



**Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government**

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth
Minister for Faith

***Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local
Government***

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Local Authority Leaders in England

www.gov.uk/mhclg

11 April 2019

Dear Leader,

I am writing to you in my capacity as Minister for Faith to urge you to support the timely and important work of Remembering Srebrenica.

Remembering Srebrenica, funded by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, is a UK charitable initiative that works to commemorate the victims of Srebrenica, the worst atrocity committed on European soil since the Second World War.

Since its formation in 2013, the organisation has held over 6,000 memorial activities bringing communities together across the country to remember the devastating consequences of hatred and to pledge to build a stronger, more cohesive society here in the UK.

I am inviting you to join in the commemorations of Srebrenica Memorial Week by holding a memorial event at your local authority between the 7th- 14th July.

Srebrenica Memorial Week 2019 marks the 24th anniversary of the genocide and the campaign of ethnic cleansing against the Bosnian Muslim population, which saw thousands of people killed, displaced, and sexual violence used against women on a widespread and systematic scale.

Remembering Srebrenica's theme for 2019 is 'Bridging the Divide: Confronting Hate', which invites us to see how building bridges can confront segregation that divides communities and the importance of recognising that there is more that unites us than divides us.

I would strongly urge you to join councils such as Coventry, Bournemouth and Newcastle in commemorating Srebrenica. The team at Remembering Srebrenica can offer resources, event templates, speeches and other support so that you can easily commemorate.

Commemorating Srebrenica Memorial Day is a powerful way of bringing different communities together in your local authority against hatred, discrimination and extremism.

I very much hope I can count on your support. Now, more than ever, it is vital that communities unite together by building bridges and confronting hate.

For more information on holding an event in Srebrenica Memorial Week 2019, including access to resources and support, email the Remembering Srebrenica team at events@srebrenica.org.uk or call 0121 454 3343.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Bourne', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right and a short vertical stroke below it.

LORD BOURNE OF ABERYSTWYTH