



REMEMBERING
SREBRENICA

How to engage the whole community

All delegates will likely have a wide network of contacts in their local area but it is important to think more widely than this. Some discussion points on the way the 2015 memorial events can involve the whole community are below.

Benefits of engaging different sections of the community

Memorial events are a great way of bringing people from different cultures together. Based on the lessons which delegates learnt in Bosnia, we have seen the impact that intolerance and division had on society. The memorial events are a way of not only remembering and honouring the victims of genocide but also to build strong community relations in the UK and to send a message to those attempting to create divisions within our society. The memorial events may serve the purpose of building relationships of mutual respect with groups who ordinarily might not engage.

People to engage with

The following suggestions of who to get in touch with might help you to reach out to those individuals and networks:

- local or regional organisations that have links with different faith communities e.g. inter faith groups, multi-faith forum;
- Community organisations and associations. They are often looking to bring diverse groups together within their own locality will also be useful contacts;
- Groups supporting newly arrived communities will be supporting people of faith from these communities e.g. groups working with asylum seekers, refugees and economic migrants.
- Local authority equality officers and those from public or statutory services, such as the Police or National Health Service and Primary Care Trusts. They should be keen to work with you, and it may be a very mutually beneficial relationship – they can show they are working with diverse communities and they may be able to provide venues, other services in kind and, possibly, even money.
- The business community will likely employ a large number of employees from a number of people from different faith communities within their ranks – many may have chaplains who would be able to put you in touch with key contacts.
- Faith leaders. This might be desirable for your event, however, they will usually need a long period of notice to give you any chance of getting them to your event.
- The student population. They could be a source of potential voluntary support.

- Consider groups who are not numerically well represented in the community or who are more recently arrived and therefore less well established. Remember that they might need more encouragement to attend than others as it might be hard to make them feel secure and confident enough to take a prominent role in the event.

How to engage and make your event inclusive

- Invite leaders from all the main faith groups.
- As well as faith leaders, it is also important to get word of your event to the wider faith community. Use bulletin Inserts, newsletter, and asking for announcements in sermons are all useful ways of involving the faith community.
- Make sure the event is scheduled for a time and day which won't automatically exclude certain groups.
- Ensure the activities planned for the day are not just targeted to one particular audience and are inclusive to all as far as possible.
- Choose an appropriate venue where everyone will feel welcome. A council space or community centre is often a good location. You will also need to ensure that your venue has disabled access. If you are working with a school or council then this will be automatic.
- It is good to hold the event in partnership with your local council if possible as they may already have a relationship with a number of community and faith groups.
- Consider the day and timings carefully to ensure people with religious obligations and festivals are not excluded.
- An act of remembrance such as a prayer (perhaps given by a local faith leader) or lighting a candle is a good way to remembering. However, it might be an option to consider that prayers are said by a variety of faith leaders or rather than a joint spoken prayer a shared silent prayer or meditation might be more appropriate. We do ask that all memorial events end with a minutes' silence.
- Consider having an activity for children so they can be present while mothers participate.
- Consider the transport options to your venue. It would be useful to have a venue which is accessible by public transport or encourage attendees to car share before the event.

Things to remember

- It is beneficial to do things together from the start of the process wherever possible as this makes it feel like a combined event with shared ownership. The process of doing things together from the beginning is as important in developing relationships and breaking down barriers as is the event itself, so try and involve potential participants or attendees from many faiths in the planning as well as the participating. It might be useful to recruit one volunteer from each faith you are working with to serve as a contact person. They will be able to help advise on the best way to get the message/invite out.
- Be transparent about who you invite.