

From: Mike Haines
Sent: 26 September 2017 11:51:32
To: Scottish Ministers, Scottish Ministers
Subject: Global Acts of Unity

Dear Sir / Ma'am

My name is Mike Haines, my brother, David Haines was brutally murdered by ISIS in September 2014. In the immediate aftermath of my brother's death, my family and I felt strongly that we did not want innocent Muslim people to be blamed and or victimised in his name. I made a television appeal for unity and tolerance.

After my brother David was killed, I gave a number of talks at mosques, churches and schools in the UK. At each and every visit, I was asked the same question by the audiences everywhere, 'what can we do to make a difference?' The visits were all well and good, but this question kept coming up. The more it did, the more I began to ask myself, what could we as a society do? What was the purpose of my talks? What was the aim?

After some reflection, I sat down with my friends and family and talked over exactly what was important. What could we hope to achieve? How could we continue David's work?

On the eve of my brother's memorial I made a statement where I called for all members of the public, all communities of all faiths in the coming weeks and months to find a single act of unity - one simple gesture, one act, one moment - that draws people together.

It was that appeal that came to form the heart of the Global Acts of Unity campaign. The idea of promoting a positive message was so important to my family and I. By encouraging unity, tolerance and understanding between people from all communities we were standing up to the hate mongers and terrorists. That has become the ethos behind GAU.

The aim of the campaign is very simple. If a single person from the audience I speak to, in some small way, reaches out to someone from a different background or community, or even just adjusts their thinking in that direction, then that is a win against hatred and division. Almost every time I speak I have someone come up to me at the end and say they are going to try to act differently. It is that potential for change that gives the campaign its meaning.

In terms of making a difference, it is the younger members of our communities that I really want to reach - after all, the future is in their hands. As such, a major part of the campaign is visiting schools and colleges to talk to young people. The campaign also has a website and is active on social media, which as you know is so important to reach people today. On the website, we have short films and I write blogs about my experiences. I must say, I am certainly looking forward to my writing about this trip.

In the second half of last year, I held my first consolidated schools tour. I visited a large number of schools across the length and breadth of England. The Home Office of the UK Government enabled me to go to these schools across which I talked with several thousand students.

The response has been truly amazing. I have received touching messages of support from both pupils and teachers. I have also received many personal messages - one in

particular from a mother whose son, after hearing what I had to say, had turned away from hate and is now turning his life around. Another young lady told me she wants to go into politics to make sure that hatred does not become part of British daily life.

Throughout this journey, I have met many wonderful people and organisations who are making a real difference in their communities. I have also been very much honoured and privileged to work with dedicated and inspirational people from Breakthrough Media and Horizon PR, which provide me with in-kind support where I ask for it. All these people are very much integral to the team that is Global Acts of Unity.

As for what lies ahead, the future looks bright. I am in the stages of planning the next stages of the school tour. I have had numerous invitations to speak at many new venues and locations. And there has also been great interest in returning to some places I have already visited. I often joke that the tour should be sponsored by Kleenex ? because everywhere I go, people cry. But hopefully I am doing something right and, in some small way, continuing David?s work to make a difference for the better.

I have also been honoured with meeting the Pope and various religious and world leaders. This year I was invited to the Royal Garden Party in recognition of the campaigns work.

So far I have not had much opportunities to speak in Scottish schools or organisations. I would welcome an appointment to discuss with you visiting schools, universities and suchlike.

I invite you to look through the website <http://globalactsofunity.com/> to see some of the work the Campaign has done.

I would be indebted to you if you could find time in your busy schedule to allow me to meet with you.

Yours Sincerely
Michael B Haines.

