



## Teenage Ambassadors take Anne Frank's message to the Scottish Parliament on 89<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diarist's birth.

### Press release

Two Scottish teenagers will deliver a speech at the Scottish Parliament on 12 June on the importance of challenging hatred and discrimination, in their roles as Anne Frank Ambassadors.

The 15 year olds, from St Columba's High School, Gourock, have been inspired by Anne Frank's life and diary through their involvement with anti-prejudice education charity Anne Frank Scotland. Before an audience of MPs they will share the young diarist's message of social justice and equality for all on what would have been her 89th birthday.

S4 students Megan Quinn and Rhys Lambert are taking part in a Time for Reflection, a weekly event at the Scottish Parliament at which previous speakers have included Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama. The pair are among thousands of young people Anne Frank Scotland work with each year: the charity delivers education programmes through the prism of Anne Frank's life and diary to empower young people with the knowledge and confidence to challenge all forms of prejudice and discrimination.

Anticipating her appearance at the Scottish Parliament Megan said: "It is a very exciting opportunity and I am very grateful to be chosen. Of course it's nerve-wrecking getting up to speak in front of hundreds of important people but as I have experience in public speaking it helps alleviate my nerves a bit!."

Rhys added: "Over the past year Anne Frank Scotland has helped open our eyes to Anne Frank's story. Going to Parliament will be an amazing opportunity for us, and a great learning experience."

Tim Robertson, Chief Executive of the Anne Frank Trust said: "This is a hugely exciting and important opportunity for our young Ambassadors, and indeed for their audience. Sadly, hatred and the language of hate still exist in our society. In some areas, and particularly online, where young people are vulnerable, it is widespread. The experience and message of Anne Frank is as relevant today therefore as it ever was. If we are to discourage and overcome hatred as a society, then it's down to young people – like Megan and Rhys - to live their lives by the values that Anne inspired, and use their voices to encourage change."

The appearance by two Anne Frank Ambassadors at the Scottish Parliament is one of a series of events to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Anne Frank Scotland. In Dundee, the charity's acclaimed community exhibition Anne Frank + You, which looks at the contemporary relevance of Anne's story, has recently launched (7 June) at the city's Central

Library and has been organised by a steering group of Anne Frank Ambassadors supported by Anne Frank Scotland staff.

The past decade has seen the charity deliver its programmes and exhibitions in scores of schools, prisons and young offenders institutions across Scotland; work with tens of thousands of young people, and create hundreds of Anne Frank Ambassadors to help propagate a positive narrative in the face of hatred and discrimination.

### **Ends-**

The exhibition Anne Frank + You runs at Central Library, Dundee from 8 – 27 June 2018.

### **Notes to Editors:**

Anne Frank Scotland is an anti-prejudice education charity that launched in 2008. It is part of the Anne Frank Trust UK. In the decade since it has worked with tens of thousands of young people in schools, prisons and young offenders institutions across Scotland, using Anne Frank's life and diary to educate young people about the dangers of prejudice and discrimination, and empower them with the skills and confidence to challenge and resist it. In the last 10 years Anne Frank Scotland has shown almost 60,000 school children and college students round its exhibition: Anne Frank – A History for Today; it has created over 4000 exhibition peer guides, and created 410 Anne Frank Ambassadors .

### **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](http://www.annefrank.org.uk)