

Living the Lessons Pledge

As an act of commemoration, we suggest 11 candles to be lit for each pledge made to honour the international day of Srebrenica commemoration which takes place on 11 July each year.

1. We pledge that when we hear the language of “us and them”, we will reach out and find common ground with our neighbour.
2. We pledge that, when we hear stereotyping and scapegoating, we will find and share alternative positive stories.
3. We pledge that, when we see discrimination in our schools or workplaces, we will challenge this and promote equal opportunities for all.
4. We pledge that, when we hear dehumanising language, we will remind the speaker of our common humanity.
5. We pledge that, when we see members of our community becoming disenfranchised, we will make a concerted effort to engage and include them.
6. We pledge that, when we hear divisive propaganda, we will challenge this effectively.
7. We pledge that we will protect those who speak out against human rights abuses.
8. We pledge that, where we see persecution, we will do everything in our power to protect those who are suffering.
9. We pledge that, where we believe that extermination is taking place, we will call on our governments and the international community to take immediate action.
10. We pledge that we will always challenge denial by believing the victims and sharing their stories.
11. We pledge that we will always choose the side of those who are suffering over the side of the oppressor.

Candle Lighting

We come together today to remember the victims of the Srebrenica genocide.

We light these candles in remembrance of the lives lost and destroyed by hatred:

- We remember the 8,372 mostly Muslim men and boys who were murdered in the space of a week in Srebrenica in July 1995.
- We remember the Bosniak women and girls that were sexually violated during the fall of Srebrenica, those who took their own lives, and those who live on with physical and emotional scars.
- We remember the survivors of the Death March, and the men who survived the mass executions, and honour their courage in telling their stories.
- We remember the Mothers of Srebrenica, who grieve every day for their missing and murdered relatives and who fight tirelessly for truth and justice.
- We remember the elderly, the sick and the children murdered during the fall of Srebrenica.
- We remember the Bosniak men murdered in concentration camps throughout the Bosnian conflict, and those who survived torture, starvation and sexual violence within the camps.
- We remember the 20,000 – 50,000 women and girls subjected to sexual violence throughout the war, including those subjected to sexual slavery, torture and forced domestic labour in rape camps.
- We remember the women and girls who were forcibly impregnated by Bosnian Serb soldiers, and the children born from those rapes.
- We remember the civilians killed during the conflict, particularly the 3,500 children and those killed during the siege of Sarajevo.
- We remember those who defended their neighbours in a war not of their making.
- We remember the 2 million Bosnians who were forcibly displaced from their homes and communities through ethnic cleansing, and especially those who remain internally displaced today.