



Holocaust Educational Trust

Lessons from Auschwitz Project

Briefing for Nicola Sturgeon MSP, First Minister

One day visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau – background information Tuesday 30th October

Holocaust Educational Trust's *Lessons from Auschwitz Project*

The Holocaust Educational Trust's *Lessons from Auschwitz Project* for post-16 students and teachers is now in its nineteenth year and has taken over 37,000 students and teachers from across the UK to the Nazi concentration and death camp Auschwitz-Birkenau.

The four-part course is open to two students from every school and college in England, Scotland and Wales, and incorporates a one-day visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau. The visits, combined with Orientation and Follow-Up Seminars, leave an unforgettable emotional and educational mark on participants. The Project aims to increase knowledge and understanding of the Holocaust based on the premise that 'hearing is not like seeing' and to signal what can happen if prejudice and racism become acceptable.

Since 2009 funding has been provided by the Scottish Government, enabling us to deliver two *Lessons from Auschwitz Projects* per year from Scotland. We are grateful to the Scottish Government for its support and we currently receive a grant of £296,000 per annum to deliver the project. This current round of funding runs to April 2019.

The *Lessons from Auschwitz Project* is open to two students aged 16-18 (in S5 or S6) from each secondary school in Scotland. The Project is promoted by a mailing being sent to schools with details of each course and a brochure (see attached). The Project is well established in schools across Scotland with demand for places being high.

Scottish Government support has enabled us to reach:

- To date, over 4,100 Scottish students have participated on the project as well as over 550 Scottish teachers
- Schools from all 32 local authorities across Scotland have participated

- As of October 2018, 376 schools or 69% of all eligible schools from across Scotland have participated on the project (based on a total number of 547 eligible schools)

On the *Lessons from Auschwitz* Project visit on 30th October, the following will be participating:

- 176 students and 30 teachers from 88 schools (please see the separate attachment for the full list of schools and regions)

Demand for places on the projects is high with 26 schools on the waiting list for the project taking place from Glasgow.

The four-part *Lessons from Auschwitz* Project consists of:

ORIENTATION SEMINAR – Part 1

Participants are given the opportunity to hear a Holocaust survivor share their testimony at the Orientation Seminar. During the seminar participants are divided into small groups which are facilitated by a Holocaust Educational Trust educator. The participants remain in these groups throughout the course. Each group discusses their reasons for taking part in the Project, their expectations, preconceptions and the potential impact that the visit may have on them. It also provides a useful opportunity for participants to get to know each other before they share what for many is a very moving and important life experience. At the Orientation seminar for this year's project taking place from Glasgow, participants heard the testimony of Eva Clarke, Holocaust survivor. Please see attached for Eva's biography.

VISIT TO AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU – Part 2

During the visit itself, students are first taken to Oświęcim, the town where the Auschwitz concentration and death camps were located and where the local Jewish community lived prior to the start of the Second World War. The groups are then visit and are shown several barracks at Auschwitz I – registration documents of inmates, piles of hair, shoes, clothes and other items seized from the prisoners as they entered the camps. Participants are then taken the short distance to Birkenau. This is the site that most people associate with the word "Auschwitz" and where the vast majority of victims were murdered. The remnants of barracks, crematoria and gas chambers are in stark contrast to Auschwitz I. The tour of Birkenau culminates in a memorable ceremony held next to the destroyed crematoria. The ceremony includes readings, a moment of reflection and ends with all participants lighting memorial candles. The ceremony on 30th October will be led by Anita Parmar, Head of the *Lessons from Auschwitz* Project and Rabbi Daniel Epstein from Cockfosters and New Southgate Synagogue in London (biographies attached). We are delighted that the First Minister will be saying a few words during the ceremony.

FOLLOW-UP SEMINAR – Part 3

At the Follow-Up Seminar participants discuss the visit, their personal responses and the impact it had on them. Participants also discuss the contemporary relevance of the Holocaust and how they might go about sharing what they have learnt and experienced on to others in their school or community. The Follow-up seminar for the *Lessons from Auschwitz* Project taking place from Glasgow will take place on Monday 5th November.

'NEXT STEPS' – Part 4

Through their 'Next Steps' participants ensure that the *Lessons from Auschwitz* Project is able to have as far wide a reach as possible. Ambassadors plan and deliver a project of their own choosing (but working with the ongoing support of the Trust) to disseminate the lessons they have learned to their peers and wider community, and encourage others to recognise the contemporary relevance of the

Holocaust. This final stage of the *Lessons from Auschwitz* Project begins as soon as participants have attended the Follow-up seminar. Following completion of their Next Steps, participants submit evidence of their projects to the Holocaust Educational Trust, along with a personal reflective statement.

