama Khan, Senior Communications Officer, Anne Frank Trust UK on 0207 284 5858 or siama@annefrank.org.uk.

Notes to Editors

About The Anne Frank Trust UK

Prejudice and discrimination harms individuals, communities and society. The Anne Frank Trust UK is an education charity. We use Anne Frank's life and diary to empower young people with the knowledge, skills and confidence to challenge all forms of prejudice and discrimination. We partner with schools, local authorities, criminal justice education services and others, to deliver education to young people in a variety of settings, predominantly in schools. Our interactive and impactful programme includes an exhibition of Anne Frank's life and diary combined with workshops, peer education and an ambassador programme.

The Anne Frank Trust UK was established in 1991 by family and friends of Otto Frank, following his wish for an educational organisation to be set up in memory of his daughter Anne.

www.annefrank.org.uk

About the Anne Frank Trust Schools Programme

Independent research has shown that The Anne Frank Trust's Schools Programme increases students' levels of confidence and respect for others. The full impact report is at www.annefrank.org.uk/impact-report

About Anne Frank's diary

Anne Frank and her family were forced into hiding in 1942 to escape persecution by the Nazi occupation. While in hiding for two long years, she kept a diary documenting her thoughts, hopes and dreams. Her father, Otto, was the Frank family's sole survivor. Fulfilling his daughter's wish to become a writer, Otto decided to publish Anne's diary, so that people would remember his daughter and the millions of other men, women and children who lost their lives in the Holocaust.

Equality and Human Rights Commission

The Equality and Human Rights Commission is Great Britain's national equality body and has been awarded an 'A' status as a National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) by the United Nations. As a statutory non-departmental public body established by the Equality Act 2006, the Commission operates independently. We aim to be an expert and authoritative organisation that is a centre of excellence for evidence, analysis and equality and human rights law. We also aspire to be an essential point of contact for policy makers, public bodies and business. We use our unique powers to challenge discrimination,

promote equality of opportunity and protect human rights. We work with other organisations and individuals to achieve our aims, but are ready to take tough action against those who abuse the rights of others.

Reports

Equality and Human Rights Commission, (2016) '*Prejudice and Unlawful Behaviour: Exploring levers for change*', <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/research-report-101-prejudice-and-unlawful-behaviour.pdf>,

Sussex Crime Research Centre and The International Network for Hate Studies, (2016) '*Preventing Hate Crime*', (<https://www.sussex.ac.uk/webteam/gateway/file.php?name=preventing-hate-crime-final-report.pdf&site=539>

Home Office, (2016) '*Hate Crime Action Plan*', https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/307624/HateCrimeActionPlanProgressReport.pdf