

# Merton Council

## Joint Consultative Committee with Ethnic Minority Organisations Agenda

### Membership

**Councillors:** Edith Macauley MBE (Chair), Marsie Skeete, Agatha Mary Akyigyina OBE, Slawek Szczepanski, Jenifer Gould, Hina Bokhari, Eleanor Cox

**Substitute Members:** Laxmi Attawar, Max Austin, Kirsten Galea,

### Ethnic Minority Organisations

African Educational Cultural & Health Organisation (AECHO)

Deputy

Ahmadiyya Muslim Association

Asian Diabetic Support & Awareness Group

Asian Elderly Group of Merton

Association for Polish Family

BAME Voice Revd

Bengali Association of Merton

Deputy

Bengali Women's Association of Merton

British Muslim Association of Merton

Citizens Advice Merton and Lambeth

Ethnic Minority Centre

Kevin Kararwa Leukaemia Trust

Kiara Training College

London South West Chinese Community Association

Merton Community Transport

Merton Somali Community

Merton & Wandsworth Asylum Welcome (WaWaW)

Pakistan Cultural Association Merton & Wandsworth

Positive Network

South London Somali Community Association

South London Tamil Welfare Group

Uptown UK

Via - Merton

West Indian Families and Friends Association

Revd Mrs H Neale

Mr .H.Nawaz

Mrs N. Shah

-

Ms Kamila Dyczko

Mrs H Neale

Mr Rahman

Mrs M Ahmed

Mr Farrukh Ahmed

Suzanne Hudson

Mrs Sabitri Ray

Mr Abayeh Savage

Mrs Veronica Kararwa

Mr Endi Ezengwa

-

Mr Fitzroy Dawson

Mr A. Ali

Ms Shekiba Habib

Mr Mushtaq Ali Shah

Ms G Salmon

Mr A Musse

Dr P Arumugaraasah

Ms Joan Simms

-

Mr J Hall

**Date: Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

**Time: 7.15 pm**

**Venue: Council Chamber and Via Zoom**

This is a public meeting and attendance by the public is encouraged and welcomed. For more information about the agenda please contact [diversity@merton.gov.uk](mailto:diversity@merton.gov.uk) or telephone [0208 545 3156](tel:02085453156). All Press contacts: [communications@merton.gov.uk](mailto:communications@merton.gov.uk), 020 8545 3181

# Joint Consultative Committee with Ethnic Minority Organisations Agenda

## 5 December 2023

1	Apologies for Absence	
2	Declarations of Interest	
3	Minutes of the previous meeting	1 - 4
4	Holocaust Memorial Day Final Programme	5 - 18
5	Borough of Sanctuary	
6	Borough of Culture (LBOC)	19 - 26
7	Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG)	27 - 48
8	Hate Crime Update/Update on Israel-Gaza	49 - 60
9	JCC Budget Engagement	
10	Any Other Business	

### **Note on declarations of interest**

Members are advised to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting. If a pecuniary interest is declared they should withdraw from the meeting room during the whole of the consideration of that matter and must not participate in any vote on that matter. For further advice please speak with the Managing Director, South London Legal Partnership.

## Joint Consultative Committee with Ethnic Minority Organisations

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023

### MINUTES

Present: Councillor Edith Macauley (Chair), Councillor Eleanor Stringer, Councillor Laxmi Attawar, Councillor Agatha Akyigyina, Councillor Slawek Szczepanski, Councillor Hina Bokhari, Councillor Joan Henry, Councillor Jenifer Gould, Veronica Karawa, Rev Hannah Neale, Inspector Ollie French-Greenslade, Chelliah Lohendran, Dr P Arumugaraasah, Andrew Robertson, Amy Mallett, David Gentles, Susan Botros, Octavia Lamb (clerk)

#### 1. Declarations of Interest

None.

#### 2. Apologies

Superintendent Luke Mooney, Inspector Kevin M L Chambers, Fitzroy Dawson

#### 3. Minutes

Agreed.

Chair introduced the new Equalities and Community Cohesion officer, Susan Botros, who then gave a bit of background on her work to date. Chair also introduced new member of the JCC, Veronica Karawa, representing the Kevin Karawa Leukaemia Trust (KKLT)

#### 4. Introduction of Voter ID

The Head of Democratic and Electoral Services, Andrew Robertson, introduced the report on the introduction of Voter ID.

Councillor Bokhari welcomed the report, in particular the outreach work and identifying the need to educate and inform young people. She asked what work is planned to reach out to 18 year olds (eg Freshers fairs, Sixth Forms) and also people over 60. AR responded they are working closely with the Youth Engagement team. On 26<sup>th</sup> September they are attending the Merton College Freshers Fair. They are contacting Sixth Form colleges, and they are putting information into PHSE lessons. They have also engaged with the Youth Parliament and are looking at social media options. Councillor Bokhari asked if AR was writing to the Electoral Commission about the fact that over 60s can use travelcards as ID but young people can't. AR will look into this. She also raised the issue of differentiations in the spelling of South Asian

names. AR informed that the Association of Electoral Officers is looking pan-London at matters such as these to inform guidance and set in place best practice.

Chelliah Lohendran from the Merton Seniors Forum asked for material to be sent. He also asked if the info is available in other languages. Will liaise with OL.

Councillor Akyigyina asked for reassurance about getting this message out to everyone, without missing anyone out, in particular residents new to the borough. She also commended telling people early but highlighted the need to continue to keep people informed, and to carry a clear message “The voting system is changing.”. AR responded that Housing Associations have agreed to send the info out with new tenancy packs. Leisure centres will carry the info. There will be a direct mail to every household. Councillor Henry agreed there needs to be repeated messaging.

Councillor Attawar expressed concern that there is a plan to introduce Voter ID for postal votes too. AR responded that the review for this is not until 2026.

## **5. Climate Change Action**

Climate Engagement Officer, Amy Mallett, introduced the report on Climate Action in Merton.

Councillor Bokhari asked about transitioning to cargo bikes. AM responded that anything beyond the Wimbledon BID trial that has already taken place would be funding and resource-related. But is happy to pick it up with colleagues.

Councillor Gould asked if we are getting towards meeting the targets, and also who will be feeding into Safe Cycling Policy. AM responded that we are working towards meeting the targets in Year 3 of the Climate Delivery Plan, and that Safe Cycling is being overseen by colleagues in Future Merton.

Councillor Stringer asked about reassurance that Merton businesses are also being encouraged to use sustainable transport. AM responded that £400k is going towards business support.

## **6. Borough of Sport**

The Head of Sports and Leisure, David Gentles, introduced the report.

Councillor Gould asked about the approach to disability in sport. DG responded that he has been working closely with the Cabinet Member, Councillor Caroline Cooper-Marbiah, to ensure inclusivity, as well as working with a Disability Sports Coach.

Hannah Neale asked about ensuring opportunities from the West are brought to the East of the borough, and about the approach to reaching the “unreachable”. DG responded that the challenge to date has been enough suitable facilities in the East. Moves are being made eg introducing Park Run to Figges Marsh. Asked for people to be in touch with him with details of communities which otherwise might not be being engaged with.