Over 84% schools which participated on the *Lessons from Auschwitz* Projects from Scotland in 2017 submitted Next Steps projects. Following a process of external moderation these participants have received 3 ASDAN credits and an ASDAN credit rated certificate in recognition of their achievement. Accreditation is optional and some students decide not to submit their projects despite completing them.

Ambassador Event

Each year the Holocaust Educational Trust holds an event for our Ambassadors in Scotland to recognise and acknowledge those students who have successfully completed the course.

The First Minister was our guest of honour at our Ambassador Events held at the Scottish Parliament in 2016 and 2017. We anticipate our next Event being held in early 2019 and we would be delighted if the First Minister could once again be our special guest of honour.



Holocaust Educational Trust

Lessons from Auschwitz Project

Briefing for Nicola Sturgeon MSP, First Minister

Biographies

Tuesday 30th October

Biographies

Karen Pollock MBE

Chief Executive



Karen Pollock MBE is the Chief Executive of the Holocaust Educational Trust. She started her professional life working for the Parliamentary Committee Against Antisemitism (PCAA), where she became Director. She joined the Holocaust Educational Trust as Communications Director in 1998 and became the Trust's Chief Executive in 2000.

During her time at the Trust, she has overseen its development and growth, including securing Government funding for the Trust's *Lessons from Auschwitz* Project in 2005, which has enabled over 30,000 students and teachers from across the UK to see for themselves the site of the Nazi concentration and death camp Auschwitz-Birkenau.

She has led efforts to bring the Holocaust to the public consciousness and to embed and promote its central importance in Britain.

Karen represented the Board of Deputies for British Jews at the United Nations Conference against Racism in Durban, South Africa in 2001; the Jewish Human Rights Coalition at Durban Review Conference in Geneva in 2009, and in 2013 spoke on behalf of the Holocaust Educational Trust at the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of Victims of the Holocaust at UNESCO's head office in Paris. Karen is a member of the Council of the International Center for Education about Auschwitz and the Holocaust at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum and in 2016 was appointed as a Vice-President of the Jewish Leadership Council. In 2018 Karen was appointed in an advisory role to support the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation.

In 2012 Karen was awarded an MBE for her services to education.

Anita Parmar

Head of the *Lessons from Auschwitz* Project



Anita Parmar joined the Holocaust Educational Trust as an Education Officer in 2004; progressed to the position of Deputy Head of Education and since 2012 has worked as the Head of the *Lessons from Auschwitz* Project. The *Lessons from Auschwitz* Project is the Trust's flagship, Government funded, educational programme which enables over 3,000 students and teachers from across England, Scotland and Wales to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau each year.

From 2011-2014 Anita was also a Trustee of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust - the charity that supports and promotes Holocaust Memorial Day in the UK.

Anita has been involved with numerous educational projects delivered by the Holocaust Educational Trust and as a former teacher has previous experience of teaching History for eight years at secondary level in schools in and around London.

Rabbi Daniel Epstein



Rabbi Daniel Epstein has been serving the Cockfosters & New Southgate United Synagogue – an 1,100-member North London community – together with his wife Ilana since June 2014.

Rabbi & Rebbetzen Epstein moved to Israel in 1998, where he established a PR firm, servicing over 40 Government, corporate, technology and non-profit clients including JNF UK, the European Jewish Congress, the World Holocaust Forum, Leket Israel, Nefesh b’Nefesh and Kemach Israel. He subsequently fundraised for The Arad Foundation and The Pelech Jerusalem School and was CEO of Sunrise Israel, a summer camp for Jewish and Arab children with cancer, alongside their healthy siblings, while studying for *semicha* (rabbinical ordination) in Jerusalem.

In London, Rabbi Epstein is involved in interfaith dialogue, runs a successful adult education programme in Torah, political, social and economic thought; and works to raise awareness of mental health challenges in the Jewish community. He initiated the idea of a Mental Health Awareness Shabbat, which had its launch in February 2017, with the involvement of over 80 Anglo Jewish communities of all denominations, as well as across several university Jewish societies and Jewish high schools.

Rabbi Epstein is a foundation governor of the JFS School – a 265-year-old Jewish school for 2,000 students.

Rabbi Epstein studied at Yeshivat Har Etzion in Israel and, subsequently, at the Straus-Amiel post-ordination Rabbinics School. Rabbi Epstein holds a BSc (Hons) ARCS in Chemistry and Management Science from Imperial College London and he and Ilana have 4 children, aged 10 to 19.