With Thanks
Mike Haines

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<http://globalactsofunity.com/>

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**BRIEFING FOR DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER AND CABINET SECRETARY FOR
EDUCATION AND SKILLS: MEETING WITH MIKE HAINES OBE ON 21 JUNE
2018**

<i>Date and Time of Engagement</i>	Thursday 21 June 2018 10:00 – 10:45
<i>Where</i>	Scottish Parliament T4.23
<i>Key Message</i>	To provide a message of support to Mike Haines in the important work he is doing through his Global Acts of Unity campaign To ask for an update on the campaign and how it is progressing
<i>Who</i>	Mike Haines OBE, brother of an overseas victim of terrorism and school speaker
<i>Accessibility</i>	[redacted]
<i>Why</i>	The Deputy First Minister has asked to meet Mr Haines having met him at a recent event.
<i>Official Support Required</i>	[redacted] , Education Scotland M: [redacted] T: [redacted]
<i>Dress code</i>	Business
<i>Briefing Contents</i>	Annex A: Summary Page Annex B: Agenda/topics Annex C: Meeting Attendees Annex D: Biography Annex E: Letter sent from Mr Haines to SG in September 2017 Annex F: Letter sent in response to Mr Haines in October 2017 from SG Connected Communities Unit Annex G: Information of those invited to Global Acts of Unity Networking Event

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Annex A

Summary Page

- Mike Haines launched the Global Acts of Unity Campaign in 2016, two years after the death of his brother David who was kidnapped and murdered by ISIS. This campaign is aimed at promoting unity, tolerance and understanding in schools. Mike visits schools and talks to young people about unity and tolerance. He has talked to young people in Jordan and young people in schools and colleges in England, Wales and Scotland (Leith Academy, Queen Anne High School, Abertay University, Fraserburgh Academy) to spread his message of tolerance and understanding. Since September 2016 he has visited 35 schools.
- As part of the campaign, Mike has worked with educators to produce lesson plans and interactive presentations aimed at Key Stage 3 and 4 (children and young people age 11-16). These resources aim to help young people learn about discrimination, multiculturalism and tolerance.
- The Global Acts of Unity Campaign also encourages young people to take the Young Ambassadors Challenge. This involves distributing acts of kindness that are detailed on the Global Acts of Unity Challenge Cards. Young people are encouraged to give the acts of kindness cards to young people from different backgrounds or young people who may be isolated.
- Mike has also been involved in The Forgiveness Project. This is an organisation that shares stories from individuals and communities about rebuilding their lives following hurt and trauma. Mike has shared his story with the organisation as an example of unity and tolerance.
- In May 2018 the Scottish Government Connected Communities Unit held a Global Acts of Unity networking event to provide Mike with an opportunity to share information about his campaign and his work. Key information from this event includes:
 - The Edinburgh Interfaith Association gave an open invitation to Mike and discussed the challenges around getting messages of interfaith into schools. Interfaith Scotland suggested links to their 'Face to Faith' Programme, which is currently running in about 20 schools.
 - Mike described the impact of his trip to Jordan, highlighting the importance of making a connection with people, creating dialogue, talking and challenging perceptions.
 - The media was discussed and the importance of working with journalists to ensure they understand their influence in promoting tolerant messages. Mike is meeting with a number of editors in the near future and aims to influence them to tone down what can be perceived as 'promoting' hate.
 - Challenges in education were discussed, including the importance of work to tackle hate crime and prejudice being linked through other work. Discussion included the possibility of linking / aligning Mike's work to existing programmes on relationships, dialogue and respect.

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Annex B

Agenda/topics

Discussion to include:

- What is the impact of Mike's work with young people in schools and colleges? In discussions with young people, what do they identify as the key issues for them to ensure they respect others and demonstrate understanding and tolerance of different communities? What is the response from young people from listening to his presentation? Do responses from young people in UK and Jordan differ or are there similarities?
- What is next for his Global Acts of Unity Campaign? What were the outcomes from the recent networking event, organised by Scottish Government, Connected Communities Unit? What positive actions and next steps were identified as a result of the contacts he made at the event?
- What does Mike hope to achieve in meeting with newspaper and media editors?

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**Annex C
Meeting Attendees**

Mr Mike Haines OBE
[redacted] Education Officer Education Scotland
[redacted] Connected Communities Unit SG