Councillor Henry reiterated the need to reach people in the east of the borough, and asked what support there is for people and groups running small projects. She also asked about looking at vacant spaces to use. DG



said this was very much in line with their Ambitions around Older People and Younger People in particular. Regarding vacant spaces, he welcomes information from the community about these.

Councillor Akyigyina asked about the “hard to reach”. DG responded they are also promoted intergenerational activity (eg walking netball), and have started delivering on this where the infrastructure exists.

The Chair commended the work being done, in particular for children and young people.

## **7. Holocaust Memorial Day 2024 Theme Update**

Interim Policy and Scrutiny Manager, Octavia Lamb, introduced the report. Councillor Bokhari requested that in future acronyms are not used in reports, particularly on issues of importance like Holocaust Memorial Day. OL responded in the affirmative.

## **8. Draft Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy**

Interim Policy and Scrutiny manager, Octavia Lamb, and Interim Equalities and Community Cohesion Lead, Susan Botros, introduced the report and explained the consultation timetable.

Hannah Neale requested clarity around “care experienced” in the broadened scope of the strategy. Councillor Stringer confirmed that it alludes to young people who have been in care (as opposed to young people who act/have acted as carers themselves). SB agreed to clarify the wording around this. Councillor Gould asked about the inclusion of the impact of climate change on equality issues. SB agreed and is meeting with a Climate Officer as a priority. Councillor Gould suggested the JCC should have a role in refreshing the Equality Impact Analysis template, and using external advisors to ensure performance is monitored. Noted.

Councillor Akyigyina asked for details of who is now chairing Merton Council’s Race Equality Network. SB will do so.

## **9. A New Met for London (formerly Police Turnaround Plan)**

Inspector Oliver French-Greenslade summarised the report on behalf of the Merton Neighbourhoods Lead, Superintendent Luke Mooney. He also spoke about the New met for London event recently held at Tooting and Mitcham Football Club, and work being done in Mitcham Town Centre. There are also a number of activities planned specifically around Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).

The Chair commended to report and the event where she was present. She requested a report on the outcome of the event. OFG responded that the review of feedback has been started and will be circulated once finalised. Councillor Akyigyina praised the work being done in Mitcham Town Centre. Councillor Bokhari praised the event and requested that this level of engagement and the willingness and enthusiasm for change can continue. OFG responded in the affirmative. He made clear that the devotion of the

officers to their wards is outstanding and there is a wide range of engagement even with limited resources.

Councillor Henry requested more events at a smaller and more local level.

OFG responded that they have started to look at this.

Councillor Gould asked about the timescale for resolving complaints received about police officers. OFG responded that the Commissioner has recently changed how the complaints system works, but this is an organisational issue outside his scope of reference.

## **10. AOB**

Councillor Henry asked for clarity around membership of the JCC as she is aware of people who would like to be included. SB is looking at this at the moment as a priority.

79<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and  
29<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the genocide in Bosnia

**Welcome**

By the Worshipful the Mayor of Merton  
**Councillor Gill Manly**

**Memorial prayer**

God full of compassion whose presence is over us, may the souls of our dead who have gone to their everlasting home with the holy and of Your presence.  
Source pure on high who shine as the lights of heaven, find the safety and rest denied them on earth beneath the shelter of mercy, cover them in the shelter of Your wings forever and bind their souls into the gathering of life.

It is God who is their heritage.

May they be at peace in their place of rest.

Amen.

אֵל מְלֵא רַחֲמִים שׁוֹכֵן בְּמְרוֹמִים  
הַמָּצֵא מְנוּחָה נְכוֹנָה תַּחַת כַּנְפֵי  
הַשְּׁכִינָה בְּמַעְלֹת קְדוּשִׁים  
וְטְהוּרִים כְּזוֹהַר הַרְקִיעַ מְזַהְרִים  
לְנַשְׁמוֹת שֵׁשׁ מְלִיוֹן אֲחֵינוּ  
וְאֲחֵיוֹתֵינוּ שְׁמַתוּ עַל-קְדוּשׁ הַשֵּׁם.  
יְנוּחוּ בְשִׁלְוָה וּבְשָׁלוֹם שְׁלֵא יִדְעוּ  
בְּחַיֵּיהֶם. אָנָּה בְּעַל הַרַחֲמִים  
הַסְתִּירָם בְּסֶטֶר כַּנְפֶיךָ לְעוֹלָמִים  
וְצָרוּר בְּצָרוּר הַחַיִּים אֶת-נַשְׁמָתָם:  
יְהוָה הוּא נִחַלְתָּם וַיְנוּחוּ בְשָׁלוֹם  
עַל מִשְׁכַּבְּם וְנֹאמַר אָמֵן:

**Wimbledon Synagogue Choir – directed by Sarit Aloni**

L'khol Ish Yesh Shem (Every Person Has A Name) - Lyrics by Zelda Mishkoysky  
Music by Hanan Yovel, Arr. by Sarit Aloni



Image by © Andrew Sutton

Freedom means different things to different people. What is clear is that in every genocide that has taken place, those who are targeted for persecution have had their freedom restricted and removed, before many of them are murdered. This is often a subtle, slow process. The ten stages of genocide, as identified by Professor Gregory Stanton, demonstrate that genocide never just happens. There is always a set of circumstances which occur, or which are created, to build the climate in which genocide can take place and in which perpetrator regimes can remove the freedoms of those they are targeting.

Not only do perpetrator regimes erode the freedom of the people they are targeting, demonstrating how fragile freedom is, they also restrict the freedoms of others around them, to prevent people from challenging the regime. Despite this, in every genocide there are those who risk their own freedom to help others, to preserve others' freedom or to stand up to the regime.

HMD 2024 marks the 30th anniversary of the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. 49 years after the Holocaust ended, 19 years after the genocide in Cambodia, the world stood by as Hutu extremists shattered the fragile freedom in Rwanda, following decades of tension and violence, culminating in the murder of over one million Tutsis in just one hundred days.

*'That is when the trouble started for the Jews. Our freedom was severely restricted by a series of anti-Jewish decrees.'* By Anne Frank, diary entry, Saturday 20 June, 1942 – reflecting back on May 1940 when the Germans arrived in the Netherlands

**Read by the Worshipful the Mayor of Merton, Councillor Gill Manly**

Freedom is fragile and it cannot be taken for granted. Here are some examples of ways in which the freedoms of people targeted during genocide are restricted, showing how fragile freedom is and how we must not be complacent about it.

In 1933 the Nazis came to power in Germany, and life became increasingly difficult for German Jews. Anti-Jewish legislation was passed, which denied Jews many freedoms and restricted their rights, starting with removing them from certain professions and schools and universities. The Nuremberg Laws in 1935 restricted who Jews could marry and went further than that: they defined anyone who had three or four Jewish grandparents as a Jew, regardless of whether or not that person saw themselves as Jewish. Thus the Nuremberg laws took away people's freedom of religion and freedom to self-identify. On 9 November 1938, Jewish shops and businesses in Nazi territories were attacked and destroyed. The night became known as The Night of Broken Glass. Jewish people were banned from cinemas, theatres and sports facilities.