Eva Clarke

Holocaust survivor who addressed participants at the Lessons from Auschwitz Project Orientation seminar held in Glasgow on 21st October, ahead of the one day visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau.



Eva was born in Mauthausen concentration camp, Austria, on 29th April 1945. She and her mother are the only survivors of their family, 15 members of whom were killed in Auschwitz-Birkenau: three of Eva's grandparents, her father, uncles, aunts and her 7-year-old cousin, Peter.

In 1933, when Hitler came to power, Eva's father Bernd Nathan left Hamburg for Prague where he eventually met her mother Anka Kauderová. The couple married on 15th May 1940. In December 1941 her parents were sent to Terezín (Theresienstadt). They were to remain there for three years, which was very unusual: they were young, strong and well able to work.

During this time, and despite the sexes being segregated, Anka became pregnant with a son, Dan. When the Nazis discovered this fact, Eva's parents were forced to sign a document stating that when the baby was born, it would have to be handed out over to the Gestapo to be murdered; it was the first time her mother had heard the word 'euthanasia'. However, in the event, her brother died of pneumonia at two months of age. And his death meant Eva's life – had Eva's mother subsequently arrived in Auschwitz-Birkenau with a baby, she would have been sent immediately to the gas chambers. But because she arrived there without a baby and although by this time she was again pregnant with Eva – but not visibly – she survived.

Eva's mother was in Auschwitz-Birkenau from 1st-10th October 1944. She had, incredibly, volunteered to follow her husband who was sent there. Tragically, she never saw him again and he never knew she was pregnant. She discovered after the war that he had been shot on 18th January 1945 – less than a week before the liberation by the Red Army.

As Anka's pregnancy was not visible and she was deemed fit for work, she was sent out of Auschwitz to work in an armaments factory in Freiberg, near Dresden. She was to remain there for the next six months – by now getting weaker while at the same time, becoming more visibly pregnant.

By the spring of 1945 the Germans were retreating and evacuating concentration and slave labour camps. Eva's mother and her fellow prisoners were forced onto a train: not cattle tracks this time but coal trucks – open to the skies and, obviously, filthy. They weren't given any food and scarcely any water during what was to become a 3-week nightmare journey around the Czech countryside. The Nazis didn't know what to do with their 'dying cargo'.

The train eventually arrived at Mauthausen concentration camp. Anka had such a shock when she saw the name of this notorious camp that her labour began and Eva was born on a cart, in the open, without any assistance, medical or any other kind. By this stage, Anka weighed about 5 stone (35 kg) – she had the appearance of a scarcely living pregnant skeleton. And Eva weighed about 3lbs/1.5 kg. If the camp's gas chambers hadn't been blown up on 28th April 1945 and the Americans hadn't liberated Mauthausen just days after Eva's birth, neither mother or child would have survived.

Eva and her mother returned to Prague, where Anna married Eva's stepfather in February 1948. In the same year they emigrated to the UK and settled in Cardiff. Eva married an academic lawyer in 1968, has two sons and has been living in Cambridge ever since.



Holocaust Educational Trust

Lessons from Auschwitz Project

Briefing for Nicola Sturgeon MSP, First Minister

One day visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau - itinerary Tuesday 30th October

One day visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau, 30th October

We are delighted the First Minister will be joining us on our one day visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau. Please see below for the itinerary for the day:

POLAND VISIT – Programme of the Day

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 04.30 | Check in at Glasgow airport - flight number LS6561 |
| 06.30 | Flight departs |
| 10.35 | Arrive Kraków airport |
| 10.35-
11.10 | Transfer through immigration and customs to allocated coaches |
| 11.10-
12.05 | Journey from Kraków Airport to Oświęcim |
| 12.05-
12.35 | Visit to Oświęcim sites
First Minister to sign the Auschwitz-Birkenau Visitor's Book – at the end of the visit to Auschwitz I, outside the crematorium |

- 12.40 Re-board the coaches for the journey to Auschwitz I
- 12.55-14.55 Tour of Auschwitz I
- 15.00 Re-board the coaches for the journey to Birkenau
- 15.10-17.30 Tour of Birkenau – including interviews with media
- 17.30 Memorial service at the ruins of Crematoria II, Birkenau
- 18:05 Re-board the coaches for the journey to Kraków Airport
- 19.00 Arrive Kraków airport
- 20.30 Depart Kraków airport – flight number LS6562
- 22:05 Arrive at Glasgow airport

Schools and Groups

During the day, the First Minister will be in a group of students and teachers led by Anita Parmar, Head of the *Lessons from Auschwitz* Project and a Guide from the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum. Karen Pollock, Chief Executive of the Holocaust Educational Trust will also accompany this group. The group will comprise of students and teachers from the following schools:

- Alloa Academy, Clackmannanshire
- Baldragon Academy, Dundee City
- Barrhead High School, East Renfrewshire
- Bellahouston Academy, Glasgow City – located in the First Minister’s constituency
- Craigholme School, Glasgow City – located in the First Minister’s constituency
- Forres Academy, Moray
- Golspie High School, Highland
- Holyrood Secondary School, Glasgow City – located in the First Minister’s constituency
- Rothesay Academy, Argyll and Bute

Details of the students’ and teachers’ names from each school will be provided on the day.

