



GENERATION Diary

Teens to Create World's Most Extensive Digital Diary

70 years after Anne Frank's final diary entry, the Anne Frank Trust has launched the revolutionary Generation Diary (www.generationdiary.org.uk), with one simple aim - to build the biggest collective digital diary in the world. Representing the voices of our future, the diary aims to highlight how teenagers today view themselves and the world around them.

According to Gillian Walnes, Executive Director of the Anne Frank Trust UK, 'Generation Diary is inspired by Anne Frank's remarkable diary, which she started writing at 13 and tragically ended, at the age of 15, when she was captured and sent to a Nazi concentration camp. Generation Diary will allow teenagers across the country to submit their personal diary extracts to become part of this significant work'.

Celebrity supporters of the campaign include iconic Blue Peter presenter Valerie Singleton who made a programme about Anne Frank in 1979, CBBC's Ceallach Spellman from Friday Download, Children's Laureate and author Malorie Blackman, Eastenders actress Maddy Hill, style guru Gok Wan and authors Cathy Cassidy, Beth Reekles and Chris Bradford.

Set to become a national, year-long project, Generation Diary will be providing a vital snapshot of how Britain's young people think. Teens between 13 and 15, are being invited to write a digital diary entry either as a one off or a series of entries. The collection of diary entries will be available anonymously on the Generation Diary website as well as social media channels, for sharing and inspiring others.

Diaries are an effective way for people to track their feelings according to celebrity psychologist and author of 'Ultimate Confidence', Marisa Peer, "If you look back at your diary and see a time when you were feeling low or miserable and notice that just two days later you were happy because just one phone call had turned that around you would then realise how quickly you can go from sadness to happiness and despair to optimism. They also help you to understand how often we worry about

things that never happen and tracking how few of your worries ever come true can help you to change from a pessimist to an optimist. Diaries also allow you to realise what and who is important in your life."

Throughout the campaign, an academic research project with the School of Psychology at the University of Kent will be analysing the collection of entries, which in turn will provide an empirical picture of the voice of Britain's teenagers today.

Historian and journalist Andrew Roberts said, 'As an historian, I rely on diaries a great deal, because they alone can abolish the tyranny of hindsight. A diary records true feelings from day to day, even if the future allows completely different perspectives. Anything that encourages people to keep diaries should be applauded, so that's why I wholeheartedly salute the Anne Frank Trust UK's imaginative and ground-breaking Generational Diary initiative. I predict that in years to come the young diarists will look back on what they've written with interest, delight and pride.'

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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.

The Trust educates over 30,000 young people a year through its exhibitions and educational projects in schools, prisons and communities across the UK.

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. From its humble beginnings, our work now 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