As the German army swept through and started occupying European countries, Jewish people in those countries often had many of their freedoms taken away: they were forced into ghettos, living in cramped conditions and often doing hard labour for the Nazis or for German industries; they were deported to concentration or extermination camps. Being imprisoned or enslaved is the very antithesis of freedom. And this was simply because they were Jewish.

**Read by Councillor Ross Garrod, Leader of the Council**

After the arrival of the Germans in the Netherlands, Anne Frank wrote in her diary:

*'That is when the trouble started for the Jews. Our freedom was severely restricted by a series of anti-Jewish decrees: Jews were required to wear a yellow star; Jews were required to turn in their bicycles; Jews were forbidden to use trams; Jews were forbidden to ride in cars, even their own; Jews were required to do their shopping between 3.00 and 5.00p.m.; Jews were required to frequent only Jewish-owned barbershops and beauty salons; Jews were forbidden to be out on the streets between 8.00 p.m. and 6.00 a.m.; Jews were forbidden to go to theatres, cinemas or any other forms of entertainments; Jews were forbidden to use swimming pools, tennis courts, hockey fields or any other athletic fields; Jews were forbidden to go rowing; Jews were forbidden to take part in any athletic activity in public; Jews were forbidden to sit in their gardens or those of their friends after 8.00 p.m.; Jews were forbidden to visit Christians in their homes; Jews were required to attend Jewish schools, etc. You couldn't do this and you couldn't do that, but life went on.'*

Anne and her family went into hiding, but they were betrayed and Anne died in Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp, just three months short of her 16th birthday  
**Read by Councillor Anthony Fairclough, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group**

As part of the T4 euthanasia programme the Nazis sterilised hundreds of thousands of people because they were disabled or perceived to be disabled, physically or mentally. Franziska Mikus had her freedom of reproduction taken away by the Nazis, forcibly sterilised not once but twice, simply because she was deaf.

*'With a heavy heart I [had] to be sterilised a second time. This was the cruellest thing I ever had to endure. I will never be able to forget that.'*

In the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, Eric Murangwa Eugène MBE's freedom of movement was shattered after the plane carrying the President of Rwanda was shot down on 6 April 1994. Radio broadcasts demanded people stay in their homes while soldiers crashed down their front doors to find those they deemed 'responsible'. Demanding people to stay home enabled perpetrators to find their target groups.

In 1992, Kemal Pervanić was one of many Bosnian Muslim men incarcerated in the notorious Omarska Concentration Camp. One of his former schoolteachers became his camp guard. Kemal's freedoms were lost: every aspect of his life was controlled, living conditions were appalling and he suffered beatings and deprivations.

**Read by Councillor Nick McLean, Leader of the Conservative Group**

Perpetrator regimes often deliberately conceal their genocidal actions and mislead those they are targeting, to keep them calm, for example, and to prevent revolts, creating a sense of false freedom among those who are persecuted. The gates at several concentration camps, including Auschwitz-Birkenau, welcomed prisoners with the now infamous slogan 'Arbeit Macht Frei', literally meaning 'work gives you freedom', but this was far from the reality.

In 1981, having survived the genocide in Cambodia, Var Ashe Houston BEM learned in a letter from a friend that her husband, Virak Phong, had flown back to Phnom Penh in early 1976 with several hundred other Khmer intellectuals. The group had been told that the communist regime led by Pol Pot could use their skills to rebuild the country, but this was not true. In reality, they were imprisoned upon arrival in Phnom Penh. Virak Phong died in prison that year.

**Read by Councillor Edward Foley, Leader of the Merton Park Independent Residents Group**



**Action Protesters in Sudan, © M.Saleh, Creative Commons**

Often in genocides, people's freedom of expression is limited and restricted, with state-controlled media ensuring propaganda is fed to the general population. Those who speak out are often imprisoned or murdered.

*'The infamous hate Radio Télévision Libre des Mille Collines was spewing its venom against the Tutsis, blaming them for assassinating the president.'* By Jean Baptiste Kayigamba, a survivor of the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, now living in the UK.

Even after genocides have ended and societies are rebuilt, survivors making new lives in different countries may not be allowed to express themselves freely as new regimes make accommodations with the past, and when relatives in the home country may still face danger.

Genocide is the ultimate manifestation of violence ending freedom to live. During the Holocaust, six million Jewish people – men, women, children and babies – were brutally murdered in fields, ghettos, concentration camps and death camps. In more recent genocides, vast numbers of people have been murdered purely because of their faith, ethnicity, or other form of identity.

**Read by Hannah Doody, Chief Executive Officer of Merton Council**



It isn't only those directly targeted for persecution whose freedoms are affected by perpetrator regimes. Vali Rácz risked her freedom and her life to save Jews in Hungary during the Second World War. Despite knowing she would likely be murdered if caught, she built a false partition into a large wardrobe to hide people. She was arrested several times but with no proof that she was hiding Jews, was released.

Despite the horrific scenes taking place across Rwanda there were also acts of great bravery. Sula Karuhimbi was an elderly woman who lived alone on a small farm and had knowledge of natural medicines. When the genocide began she hid more than 20 Tutsis in her animal shed and fed them from her small stock of vegetables. When attackers came to her farm she used her reputation as a 'witch' to frighten them off and protect the people hiding, risking her freedom as she did so.

Five students from Munich University and one of their professors challenged the Nazi regime by forming the White Rose group. They asked German people to react to the violence and oppression which were all around them by standing up and fighting for freedom. Although they were successful in spreading their messages, the members of the White Rose group were all beheaded by the Nazis, who wanted to discourage anyone else from fighting for freedom.

**Read by Ch Supt Claire Kelland, Borough Commander, Met Police**

It is a misconception that liberation from the perpetrator regime means the end of suffering and the start of a free life. Whilst allied liberators freed Holocaust survivors from the physical imprisonment of concentration camps, and dreadful conditions, the prisoners then found themselves alone, often unable to return home, and having to move to a new country, learn a new language and rebuild their lives from scratch. They had to rebuild new lives with the painful absence of family members and friends. Many have described the years post-liberation as 'being physically free, but not mentally free.'

*'The first few days after liberation were joyous and yet sad, confusing and bewildering. I did not know how to cope with freedom after years of painful imprisonment.'*

By Esther Brunstein - Holocaust survivor

Otto Rosenberg who was persecuted by the Nazis because he was Sinti noted, it was hard to enjoy freedom knowing his family members had been murdered:

'They say: "you have your freedom now, be happy". There was no way I could be all joyful, because I missed my brothers and sisters, always, to this very day. When the holidays came and people celebrated, or the families sat together, that was when this inner thing, this nervous strain came. That was very hard.'

**Read by Clinton Walsh, Borough Commander for the Fire Service**

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**Wimbledon Synagogue Choir – directed by Sarit Aloni**  
Grant Us Peace. Lyrics by Sheilla Hymas-Parry. Music by Sarit Aloni

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## **Holocaust 1941 - 1945**

The Holocaust was the attempt by the Nazis and their collaborators to murder all the Jews in Europe. From the time they assumed power in Germany, the Nazis used propaganda, persecution, and legislation to deny human and civil rights to German Jews. They used centuries of antisemitism as their foundation.

