

# Report Highlights Worrying Lack of Understanding Amongst Young People about Prejudice

Submitted by: Lily Pad PR

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A report published today by the Anne Frank Trust UK outlining the impact their work in schools has had on pupils over the last year identifies the lack of understanding amongst young people about prejudice. Nearly half (45%) of young people interviewed for the report felt they didn't understand prejudice and the harm it can cause.

The Anne Frank Trust UK educates over 30,000 young people a year through its exhibitions and educational projects in schools, prisons and communities across the UK. Their programme in schools educates young people about the importance of positive attitudes, personal responsibility and respect for others. The report found that after the programme 88% of students understood what prejudice is and 92% better understood the dangers. 85% of teachers polled thought their students were also now more likely to challenge discriminatory behaviour and 88% said students were more respectful of others.

According to Gillian Walnes, Executive Director of the Anne Frank Trust UK, "Prejudice and intolerance are such hot potatoes at the moment, on local, national and indeed global level. Even the Prince of Wales's concerns were included in a report by a Catholic charity about oppression of religious groups, notably Christians. We also heard recently about the nasty racist tweets received by the Jewish MP Luciana Berger, young singer FKA Twigs and the black footballer Yaya Toure. It all demonstrates why our work is so needed, and we believe we can help in creating a society where human beings learn to appreciate their commonality not their differences. This report proves our programmes are working and we look forward to continuing to roll out the programme during 2014/2015".

The Anne Frank Trust UK programme also has an impact on other key life skills – 65% of students reported an increase in confidence after completing the course, 63% found it easier to work in a team and 69% felt they were better at listening and talking to other people.

Kingsford Community School is a multicultural school based in Beckton, East London. The school has taken part in the programme since 2011. According to Head teacher Joan Deslandes, "The Anne Frank Schools Programme has increased our pupils' social and spiritual awareness and placed enlightenment where it is best placed, which is in the hearts and minds of our young people. The important messages being delivered by the Trust have emphasised to our pupils that, despite difference, it's very important that our common humanity is never undermined by the actions that we take towards each other."

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About the Charity:

On her 13th birthday Anne Frank was given a diary in which she recorded her thoughts and feelings before

and whilst in hiding in Amsterdam from Nazi persecution. Following Anne's death at age 15 in Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in 1945, her father, Otto Frank, chose to publish her diary in order to help challenge the hatred that had killed his daughters.

Founded in 1990, the Anne Frank Trust UK uses Anne's life and inspirational message as an anchor to educate people about damage caused by all forms of prejudice and discrimination. The Trust enters the lives of young people across the country when they are likely to be at their most vulnerable and impressionable and imbues in them the importance of positive attitudes, personal responsibility and respect for others.

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Anne Frank was a sparkling and intelligent teenager whose life was cut cruelly short by murderous racial hatred. The Anne Frank Trust, the British educational organisation that proudly bears Anne's name, has been imparting her vision of a more just and humane world to thousands of young people per year, inspiring them to become active responsible individuals. Our work in schools, prisons and communities reaches several regions across the UK, but we know that there is more, so much more to do. Gillian Walnes MBE, Co Founder and Executive Director  
[www.annefrank.org.uk](http://www.annefrank.org.uk)