Auschwitz-Birkenau Visitor’s Book

Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum have requested the First Minister sign their Visitor’s Book. This will be positioned outside the Crematorium and can take place at the end of the tour of Auschwitz I.

We can assist with providing suggested comments for the Book, please let us know.

Ceremony at Birkenau

The ceremony at Birkenau will be led by Anita Parmar, Head of the *Lessons from Auschwitz* Project who will introduce four student participants who will each read a poem related to the Holocaust and memory. Anita will then introduce the First Minister.

We would be grateful if the First Minister could speak for a **maximum of 5 minutes**. Following the address from the First Minister, Anita will introduce Rabbi Daniel Epstein who will recite prayers, say a few words and end the ceremony by asking all participants to light candles which the Trust provides on the day.

School	Local Authority
Dyce Academy	Aberdeen City
Oldmachar Academy	Aberdeen City
Carnoustie High School	Angus
Montrose Academy	Angus
Forfar Academy	Angus
Campbeltown Grammar School	Argyll & Bute
Lomond School	Argyll & Bute
Tarbert Academy	Argyll & Bute
Rothesay Academy	Argyll & Bute
Lornhill Academy	Clackmannanshire
Alloa Academy	Clackmannanshire
Sanquhar Academy	Dumfries & Galloway
Castle Douglas High School	Dumfries & Galloway
Wallace Hall Academy	Dumfries & Galloway
Stranraer Academy	Dumfries & Galloway
Baldragon Academy	Dundee City
Loudoun Academy	East Ayrshire
Park School	East Ayrshire
St Joseph's Academy	East Ayrshire
Lenzie Academy	East Dunbartonshire
Boclair Academy	East Dunbartonshire
Bearsden Academy	East Dunbartonshire
Kirkintilloch High School	East Dunbartonshire
Turnbull High School	East Dunbartonshire
Douglas Academy	East Dunbartonshire
Woodfarm High School	East Renfrewshire
Williamwood High School	East Renfrewshire
St Ninian's High School	East Renfrewshire
Barrhead High School	East Renfrewshire
Communication Support Service c/o Williamwood Hig	East Renfrewshire
Denny High School	Falkirk
Jordanhill School	Glasgow City
Springburn Academy	Glasgow City
Notre Dame High School	Glasgow City
St Roch's Secondary School	Glasgow City
Rosshall Academy	Glasgow City
Bannerman High School	Glasgow City
Craigholme School	Glasgow City
Bellahouston Academy	Glasgow City
Glasgow Gaelic School	Glasgow City
Abercorn Secondary School	Glasgow City
Govan High School	Glasgow City
Holyrood Secondary School	Glasgow City
King's Park Secondary School	Glasgow City
Hyndland Secondary School	Glasgow City
Golspie High School	Highland
Ardnamurchan High School	Highland
St Columba's High School	Inverclyde
Clydeview Academy	Inverclyde
Notre Dame High School	Inverclyde
Inverclyde Academy	Inverclyde
St Stephen's High School	Inverclyde
Forres Academy	Moray
Irvine Royal Academy	North Ayrshire
St Matthew's Academy	North Ayrshire
Arran High School	North Ayrshire
Largs Academy	North Ayrshire
Kilwinning Academy	North Ayrshire

Greenwood Academy	North Ayrshire
Kilsyth Academy	North Lanarkshire
Taylor High School	North Lanarkshire
Our Lady's High School - Cumbernauld	North Lanarkshire
Dalziel High School	North Lanarkshire
Calderhead High School	North Lanarkshire
Clyde Valley High School	North Lanarkshire
Coltness High School	North Lanarkshire
St Andrew's High School	North Lanarkshire
Cumbernauld Academy	North Lanarkshire
Firpark Secondary School	North Lanarkshire
Caldervale High School	North Lanarkshire
Braidhurst High School	North Lanarkshire
Brannock High School	North Lanarkshire
Chryston High School	North Lanarkshire
Greenfaulds High School	North Lanarkshire
St Benedict's High School	Renfrewshire
St Andrew's Academy	Renfrewshire
Gleniffer High School	Renfrewshire
Trinity High School	Renfrewshire
Park Mains High School	Renfrewshire
Carrick Academy	South Ayrshire
Ayr Academy	South Ayrshire
Larkhall Academy	South Lanarkshire
St Andrew's and St Bride's High School	South Lanarkshire
Holy Cross High School	South Lanarkshire
Uddingston Grammar School	South Lanarkshire
Cathkin High School	South Lanarkshire
Trinity High School	South Lanarkshire
St John Ogilvie High School	South Lanarkshire