With the outbreak of World War Two in 1939 Germany invaded Poland, subjecting around two million Polish Jews to violence and forced labour. Thousands of Jews were murdered in the first months of the occupation. Shortly after the occupation Polish Jews were confined to particular neighbourhoods that came to be known as 'ghettos'. Living conditions in these ghettos were appalling – a deliberate attempt by the Nazis to cause the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Jews. This approach was repeated across Eastern Europe in other countries occupied by the Nazis.

In 1941, the systematic murder of Europe's Jews began – a plan known by the Nazis as 'The Final Solution to the Jewish Problem'. Death squads called Einsatzgruppen swept Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, killing Jews by firing squad. By the end of 1941 the first extermination camp, Chelmno in Poland, had been established, giving the Nazis their method to continue murdering on a giant scale between 1941 and 1945.

By the end of the Holocaust, six million Jewish men, women and children had been murdered in ghettos, mass-shootings, in concentration camps and extermination camps.

**Read by Farrukh Ahmed, Wimbledon Mosque**



## **Genocide in Cambodia 1975 – 1979**

The fate of Cambodia shocked the world when the radical communist political party Khmer Rouge, under their leader Pol Pot, seized power in April 1975. The Khmer Rouge ruthlessly imposed an extremist programme to reconstruct Cambodia by creating a 'Year Zero'.

The population was made to work as labourers in one huge federation of collective farms. The inhabitants of towns and cities were forced to leave. No-one was spared: the ill, disabled, old and very young were also driven out, regardless of their physical condition. People who refused to leave, those who did not leave fast enough and those who would not obey orders were all murdered.

Ethnic minority groups were also targeted by the Khmer Rouge's racism, these included ethnic Chinese, Vietnamese and Thai people, and Cambodians with Chinese, Vietnamese or Thai ancestry. Religion was outlawed by the regime – half the Cham Muslim population was murdered, as were 8,000 Christians and Buddhism was eliminated from the



Those considered a threat to this new peasant class - including doctors, lawyers, teachers and even those who wore glasses were murdered. One Khmer Rouge slogan ran 'To spare you is no profit, to destroy you is no loss.'

**Read by Judith Freedman, Wimbledon District Synagogue**

### **Genocide in Bosnia 1995**

In July 1995, with the back-drop of the ongoing civil war, Bosnian Serb troops and paramilitaries led by Ratko Mladić descended on the town of Srebrenica and began shelling it. Around 8,000 Muslim men, and boys over 12 years old, were murdered in Srebrenica.

Following the disintegration of Yugoslavia into six states, Bosnia declared independence in 1992, which soon descended into civil war. The independence was resisted by the Bosnian Serbs who saw their future as part of the 'Greater Serbia'. Bosnia became the victim of the Bosnian Serbs determined for political domination, which it was prepared to achieve by isolating ethnic groups and, if necessary, exterminating them. The Bosnian war resulted in the death of around 100,000 people, and the displacement of over two million men, women and children.

Where do the displaced go when genocide ends? How can individuals and nations assist those refugees who have survived genocide but no place to return? In Bosnia, thousands of Muslim refugees found sanctuary in Europe, while others returned home. However, there remain villages in Bosnia that are impossible for Muslims to return to even now.

**Read by Imam Nasim Bajwa, Ahmadiyya Muslim Association**

### **Rwanda 1994**

In 100 days in 1994 approximately one million Tutsis and moderate Hutus were murdered in the Genocide in Rwanda. The genocide took place following decades of tensions between Hutus and Tutsis, and a recent history of persecution and discrimination against Tutsis.

On 6 April 1994 the plane carrying Rwanda's President was shot down. Extremist Hutu leaders accused Tutsis of killing the President, and Hutu civilians were told by radio and word of mouth that it was their duty to wipe out the Tutsis.

Despite its colossal scale, this genocide was carried out almost entirely by hand, usually using machetes and clubs. The men who had been trained to massacre were members of civilian death squads, the Interahamwe. The State provided support and organisation – politicians, officials, intellectuals and professional soldiers incited the killers to do their work. Local officials assisted in rounding up victims and making suitable places available for slaughter.

Tutsi men, women, children and babies were killed in their thousands in schools and churches. Frequently the killers were people they knew – neighbours, workmates, former friends, sometimes-even relatives through marriage.

**Read by Alison Wallace, Wimbledon Quakers**

### **Darfur 2003 – present day**

Darfur is a region in the west of Sudan, bordering Chad, in north-east Africa. Before the conflict, Darfur had an ethnically mixed population of around six million black Africans and Arabs.

In 2003, a civil war began in the region between the sedentary population of black African farmers and the lighter-skinned nomadic Arab population. The Sudanese Government has supported Arab militia – the Janjaweed – who have destroyed hundreds of villages and murdered thousands of people. These atrocities have been condemned as genocide by the International Criminal Court and several governments around the world.

The war has led to the deaths of between 200,000 and 400,000 civilians, although estimates vary greatly, and this figure could be much higher. International peacekeepers, aid agencies and the media have struggled to keep accurate records or find accurate information. Up to 2.6 million people are still displaced in Darfur. They have been forced to flee their homes to makeshift refugee camps in Darfur or Chad run by international aid agencies.

**Read by Sundaramma Maheshwaran, Shree Ghanapathy Temple**



**By Ravensbourne School**

For some survivors, post-genocide freedom remains always vulnerable to being snatched away. Denial and distortion follow all genocides, and are on the increase where countries attempt to reshape their past. Holocaust distortion and antisemitism (anti-Jewish hatred) have been present since the end of World War Two and remain prevalent today.

Leon Greenman built a life in the UK after surviving Auschwitz, only to suffer an antisemitic attack on his home in London in the 1990s.

Antoinette Mutabazi did not feel free to return to her home village after the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda when she heard that a perpetrator had been released from prison and had returned to the village.

