

Survivor of Peshawar school massacre lights candle at the Anne Frank Trust's Annual Lunch to mark Holocaust Memorial Day on Thursday 28 January 2016

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Anne Frank Trust UK was honoured to welcome Muhammad Nawaz and his surviving son Ahmad Nawaz, to the Trust's Annual Lunch to Mark Holocaust Memorial Day, held at the London Hilton on Thursday 28 January. Ahmad participated in the candle lighting ceremony, which remembers the victims and families of those who have suffered persecution, genocide and acts of brutality.

Ahmad Nawaz narrowly survived being killed by 'playing dead' in the brutal attack by Taliban gunmen at Army Public School in Peshawar in 2014. More than 130 children were violently murdered, including his brother Haris, who was just 15 years old.

This is the fourteenth such Lunch held by the Anne Frank Trust UK with The Rt Hon Theresa May MP as a special guest speaker. "The Anne Frank Trust is doing excellent work across the country and helping to build a stronger Britain – by raising awareness of prejudice and extremism of all kinds, working with young people to challenge damaging and destructive narratives, and by bringing people together. The Government shares a determination to defeat hatred and extremism, which have absolutely no place in our society. We must challenge anti-Semitism wherever we find it – just as we must challenge all forms of ethnic and religious hatred and combat extremism."

Guests also included Holocaust Survivors, Dr Eva Schloss MBE, posthumous step sister of Anne Frank, Eva Clarke, and Eva Behar, as well as PoW Eric Hookings, one of the last survivors of Stalag Luft 111 in Germany, and the Right Honourable Sir Eric Pickles, Special Envoy for Post-Holocaust Issues.

The Lunch was especially poignant, as this year marks the charity's 25th anniversary. Robert Posner, Chief Executive of the Anne Frank Trust UK said "The Anne Frank Trust strives for a society safe from prejudice and discrimination. The way we approach this is through education. Providing young people with the knowledge, the skills and the confidence to challenge prejudice and discrimination. We also have a duty not to stand by, but to speak out for those facing, and fleeing from, persecution. To help them to be safe from prejudice and discrimination. As well as the 6 million, we remember Anne Frank, one of the 1 and a half million children killed in the Holocaust."

For further information or interview requests, please contact Siama Khan on 020 7284 5858 or siama@annefrank.org.uk

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

- 1. The Anne Frank Trust UK** is a not for profit educational charity set up in 1990 by British family and friends of the late Mr Otto Frank, drawing on Anne Frank's life and diary to empower young people with the knowledge, skills and confidence to challenge all forms of prejudice and discrimination. The Trust partners with schools, local authorities, criminal justice education services and others, to deliver education to young people in a variety of settings, predominantly in schools. The interactive and impactful programme includes an exhibition of Anne Frank's life and diary, combined with workshops, peer education and an ambassador programme. Last year, the Anne Frank Trust worked with 40,000 young people.
www.annefrank.org.uk
- 2. Muhammad Nawaz's sons Ahmad and Haris** were both students attending the Public Army School attacked by Taliban gunmen in 2014. It has since been regarded as one of the worst attacks in the Pakistan's recent history.
- 3. The Rt Hon Theresa May MP** has held several positions within Parliament since 1997. She was a member of the Shadow Cabinet from 1999 to 2010, including as Shadow Secretary of State for Education and Employment, Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, and Shadow Leader of the House of Commons. From 2002 to 2003 she was the first female Chairman of the Conservative Party. Theresa was appointed Home Secretary in May 2010.
- 4. Eva Schloss MBE** is a survivor of the Holocaust and a co-founder of the Anne Frank Trust UK. Having fled Austria from Nazi persecution in 1938, Eva and her family moved to Amsterdam where Eva became friendly with Anne and her family. Both families were subsequently forced into hiding in 1942. In May 1944 Eva's family was betrayed and deported to Auschwitz; Eva and her mother were to survive their ordeal but both her father and brother perished.
- 5. Eva Behar**, Born in Romania in 1925, Eva was separated from her seven siblings at 8 years old when her mother passed away and was given to her aunt to be looked after. She was not reunited with them until 1958. Together with her "adopted" family Eva was transported to Auschwitz in 1944 and was subsequently moved to Belsen, where liberation came just in time for an increasingly weak and ill Eva. She was the only one of them to survive. On liberation, Eva remained in Germany, where she met her husband Sammy, who was stationed there with the RAF. They moved to the UK in 1947.
- 6. Eva Clarke** was born in Mauthausen concentration camp, Austria, on 29th April 1945. She and her mother Anka are the only survivors of their family. In December 1941 her parents were sent to Terezín. From Terezin, pregnant Anka was sent to

Auschwitz, and then to Dresden, before finally being sent to Mauthausen, where Anka went into labour on arrival. Their lives were only saved by the fact that the camp's gas chambers had been destroyed the day before. After the war, Eva and her mother returned to Czechoslovakia and then emigrated to the UK in 1948.

7. **Eric Hookings**, at 95 year's old, is one of the last survivors of the POW camp Stalag Luft 111 in Germany. This was the scene of the "Great Escape". Although Mr Hookings was imprisoned in the camp, he did not take part in the escape. Mr Hookings flew Wellingtons and Lancasters in 619 Squadron of the RAF helping to liberate Europe from Nazi oppression.