LESSONS FROM AUSCHWITZ



ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST EDUCATIONAL TRUST

The Holocaust Educational Trust was founded in 1988. Our aim is to raise awareness and understanding in schools and amongst the wider public of the Holocaust and its relevance today. We believe the Holocaust must have a permanent place in our nation's collective memory.

We work in schools, colleges and higher education institutions, providing teacher training workshops as well as resource materials.

The *Lessons from Auschwitz* Project is now in its nineteenth year and has taken over 36,500 students and teachers from across the UK to the Nazi concentration and death camp Auschwitz-Birkenau. The four-part course leaves an unforgettable emotional and educational mark on participants. The Project aims to increase knowledge and understanding of the Holocaust based on the premise that 'hearing is not like seeing' and to signal what can happen if prejudice and racism become acceptable. Funding for the project in Scotland is provided by the Scottish Government.



A unique four-part course offered by the Holocaust Educational Trust for two students, aged 16-18, from your school or college.

The *Lessons from Auschwitz* Project consists of two seminars, a one-day visit to Poland and a Next Steps project, through which students share their experience with their peers and local communities.

The *Lessons from Auschwitz* Project is a journey of learning and exploration – about the history of the Holocaust and its relevance to today's world.



ORIENTATION THE VISIT FOLLOW-UP NEXT STEPS

Holocaust Educational Trust • *Lessons from Auschwitz* Project
BCM Box 7892 • London WC1N 3XX

Tel: 0207 222 4761 • Fax: 08432 905 354
Email: info@lfaproject.org.uk • www.het.org.uk



www.het.org.uk

Scotland 2018

PROGRAMME: 4 STAGES

1

ORIENTATION

A **half-day seminar** at which participants learn about pre-war Jewish life, hear testimony from a Holocaust survivor and meet their group to prepare for their visit to Poland.



2

THE VISIT

A **one-day visit to Poland** where local experts guide students through the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum, and trained educators from the Holocaust Educational Trust lead group discussions and encourage reflection. We depart and return from Poland on the same day.



3

FOLLOW-UP

A **half-day seminar** enabling participants to reflect on their experiences, consider the contemporary lessons of the Holocaust and devise practical ideas for passing on these lessons.



4

NEXT STEPS

Students are tasked with sharing their experience of the *Lessons from Auschwitz* Project with their peers and local communities. Upon completing their Next Steps they become Holocaust Educational Trust Ambassadors.



COURSE DATES: SCOTLAND 2018

REGION	ORIENTATION SEMINAR	POLAND VISIT	FOLLOW-UP SEMINAR	NEXT STEPS SUBMISSION
EDINBURGH	Sunday 30th September 1:00-5:00pm Edinburgh	Wednesday 3rd October Edinburgh Airport	Tuesday 9th October 3:00-6:30pm Edinburgh	Wednesday 21st November
GLASGOW	Sunday 21st October 1:00-5:00pm Glasgow	Tuesday 30th October Glasgow Airport	Monday 5th November 3:00-6:30pm Glasgow	Tuesday 12th February 2019

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- The course is open to one pair of 16-18 year old students in S5 or S6 per school/college, studying any subject and from any educational, ethnic or religious background.
- A very limited number of places for teachers are available, and will be allocated after the student places have been confirmed. Participating teachers are required to attend all parts of the course.
- The cost is only **£59 per participant** as the project is sponsored by a Scottish Government grant and heavily subsidised by the Holocaust Educational Trust. This covers flights and all travel in Poland. Students need to fund their travel to and from seminars and the airport.
- Travel subsidies are available to help schools/colleges to participate in the programme. Visit www.het.org.uk for further details.
- A coordinating teacher must complete the application form and send it with the fee of £118 for two participants, £40 of which is a non-refundable deposit.
- Spaces are limited and if oversubscribed we may not be able to offer places to your school/college.
- For more information please see the Essential Information section of our application form or visit www.het.org.uk where you can also apply online.

Applicants should be aware that all four parts of the course are compulsory. Teachers should choose students who can commit to all four stages, and have a valid passport at the time of travel.