



## Statement re. Deutsche Bahn naming train after Anne Frank in Germany The Anne Frank Trust UK

Anne Frank is at the heart of everything we do at the Anne Frank Trust UK, and our international colleagues at the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam and Anne Frank Zentrum in Berlin.

We use Anne's life and diary to fight prejudice and hatred - bringing the young people we work with, in schools and other settings, along on the journey.

We understand the controversy and hurt surrounding the association of Anne's name with the method of transport used to take Jews to their deaths in the Second World War - the combination of a Holocaust victim's name and a train are painful and distasteful to some people - especially Holocaust survivors and their families.

Yet, we also recognise that Anne Frank is a powerful symbol of hope and integration. She endures, her image and her writing - the messages of her work. She inspires the thousands of young people we work with on a daily basis, and more. And she *wanted* to have an impact. Anne Frank edited her own diaries in the hope they would be published whilst still in hiding. She famously wrote: "I want to go on living even after my death! And therefore I am grateful to God for this gift, this possibility of developing myself and of writing, of expressing all that is in me."

Otto Frank was a proud German man, from Frankfurt - the Frank family were very assimilated into German life pre-war, and Otto and his brother were proud to have fought for Germany in the First World War. Otto left Germany in the 1930s to start a new life in Amsterdam; not knowing that Hitler's forces would invade the nation in 1940. The name of the new train was decided by public consultation with German citizens. In itself it could be considered 'a snub' to Nazism, not an homage to it or the mechanics of the Holocaust, but the voice of ordinary Germans honouring a girl from Frankfurt who was murdered by a regime they do not identify with.

This isn't a case of historical amnesia - most German people know and understand the difficult legacy of Nazism. Our colleagues in Germany work with thousands of young people each year and Holocaust education is mandatory in German schools so arguably this is a way of recognising Anne Frank as an inspiring and enduring German icon.

Lucy Glennon, Director of Strategy at the Anne Frank Trust said:

"We have to accept that Anne Frank *is* a cultural, historical and modern icon - she will be appropriated in many ways - indeed we have chosen her name and inspiration to use for a purpose. The Anne Frank Trust is an education charity that always honours Anne's name by keeping alive her memory and her message and empowering young people to challenge prejudice and discrimination wherever they see it with Anne as their driving force."

End

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