

Statement of Commemoration on Srebrenica Memorial Day 2024

This year marks the 29th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide, in which over 8,000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys were murdered in the worst atrocity on European soil since the Second World War because of their identity. The lessons from Srebrenica are that hatred and intolerance can flourish if left unchallenged which underlines the importance of why we must never forget about the tragic events that took place and remain resolute in our commitment to tackling hatred, intolerance, prejudice and discrimination in all forms.

The theme for 2024 is 'I Am Because You Are'. Our theme will aim to underline the importance of standing up against those who try to divide us and standing up for each other against hatred, discrimination, harassment or prejudice. It will also help empower everyone in our communities to understand the importance of interconnectedness to help build a safer, stronger, and more cohesive society for all. This year's theme will therefore serve as a reminder that the common bonds we have as human beings are far more important than that which divides us. We must strive beyond simply living individual lives or separated community lives and instead live lives that are interconnected by playing our part in rejecting hatred, division, and building more cohesive communities.

The theme will remind us of the importance of remaining vigilant against the forces of hatred that seeks to "other" groups as being negatively different by using the first steps of Gregory Stanton's ten stages to genocide model to illustrate this.

We therefore remember and honour the memory of the victims and pledge to work towards building a more cohesive, stronger and safer society free from hatred, discrimination and prejudice.