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Annex D Biography

- Mike Haines OBE is the elder brother of David Haines, a British aid worker who was murdered by ISIS in September 2014. Mike is 51 years old and was awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list in June 2018. Mike resides in Dundee.
- Growing up, Mike and David moved around different countries as their parents were in the armed forces. Both Mike and David joined the RAF. Mike became a mental health nurse and David served in the UN and worked in humanitarian roles.
- David was kidnapped in March 2013 on the Turkish Border and held captive in Syria for 18 months before his murder. David had been involved in humanitarian work since 2000. At the time of his kidnap, David was working for the French charity ACTED (Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development). David was born in East Yorkshire and moved to Perth, Scotland. David was a father of two and was 44 years old when he died.
- While David was being held hostage, his relatives were supported by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and after his murder this support continued, alongside the work of Police Scotland Family Liaison Officers. Mike has spoken about how important this was to him and he supports the FCO advice they were given not to publicise his brother's kidnap.
- Following David's murder, Mike continued to be supported by the FCO to cope with the media attention on the family. This led to him working with the Office of Security and Counter Terrorism (OSCT) at the Home Office and being supported by them to develop a profile as a voice for tolerance and unity. During 2015, OSCT support included media and PR training and behind the scenes assistance on maximising media exposure for his messages. OSCT also identified suitable opportunities for him to speak to young people in the UK, focusing on schools in their Prevent priority areas where they thought his messages would have most impact.
- In March 2015, Mike attended a Papal General Audience, where he and Barbara Henning (the widow of Alan Henning, another aid worker killed by ISIS) were received personally and blessed by Pope Francis, who encouraged them to continue their work to turn personal tragedy into a positive message of unity, interfaith understanding, and interaction between people of different faiths.
- In June 2015, Mike met with the Scottish Government Connected Communities Unit to explore the scope for him delivering his messages to Scottish audiences. He was introduced to the Police Scotland Prevent Delivery Unit in Dundee as his most local point of contact. The Connected Communities Unit has supported Mike to speak at a few events, including at a school and to Police Scotland youth volunteers.
- Mike also identifies his own opportunities to speak and appear at suitable events. For example, he took part in Dundee's 'Light up the Law', organised by Tayside Action for Refugees and calling for solidarity with asylum seekers.

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Annex E

Letter from Mr Haines in September 2017 to Scottish Government

See separate document

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Annex F

**Letter sent in response to Mr Haines in October 2017 from SG Connected
Communities Unit**

See separate document

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Annex G

List of those invited to Global Acts of Unity Event May 2018

- Scottish Government policy areas (various including Connected Communities, Safer Communities, Education, Youth Justice)
- Education Scotland
- Police Scotland Safer Communities
- Interfaith Scotland
- Respect Me Charity
- Edinburgh Interfaith Association
- Glasgow City Council (Sense over Sectarianism Project)
- Scottish Ahlul Bayt Society
- The Ark Charity
- Awaz FM Radio Station
- Andalus Centre
- Shaykh Hassan Rabbani
- Shaykh Rehan Raza
- Bright Choices
- Muslim Council of Scotland
- Amina Muslim Women Resource Centre

Not all invitees were able to attend but all received the note of the meeting and Mike's contact details.

T: [redacted] - F: [redacted]
E: [redacted]

Mr Mike Haines
[redacted]

Our ref: 2017/0035605
24th October 2017

Dear Mr Haines,

Thank you for your email to Scottish Ministers of 26th September regarding your charity, Global Acts of Unity. As Head of the Scottish Government's Connected Communities Unit, I have been asked to reply.

You may recall that colleagues and I had the pleasure of meeting you back in 2015. Your story of using your brothers passing to motivate you to make a difference through your charity work was both moving and inspiring.

The Scottish Government shares your vision for communities of all faiths to be united, tolerant and understanding of each other. We are committed to ensuring we have cohesive and resilient communities in Scotland within which divisive, violent and terrorist messages will not resonate.

The Connected Communities Division, within Scottish Government, has responsibility for working with partners and communities to support dialogue in order to break down barriers between communities and build relationships to overcome sectarianism, religious intolerance and terrorism.

As you suggest, schools have an important role to play by providing a safe space to explore, discuss and debate the range of social and political issues, to enable children to develop into tolerant, resilient and responsible individuals.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet again and discuss possible ways in which we might support you to deliver your messages of unity to young people in Scotland. Following on from this, we can facilitate discussions with relevant partners within key sectors such as Universities, Colleges and within Education Scotland, if this is deemed the best approach to take.

If you are agreeable, please contact me on [redacted] to identify a mutually convenient date for our discussion.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]
CONNECTED COMMUNITIES DIVISION
SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT