

SEVENTY YEARS AFTER ANNE FRANK'S DEATH, ED MILIBAND AND MEMBERS OF THE SHADOW CABINET SIGN THE ANNE FRANK DECLARATION CALLING FOR A FAIRER WORLD FOR ALL OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

On Tuesday 10th March, in the run up to the 70th anniversary of the death of teenage diarist and Holocaust victim Anne Frank, Labour leader Ed Miliband and members of his Shadow Cabinet signed the Anne Frank Declaration. The Anne Frank Declaration was created in 1998 by the Anne Frank Trust UK to honour and remember all young people killed through wars and persecution and remind us of the harm prejudice and hatred can cause. Those who sign it are expected to strive to make a better and fairer world for all our young people.

The Anne Frank Declaration has been signed by world leaders such as the late President Nelson Mandela, President Bill Clinton, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, previous British Prime Ministers and party leaders - plus tens of thousands of British young people. Recent signatories have included Dame Angelina Jolie and the Mayor of Chicago, Rahm Emanuel

See <http://www.annefrank.org.uk/what-we-do/declaration>

On introducing the Anne Frank Trust to the Shadow Cabinet, Rt Hon Yvette Cooper, Shadow Home Secretary, said:

“We have all seen the increases in incidents of anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and other forms of racial intolerance recently. I saw evidence of the excellent work of the Anne Frank Trust in schools, prisons and community settings and how they are grappling with these issues. Their work, especially with young people, is tackling one of the most serious issues our communities face today.”

Mr Miliband welcomed the Trust's Chair Daniel Mendoza, Chief Operation Officer Robert Posner and Executive Director Gillian Walnes to his Shadow Cabinet meeting and, after Gillian Walnes had read the words of the Declaration out, signed it and encouraged all present to do so.

Gillian Walnes said: “With our exhibitions, workshops and peer education training we educate over 30,000 young people a year throughout the UK and we wish to work with many more. We are delighted that Ed Miliband and his Shadow Cabinet are joining those who recognise the value of our work and have signed up to the Declaration. Its message is ever more pertinent and needed.”

As well as the Labour Leader and Shadow Home Secretary, signatories on 4th March included Deputy Leader Harriet Harman, Shadow Chancellor Ed Balls, Shadow Foreign Secretary Douglas Alexander, Shadow Health Secretary Andy Burnham, Shadow Defence Secretary Vernon Croaker and the Shadow Secretaries of State for Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

- Anne Frank and her family hid for over two years in a secret annexe above her father's offices in Amsterdam. They were betrayed and arrested in August 1944. Anne and her sister Margot died of hunger and typhus in Bergen-Belsen concentration camp sometime in late March 1945 (date unknown), just three weeks before its liberation by the British army.
- The Anne Frank Trust UK was set up in 1990 by family and friends of the late Mr Otto Frank, Anne Frank's father. Based in London, it educates over 30,000 young people in schools and prisons in seven regions of the UK.
- Its main work revolves around taking exhibitions on Anne Frank's life and times, along with relevant workshops, into secondary schools and training the pupils to be peer guides and Anne Frank Ambassadors in their communities.
- A recent report into the effectiveness of its work conducted by the School of Psychology at the University of Kent found that 88% of those who went through the Anne Frank Ambassador programme better understood what prejudice is and its dangers. 88% of teachers surveyed reported that pupils who had been trained as peer guides had increased in confidence and self esteem.
- The Anne Frank Trust and Penguin Random House will be marking the 70th anniversary of Anne Frank's death by staging the campaign #notsilent on 14th April.