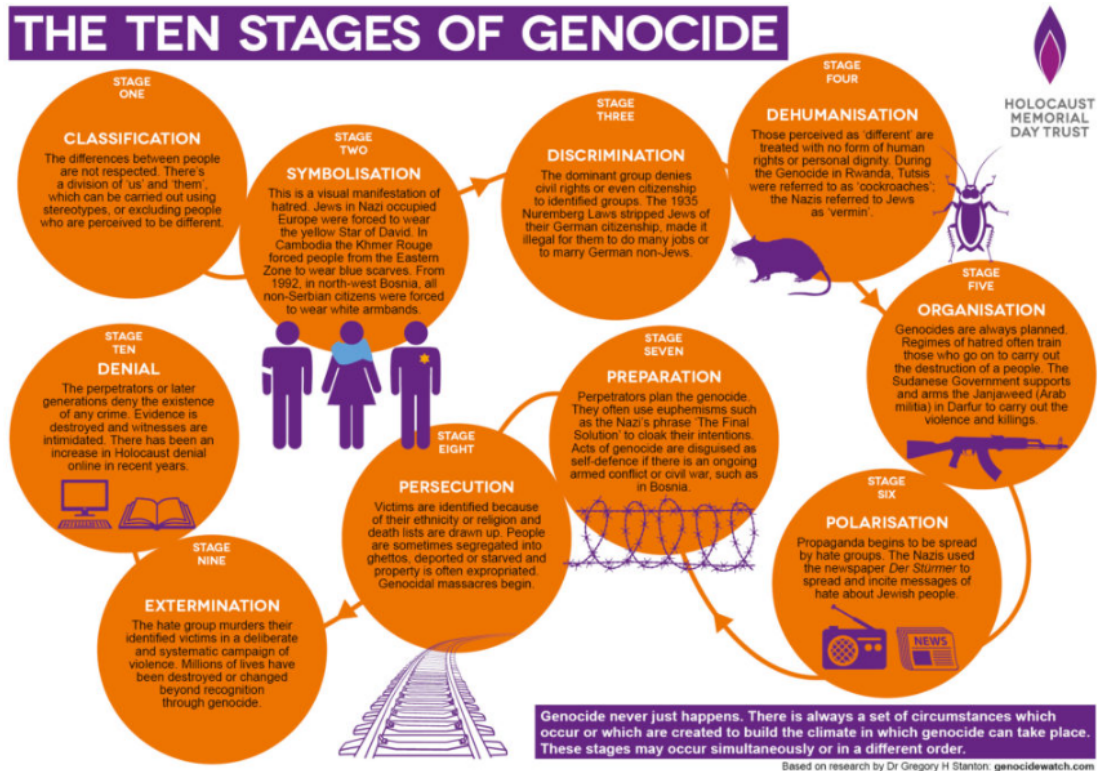
Today many people in western democracies take freedoms for granted – this HMD, we can reflect on how these freedoms need to be valued, and on how many people around the world face restrictions to their freedoms to live, worship, work and love freely.

For example, Uyghur Muslims in China are facing forced relocation to Xinjiang province, 're-education' that threatens to eradicate the Uyghur culture, and other limits to free expression, free movement and freedom of worship.

Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims are living in refugee camps in Bangladesh, having escaped religious persecution in Myanmar.

Conflict is still ongoing in the Darfur region of Sudan. Survivors of the genocide, now safe in the UK, are terrified for the safety of their family members still in Darfur, and scared to speak out publicly in the UK lest their family members' lives are threatened.

Read by Tony Molloy, Chief Executive, Merton Connected

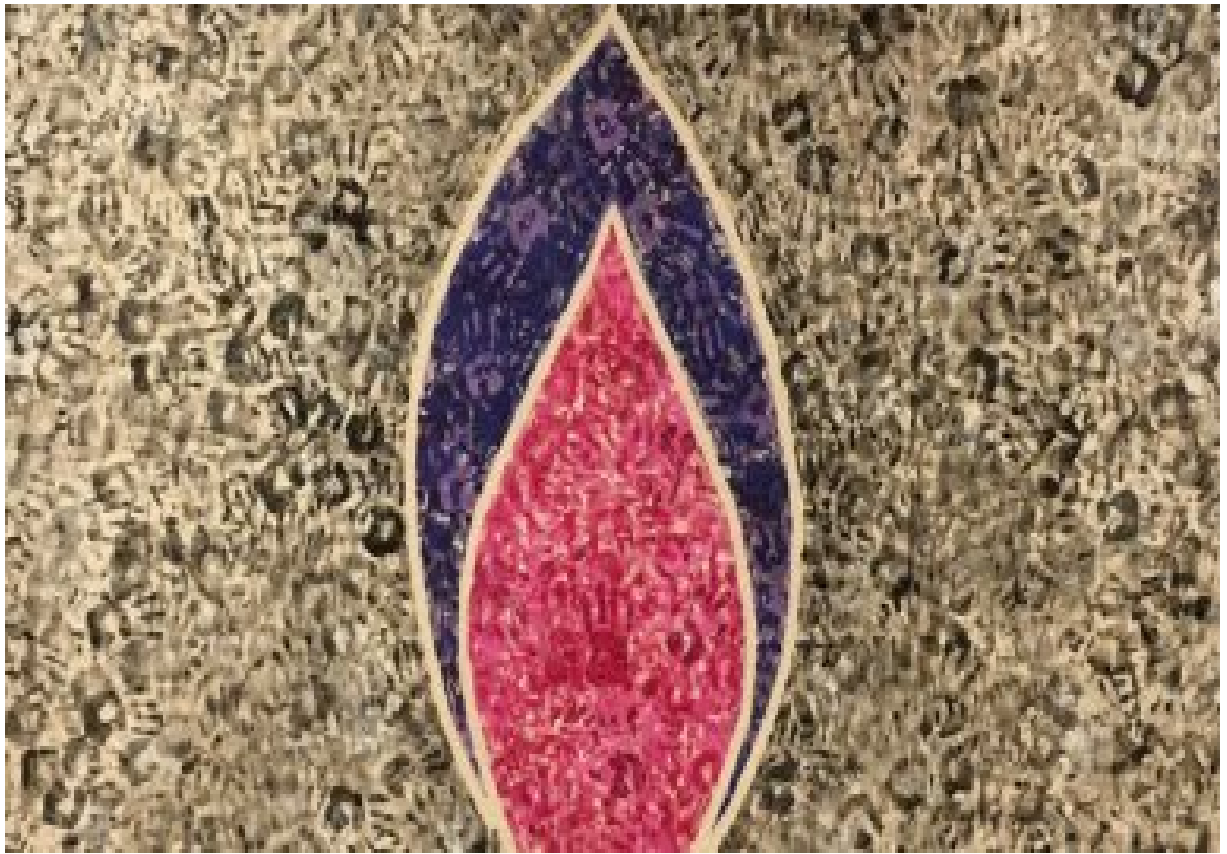


**Wimbledon Synagogue Choir – directed by Sarit Aloni**

Eli Ata - from Psalm 118, Melody by Rabbi Schneur Zalman, arr. by SaritAloni

**DO NOT ASK, BY AVRAM SCHAUFELD**

Do not ask  
How did you survive?  
Because this is a question that causes me pain  
and brings back memories...  
I know that you mean well and are sympathetic  
and would like me to talk to your youth group  
or your son who is writing a paper on the Holocaust  
and I could help him with the subject which is part of his exams.  
You add with a smile, that no amount of reading is the same  
as talking to a survivor.  
From your eager expression I can guess  
what you expect me to tell him.  
About our bravery and how our faith in God  
helped us to survive.  
I lie and say I am too busy  
that I have other commitments  
and quickly take my leave and turn away  
So that you cannot see the hurt in my eyes  
Do not ask me why...



### **WHAT IF IT WERE ME? – BY NAOMH HANNON**

I was walking through the park one day,  
Pottering about in my usual way,  
When I saw two surly youths staring at me,  
Two surly youths, with a boy, pinned to a tree.  
The youth called out, 'You got something to say?'  
I bent my head low and went on my way.  
But something stopped me, a sound, helpless and weak.  
It got louder and turned into a shriek.  
I stopped in my tracks, 'Who would help me?  
What hope would I have were I pinned to a tree?'  
I could now hear their taunts and jeers,  
With words so foul that they burned my ears.  
I turned on my heels and strode back to the tree.  
Where the two boys stood, staring at me.  
'It's wrong and disgraceful, what you have done here.  
It's behaviour like this that spreads violence and fear.  
Everyone's different; no two are the same,  
To judge someone 'inferior' is cause for shame.  
This isn't a game to share with a friend,  
It's up to everyone to make racism end.'  
The youths sulked off and I noted with glee,  
That the boy was smiling, smiling, from under the tree.

