



'Voices for Change' Young people from across the UK gather in Manchester to raise their voices against prejudice

Embargoed till 28 June 2018

Scores of teenagers from schools across the UK will gather in Manchester at a national, charity conference on the theme of 'Voices for Change' today (28 June) to present and exchange ideas on challenging prejudice and discrimination in society. The young people, trained and supported by anti-prejudice education charity The Anne Frank Trust UK, will share their own social media campaigns designed to raise awareness of inequality, and self-made films that highlight examples of prejudice-related bullying. They will also hear testimony from Holocaust survivor Joanna Millan, and London politician and online abuse activist Seyi Akiwowo.

The Anne Frank Trust - which uses the life and diary of Anne Frank to empower young people across the UK with the skills and confidence to challenge all forms of prejudice and discrimination – is bringing together over 130 Anne Frank Ambassadors at the Z Arts Centre in Hulme. The youngsters will display and discuss work created during *education programmes run by the Trust with funding from the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government, and the Department for Education. Issues chosen and highlighted by the Ambassadors themselves include mental health awareness; gender inequality, Islamophobia, and cyberbullying.

The event will connect Anne Frank Ambassadors from as far apart as Scotland and the South East:

Bronwen, 15, from Dundee said: "It's a privilege to be attending the Anne Frank Trust's National Conference in Manchester where I hope to engage with other Ambassadors from throughout the UK. I'm looking forward to taking part in new activities with a variety of different people and participating in discussions about Anne's story which brings about issues of prejudice, discrimination and stereotyping."

Yusuf, 14, from London said: "I feel honoured to share my work and collaborate with other Anne Frank Ambassadors on our journey to stop prejudice and discrimination."

Tim Robertson, Chief Executive of the Anne Frank Trust UK said: "This is an important and truly national conference bringing together determined young people from all over the UK: our Scottish Ambassadors began their journey at 4.00am to be here! To have Manchester as its location is especially apt - this great, liberal city with its history of tolerance has witnessed devastating acts of hatred in recent times. The theme of the event – Voices for Change – is also pertinent: hate speech, and prejudicial attitudes and behaviour may be on the rise in our society, but these young people are united in desiring and creating a different future for themselves.

"Inspired by the courage, compassion and outspokenness of Anne Frank they are setting an example which all generations would do well to follow if we are to realise a society safe from prejudice and discrimination."

Over 20 schools – from London, the west Midlands, the East, Yorkshire, the North-West, the North-East, and Scotland - will be represented at the 'Voices for Change' conference in Manchester.

Ends -

*Switch off Prejudice encourages young people to question and challenge what they see online and nurtures their development as responsible digital citizens. The programme is funded by the Ministry for Housing, Communities, and Local Government.

*Free To Be puts young people centre-stage in tackling prejudice-related bullying. The programme is funded by the Department for Education.

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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