

Date: 29 November 2019

Subject: Motion to support the work of Remembering Srebrenica

Report of: Councillor David Jones, Portfolio Lead for Young People and Cohesion and Geoff Little, Portfolio Lead Chief Executive for Young People and Cohesion

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To highlight the work of the charity Remembering Srebrenica, including its motion for local authorities to support its work.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The GMCA is requested to:

Pass a motion to support the work of Remembering Srebrenica.

CONTACT OFFICERS:

Claire Slade, Senior Engagement and Insight Manager, claire.slade@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

Equalities Implications: NA

Climate Change Impact Assessment and Mitigation Measures: NA

Risk Management: NA

Legal Considerations: NA

Financial Consequences – Revenue: None

Financial Consequences – Capital: None

Number of attachments to the report: None

Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee: None

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

- Wording of the motion

TRACKING/PROCESS		
Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution		No
EXEMPTION FROM CALL IN		
Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency?		No
GM Transport Committee	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	
NA	NA	

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Remembering Srebrenica is a charity that aims to raise awareness of the genocide that occurred in Bosnia, and they have developed a motion for local authorities to support their work.

1.2 The full motion is included as a background paper. Key aspects include signatories resolving to:

- Recognise 11 July as the day of commemoration of the Srebrenica genocide all over the EU.
- Offer support to Remembering Srebrenica delegates from Greater Manchester who visited Bosnia on the 'Lessons from Srebrenica' education programme and have been working tirelessly in the community to raise awareness of the genocide and learn the lessons of Srebrenica.
- Support Srebrenica memorial events in July each year throughout Greater Manchester as part of the UK-wide Remembering Srebrenica Memorial Week.
- Support the work of Remembering Srebrenica in communities across Greater Manchester to learn the lessons from Srebrenica to tackle hatred and intolerance to help build a better, safer and more cohesive society for everyone.
- Support the work of schools and education providers to bring the lessons of Srebrenica to young people across Greater Manchester.

1.3 Manchester, Salford and Trafford Councils have already passed the motion. Should other councils wish to sign, it is recommended Greater Manchester does this as a collective Combined Authority.

1.4 All councils will be invited to an annual civic ceremony held on the 11 July in Manchester Cathedral.

BACKGROUND PAPER: Wording of the motion

REMEMBERING SREBRENICA

The GMCA:

- Notes that 2019 is the twenty-fourth anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which saw over 8,000 Muslim men and boys killed by Serbian nationalist forces.
- Notes that in 2009 the European Parliament passed a resolution that 11 July should be recognised as the day of commemoration of the Srebrenica genocide all over the EU; and in 2015 urged the development of educational and cultural programmes that promote an understanding of the causes of such atrocities and raise awareness about the need to nurture peace and to promote human rights and interreligious tolerance. All UK political parties have supported the work of Remembering Srebrenica in this regard.
- Applauds the work of those involved in the pursuit of justice for the victims and their surviving relatives, including the International Commission of Missing People (ICMP) and the Mothers of Srebrenica, whose courage and humility in the face of unthinkable horror is an inspiration to us all.
- Commends the work of the charity, Remembering Srebrenica, in raising awareness of this tragic and preventable genocide and working in communities across Britain to help them learn the lessons of Srebrenica.

The GMCA resolves to:

- Offer support to Remembering Srebrenica delegates from Greater Manchester who visited Bosnia on the 'Lessons from Srebrenica' education programme and have been working tirelessly in the community to raise awareness of the genocide and learn the lessons of Srebrenica.
- Support Srebrenica memorial events in July each year throughout Greater Manchester as part of the UK-wide Remembering Srebrenica Memorial Week.
- Support the work of Remembering Srebrenica in communities across Greater Manchester to learn the lessons from Srebrenica to tackle hatred and intolerance to help build a better, safer and more cohesive society for everyone.
- Support the work of schools and education providers to bring the lessons of Srebrenica to young people across Greater Manchester.