**Read by Patrick Lyster-Todd - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender + representative**





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**Cambodian Genocide survivor story by:**

**Sokphal Din BEM**

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**Wimbledon Synagogue Choir - directed by Sarit Aloni**  
Ani Ma'amin - Traditional Jewish melody, arr. by John Leavitt

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## **Concluding prayers**

**Rabbi Adrian Schell, Wimbledon District Synagogue  
&  
Reverend Nigel Stone, St Mark Church Mitcham**





Wiener Library – Life in the camps



Image from Waging Peace's collection collected by Anna Schmitt



**If we don't save our history, it will perish**

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## **Committee: Cabinet**

**Date: 16 November 2023**

Wards: All

## **Subject: London Borough of Culture Bid Progress Report**

Lead Director: Dan Jones – Executive Director of Environment, Civic Pride and Climate Department

Lead member: Councillor Eleanor Stringer – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Civic Pride

Contact officer: Anthony Hopkins – Head of Library, Heritage and Adult Education Service

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### **Recommendations:**

- A. That Cabinet note the progress in developing the bid for Merton to become the London Borough of Culture in 2027.
  - B. That Cabinet review the emerging themes and agree the direction of travel for the bid to be submitted to the Greater London Authority (GLA) by 30 November 2023 deadline.
- 

## **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1. The London Borough of Merton is bidding to become the London Borough of Culture (LBOC) in 2027. Feeding into the three key Council objectives of Civic Pride, Sustainable Futures and Borough of Sport the borough intends to submit an inclusive and inspirational bid celebrating its cultural infrastructure whilst creating new and innovative programmes for residents to engage in.
- 1.2. A key strategic objective for the council is to be the Borough of Sport by 2026 and a strong theme of sport will run through the LBOC bid. By 2027 Merton will be known as the Borough of Sport and Culture, maximising on existing sporting infrastructure and heritage that is leading to the Borough of Sport. We will build on that as a model - using existing cultural infrastructure and heritage to become LBOC. The two will be inextricably linked in 2027, similar to the Cultural Olympiad that accompanied the London 2012 Olympics.
- 1.3. The programme will deliver high quality arts and cultural events and activities in the heart of our communities and will use innovative techniques to engage and develop new audiences. It will tell the history of the borough's rich cultural heritage to develop greater understanding of our collective past and create a better understanding of present and future cultural opportunities. The legacy will be an established and coordinated programme of events and activities and an increased engagement with arts and culture amongst all parts of the borough. Key to the success of the bid will be in further strengthening our partnerships across the cultural sector to deliver this new vision for culture in the borough.

## 2 DETAILS

- 2.1. Established in 2017 the LBOC was initiated by the Mayor of London as a competitive bidding process to increase inclusivity and engagement in the arts amongst London boroughs. The process is similarly aligned to the national City of Culture programme. There have been 4 LBOC's so far with the London Borough of Croydon currently midway through its delivery year. Further details on the timetable for the bid and the funding available are included in sections 6 and 7.
- 2.2. Below the main award, which is worth in the region of £1.85 million, Cultural Impact Awards are also awarded to boroughs to deliver some of the programmes in their main bid if they are not the chosen borough. Merton was the recipient of a Cultural Impact Award of £40,000 for its 'Film Merton' project in 2019.
- 2.3. Merton launched its bid to become LBOC in August 2023 and has commissioned consultancy firm Always Possible to provide the resource for the bid writing and stakeholder and community engagement. Through September and October a number of events have taken place to gather views on what should be in the bid and what we recognise as our culture and heritage. Further details on the consultation are included in section 5.
- 2.4. A working group and steering group have been formed and have provided expert input into the bid development. Representatives from across the cultural sector have fed into these groups.
- 2.5. The GLA has provided an arts consultant to advise on bid development and will provide feedback on the first draft after 30 October 2023.
- 2.6. The draft bid outline summarises the main strategic aims and how the bid addresses the LBOC judging criteria of Making an Impact and Celebrating Creativity in which the application will make its main creative case.

## 3 DRAFT BID OUTLINE

- 3.1. **Working Title: MERTON UNITED.**
- 3.2. The bid will explore the core theme of "connections" and "connectedness". There are 7 strategic strands under which to organise activity and set objectives for the programme:
- 3.3. **CONNECTED TO CULTURE.** Aim: A greater proportion of residents taking part in culture. Outcome: A programme that delivers art and culture's social benefits for all.
- 3.4. **CONNECTED BY CULTURE.** Aim: Greater social cohesion. Outcome: A programme that explores Merton's common purpose. It will celebrate the full range of diversity in the borough, in particular highlighting the significant cultural changes of the last 50 years.
- 3.5. **CONNECTED THROUGH CULTURE.** Aim: To be a council that is brave in using culture to nurture civic pride. Outcome: Testing new collaborative approaches to working with residents.

- 3.6. **CONNECTED UP CULTURE.** Aim: A growing creative economy that makes Merton a destination for culture. Outcome: More strategic and planned opportunities for local creative professionals to have their say about the future of culture within the borough. Mapping and promoting cultural resources and developing new spaces for creating and presenting arts.
- 3.7. **CONNECTED AROUND CULTURE.** Aim: To have a more visible and vibrant cultural sector in the east of Merton, with improved collaborative links between organisations in the east and west of the borough. Outcome: New programmes celebrating urban culture throughout Merton. Arts and cultural assets in the west delivering more work in the east.
- 3.8. **CONNECTED TOWARDS CULTURE.** Aim: To empower young people to have a voice in the future of the borough. Outcome: Culture-led programmes that enable children and young people to design a future they want for the borough and the council to commit to action from this.
- 3.9. **CONNECTED "OUTSIDE" CULTURE.** Aim: Sports and culture combine in a rich, well linked up local offer. Merton is known as the Borough of Sport & Culture in 2027. Outcome: A programme that uses the outdoor and active spaces throughout Merton for significant cultural activity, encouraging culturally rich, active lives for residents.
- 3.10. **MAKING AN IMPACT. What is special about Merton that will be celebrated? What are the social issues facing the borough?**
- 3.11. The borough has strong identities in its different neighbourhoods and town centres. Merton has unique character in the way its neighbourhoods connect and come together. There is a lot that residents are proud of in the civic sphere. The voluntary sector is strong and buoyant. The libraries, schools and children's services are outstanding. There is a strong sense of pride in the existing cultural and heritage spaces. As the borough with the second most green outdoor space in London, parks, and commons matter, especially when used to bring people together as a community. Merton is connected by a wide range of transport options and whilst they don't always fully cater for the needs of residents, they are an important part of the borough's heritage.
- 3.12. While Merton has a long history, there is an appetite to use its recent history to tell bigger stories: focusing on the vibrant social changes of the last 50 years as a throughline. The aim will be to make the bid dynamic and forward-looking. It will be about seizing opportunities, recognising potential, and asking "What's next?" for the borough.
- 3.13. There are a range of international communities with important stories to tell that have contributed to what Merton is today and will be celebrated. These include (but are not limited to): The Ghanaian Community in Pollards Hill; World War One refugees from Belgium and France; British Bangladeshi Women; The Korean community; The Nepalese Gurkha community in Morden; Nigerian Osun-Osogbo Festival in Morden; The Polish and Tamil communities in the east of the borough; Europe's largest mosque in Morden; and the comparatively large number of Ukrainian refugees hosted in the borough.

