



House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Press Release – For immediate release

Sarah Champion
Member of Parliament for Rotherham
18th April 2013

Press Release

Sarah Champion MP meets survivors of genocide at launch of theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2014

Sarah Champion MP listened to Ann Kirk, who escaped Nazi Germany as a child; and a survivor of the Bosnian War, Kemal Pervanic; at the launch event in parliament for Holocaust Memorial Day 2014.

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) is commemorated each year on 27 January – the liberation of the Auschwitz death and concentration camp. HMD provides an opportunity for everyone to learn lessons from the Holocaust, Nazi persecution and subsequent genocides (in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur) and apply them to the present day to create a safer, better future.

The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust promotes and supports HMD activities in the UK. Each year HMDT selects a theme around which HMD activities can focus. The theme for 2014 is **Journeys**.

Ann spoke about her journey to the UK. Ann was a *Kindertransportee* – sent unaccompanied from Germany by her parents who were desperate for her to escape anti-semitic persecution in Nazi Germany. Ann never saw her parents again.

Sarah listened to Kemal talk about his journey to the UK. Kemal was a Bosnian Muslim who was imprisoned in a concentration camp by the Bosnian Serbs during the war in Bosnia in the early 1990s. The Bosnian Serb Army went on to carry out a mass killing of thousands of Muslim men and boys in Srebrenica – the only genocide in Europe since the Second World War.

Sarah said:

‘Ann and Kemal’s stories are a reminder of the importance of commemorating Holocaust Memorial Day – a day where we share the memory of the millions who were affected by the Holocaust and other genocides. We also need to remember that this is not just historical, genocide is occurring now. I want to encourage as many people as possible in Rotherham to mark HMD on 27 January 2014.’

Olivia Marks-Woldman, Chief Executive of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, said:

‘We were delighted that Sarah showed her support for Holocaust Memorial Day. We hope that many more people in Rotherham will organise events for next year’s HMD – adding to the over 2,000 activities which took place for HMD 2013.’

ENDS

Editor Notes

- 1) The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT) is the charity which promotes and supports Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD). On 27 January we mark HMD by remembering the millions of people killed in the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur.
www.hmd.org.uk