

The Anne Frank Trust is 'leading from the front' in tackling hatred and prejudice, says Communities Secretary Sajid Javid MP.

27 January 2017

The Anne Frank Trust UK is "leading from the front" in its efforts "to tackle prejudice and hatred," said Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP at the charity's Annual Lunch to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. (26 Jan 2017)

The Communities Secretary joined activist Brendan Cox – husband of the late MP Jo Cox, who was murdered last year by a far-right extremist – to speak at the fund-raising event on the dangers of allowing prejudice to go unchecked.

The Anne Frank Trust uses the diary of Anne Frank to educate youngsters about the dangers of discrimination and hatred and draws lessons from it that resonate today.

The charity's innovative use of peer guiding in workshops and exhibitions mean children learn from each other, and independent evaluation of its programmes reveals that their impact on attitudes and behaviours is significant and positive: children identify an increase in self-confidence; greater understanding of and empathy towards others; and a readiness to challenge prejudice and discrimination where they see it occur.

Recalling an instance of racial abuse from his own childhood Mr Javid said it was: "so important that we educate young people about where hatred can lead."

In what was a powerful and moving speech Brendan Cox amplified the point: "What all conflicts, genocides and atrocities have in common is not how they were conducted," he said: "it's how they started: with prejudice."

Brendan went on to say that 2016 was: "the year in which we pulled back the covers and began to realise the extent of the decay," and that it would either be the point in history in which the UK and Europe turned in a direction from which it could not return or be a wake-up call: "A shattering of our complacency and a catalyst to bring our country back together again around the things that unite us."

"In 2017, said Sajid Javid, "we can't look the other way and pretend we didn't know what was happening."

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For more information on this release contact: Alex Fernandes, Communications Manager, Anne Frank Trust UK on 0207 284 5858 or 07932557056

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/impactreport