- 3.14. Health, economic and social inequalities play out across the borough between the more affluent west and more socially deprived east. This is particularly apparent in the reduced cultural offering and poorer transport links in the east of the borough. LBOC work will explore this and deliver new cultural activity in areas of high priority.
- 3.15. Providing a range of new and enhanced cultural activities for the east of the borough is high on the agenda for all stakeholders. There is a desire for a successful LBOC to raise the visibility of the active, energetic creative organisations doing great work across the borough, and create more opportunities to connect with each other and reach new audiences.
- 3.16. The bid has identified links with a range of borough and city-wide strategies to complement and connect with.
- 3.17. **CELEBRATING CREATIVITY: What will the outline programme look like?**
- 3.18. The GLA advises that a bid for 2027 would not have a complete programme, but should put forward a strong framework through which it will be developed with examples of the type of activity that might take place. Programme ideas that have been identified in conjunction with partners so far include:
- 3.19. Wimbledon Bookfest – extending this festival’s scope and reach to use two outdoor sites and generate new opportunities to take part in creative writing and live literature in the east of the borough.
- 3.20. Merton United Trail – A mixed media outdoor trail including a range of performance and activities that celebrate local geography. It will also install Merton’s cultural icon “stars” as part of a legacy heritage trail.
- 3.21. Tuned In - Five week-long residencies in each town centre. Music and wellbeing sessions with local residents that culminate in a public performance at the end of each week and a legacy recording project in collaboration with Cherry Red Records.
- 3.22. Headline music and theatre festival – Large scale events taking place at iconic venues in the borough (e.g. Wimbledon Tennis Championships, AFC Wimbledon Stadium, New Wimbledon Theatre, Canons House and Grounds).
- 3.23. A touring virtual reality and creative programme designed by Wimbledon College of Art and delivered in community venues. In conjunction with a skills, employability and mentoring programme.
- 3.24. Connected Towards Culture: a project for young people to design a future use for Merton’s public realm.

## **4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

### **4.1 Bid for year 2025 LBOC**

- 4.2. Merton is in the process of an ambitious plan to become the London Borough of Sport by 2026. This timeline works well and supports the ground work that needs to be put in place for a successful bid in 2027. It also gives the borough more time to develop its partnership base.

4.3. **Do not bid**

4.4. This would mean that the borough will not have an opportunity to draw in significant funds to develop cultural opportunities in the borough and no new programmes or strengthening of existing projects will take place.

## **5 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED**

5.1. To consult and engage with a wide variety of stakeholders the London Borough of Merton worked with Always Possible to conduct in-person events, online events and surveys which would enable community feedback and engagement with the bid.

5.2. In-person resident engagement was through a community engagement exercise held at the Big Sports Day on 24 September 2023. 185 residents took part. Residents were also invited to complete an online survey.

5.3. Sector and stakeholder consultation was through 2 in-person events, 2 online events, 12 1:1 interviews and a combined survey/expression of interest (EOI). 33 stakeholders have so far contributed to the consultation and have 150 organisations have been contacted.

5.4. The GLA encourages drawing on existing and prior relevant consultation. In addition to the work above, Mitcham Matters, a council consultation with residents from August 2023, was reviewed and analysed.

5.5. The consultation has provided an evidence basis from which to draw out the key themes that are going into the bid, the stories to tell about the borough, and the type of events and activity that the borough is expressing a need for.

5.6. Four key themes and priorities emerged from the data. These themes have been instrumental in developing the structure of the bid so far.

1. The theme of “connectedness” was prominent in feedback from both residents and arts, cultural, and community leaders. The ideas of physical connections, interpersonal connections, and professional connections have provided the basis for the bid structure.
2. “Outdoor spaces” were identified as an area of civic pride and a unique selling point of the borough. Making the most of these spaces, highlighting them through cultural and heritage events was a very popular idea.
3. “Sports, culture and heritage” often came up in conjunction as interlinking themes. The sporting history of the borough, although problematic in respects to fair access, is seen to be intrinsically linked to its sense of place. For example, when a wide definition of “sport” was used: with walking and skateboarding sitting alongside tennis and football.
4. Diversity and multiculturalism. When asked to summarise what culture looked like in Merton in 2023, the common definitions drew on the diversity of the population living in the borough and emphasis on the significant cultural changes of the last 50 years.

A range of community stories have been highlighted to tell as part of the borough of culture.

- 5.7. The consultation was also used to measure which types of events and activities residents and stakeholders thought should contribute to a borough of culture programme, helping to identify a focus for the outline programme with a sense of need behind it.

## 6 TIMETABLE

Activity	Completion Date
Completion of public consultation	27 October 2023
Stakeholder Engagement Event	8 November 2023
Submission of bid to the GLA	30 November 2023
Assessment of bid	December 2023 – January 2024
Interviews and final decision making	February 2024
Winners announced	March 2024
Delivery of Title Award	April 2027 – March 2028

## 7 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. The main award grant if successful is £1.35 million from the Greater London authority and a further £500,000 from the National Heritage Lottery Fund. Additional grants can be applied for via Arts Council England and other LBOC partners.
- 7.2. Match funding of at least 30% is required in bids and officers are working on a range of options to develop this including sponsorship and other grant opportunities.

## 8 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. None identified for the purpose of this report.

## 9 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. A successful London Borough of Culture bid could have a lasting positive impact on our communities and help to improve the social, economic and health outcomes of residents. The bid being designed will be an inclusive one that focuses on addressing inequalities in the borough and developing new cultural opportunities for all residents.

## 10 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1. None identified for the purpose of this report.

**11 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

11.1. A separate risk register is being maintained for this project. No health and safety implications identified at this stage.

**12 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT**

- None included.

**13 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

13.1. None included.

Department Approval	Name of Officer	Date of Comments
Legal	Fabiola Hickson	25/10/2023
Finance	Marsha Walker	25/10/2023
Executive Director	Dan Jones	25/10/2023
Cabinet Member	Councillor Eleanor Stringer	25/10/2023

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# VAWG

## Violence Against Women and Girls



# What is VAWG?

Type of Abuse	What does this mean?
<b>Domestic abuse (including coercive control)</b>	This is when a partner or family member has power and control over their victims and uses abuse to maintain it. Abuse can be physical, emotional, economic, psychological and/or sexual.
<b>Rape and sexual violence</b>	Rape is sex without consent. This means that rape isn't just people being physically forced into a sexual act, it also includes pressure that makes someone feel like they have no choice but to have sex or perform/receive a sexual act.
<b>Female genital mutilation</b>	This is the partial or total removal of external female genitalia for non medical reasons.
<b>Early and Forced marriage</b>	This is where one or both people do not (or in cases of people with learning disabilities or reduced capacity, cannot) consent to the marriage as they are pressurised, or abuse is used, to force them to do so.
<b>So called "honour" based violence</b>	This is abuse and violence which is carried out in order to protect or defend perceived "honour" of the family and/or community. We are clear that there is no honour in honour-based violence.
<b>Faith-based abuse</b>	This is when someone uses religion or faith to justify the abuse of another person, usually a child or vulnerable adult. It could be caused by the perpetrator's belief in witchcraft, spirit or demonic possession, ritual, or satanic abuse. It is not caused by religion or faith.

# What is VAWG?

<b>Sexual harassment</b>	This is unwanted behaviour of a sexual nature which violates someone's dignity, makes someone feel intimidated, degraded, or humiliated and/or creates a hostile or offensive environment.
<b>Stalking</b>	This is a pattern of persistent and unwanted attention that makes someone feel pestered, scared, anxious, or harassed.
<b>Modern Slavery</b>	This is an umbrella term for human trafficking and servitude. It is used when somebody is forced or controlled to do something, and another person gains from this.
<b>Prostitution and Sexual Exploitation</b>	This is where someone is being coerced or forced into selling sex or performing sexual acts. Victim/survivors may also be trafficked into prostitution. Children, young people, and vulnerable adults may also be sexually exploited and coerced into receiving or performing sexual acts. Abuse of children and adults can include sharing pornographic images and the use of technology.

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# VAWG Strategy

Merton has launched its new Violence against women and girls strategy on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

This sets out what the borough will do to support anyone experiencing VAWG, domestic abuse, forced marriage and honour based violence, sexual violence, this also includes supporting men as victims.

The priorities are:

Partnership Objective 1: Raise awareness and coordinated partnership working

Partnership Objective 2: Prevent VAWG through early intervention

Partnership Objective 3: Support victims, survivors and their children

Partnership Objective 4: Hold perpetrators to account

Partnership Objective 5: Improve the safety of women and girls

<https://www.merton.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/crime-prevention-and-community-safety/vawg>

# Domestic Abuse Definition

Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass but is not limited to the following types of abuse:

- Physical or sexual abuse;
- Violent or threatening behaviour;
- Controlling or coercive behaviour;
- Economic abuse;
- Psychological, emotional or other abuse.

This definition, is now a legal definition (DA Act), **includes so called ‘honour’ based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage**, and is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group.

DA Act 2021

# Domestic Abuse Support

In an emergency always call 999

- Merton Domestic Abuse service – **0207 801 1777**
- One Stop Shop – Mondays 9.30am – 12 noon, Morden Baptist Church

IDVA's support victims and survivors aged 16 years and over.

IDVA's support male and female victims and survivors

(Independent Domestic Violence Advocate)

Victim Support: Support line for free on 08 08 16 89 111, 24/7

<https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/help-and-support/get-help/>

The freephone, 24-hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline 0808 2000 247

<https://www.merton.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/crime-prevention-and-community-safety/domestic-violence>

# Sexual Violence

In an emergency always call 999

If you have been a victim of sexual violence or harassment

- If something happens in a public place: If in danger always call 999, Non emergencies call 101

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If something happens on the transport network: You can text us on 61016 to tell us about non-emergency incidents, In an emergency always dial 999. <https://www.btp.police.uk/police-forces/british-transport-police/areas/campaigns/How-to-use-our-text-number/>

- Street Safe: <https://www.met.police.uk/notices/street-safe/street-safe/>

# Sexual Violence Support

If you would like support because you have experience sexual violence or harassment:

- Rape and Sexual abuse support centre: National Freephone Helpline 0808 802 9999, 12:00 – 14:30 daily, 19:00 – 21:30 daily

<https://www.rasasc.org.uk/>

- Victim Support: call Support line for free on 08 08 16 89 111, 24/7

<https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/help-and-support/get-help/>

- Solace Womens Aid: Freephone 0808 802 5565



# Improve the safety of women and girls

Our work is preventative, and we want to change culture, so men don't hurt women.

- We received funding across the 4 boroughs, Wandsworth, Kingston and Richmond from the Home Office Safer Streets fund
- Police and council are running 'Walk and Talk' sessions to find out what concerns women have
- Police are also running a 'Street Safe' survey to identify areas of concern: <https://www.met.police.uk/notices/street-safe/street-safe/>

# Safer Streets Funding

Merton, Richmond, Kingston and Wandsworth completed a joint bid for funding and was successful. Funding ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. A showcase event was held with partners to look at the sustainability of the projects.

This has funded projects to ensure people feel safe on our streets with the theme around women and girls safety and changing cultures.

This work included:

- Boys to men training for professionals working with young men
- Night time economy staff training to help them identify vulnerability and anti sexual harassment
- Business Tool Kit
- Male accountability survey
- Survivors focus groups
- Bystander Training for the community (there will be train the trainer sessions)

# Safer Streets

<https://www.merton.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/crime-prevention-and-community-safety/vawg/safer-streets>



# Night Time Economy

- Night time economy staff online training to help them identify vulnerability and anti-sexual harassment
- Night time economy strategy currently being written and the Womens night time audit has fed into that work.

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Women's Safety Business tool kit will be shared during the 16 days campaign and is on our website.

- Ask for Angela
- Merton is signed up to the London Mayors Night Time Charter

# White Ribbon Accreditation

The simple but vital mission behind White Ribbon Day is to prevent violence by men, against women and girls. Why? Because it is a long time coming that something needed to change. Change of long, established, and harmful behaviours around masculinity that perpetuated gender inequality and men's violence against women.

The history behind choosing the date of 25 November was apparently to honour the three Mirabal sisters. They were three political activists from the Dominican Republic who were brutally murdered in 1960 by order of the country's ruler, Rafael Trujillo after opposing his dictatorship. He ordered their assassination on the 25 November.

# White Ribbon

We can all make a difference – but sometimes we are not always sure what to do or where to start. White Ribbon Day offers men and women specific ways of making a difference for this important movement. You can:

**Make the White Ribbon Promise:** Please go online and make the promise - encourage others to do the same – this promise is for all men **to never use, excuse or remain silent about men’s violence against women.** By doing so, you’re becoming part of this wider movement to end violence.

<https://www.whiteribbon.org.uk/promise>





# Safe Zone



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**Wimbledon Safe Zone** will continue the first Friday of every month and there will be extra dates over Christmas.

Merton Street pastors will be piloting a **Safe Zone in Mitcham** on 8<sup>th</sup> December with the aim that Mitcham's runs on the last Friday of the Month in the Town Centre from 8pm – 12 midnight



# Womens Walk and Talk

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25<sup>th</sup> November – meeting at Toby Carvery in Mitcham for 10am  
29<sup>th</sup> November – Meeting at the gym in Morden rec for 6pm

# Bystander work

This training looks at how we can all safely intervene or call out someone for derogatory language.

We had several professional sessions and sessions for residents.

Merton, Kingston, Richmond Youth Parliament come together on 23<sup>rd</sup> September to have bystander training.

Bystander train the trainer training in November. Merton has 4 volunteers to be trainers.

# Bystander training for Youth Parliament

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**MERTON YOUTH PARLIAMENT**

**Influencing the what & the how**  
MAKING PEOPLE TO ACCOUNT!

**COLLECTIVE DEBATE**  
NATIONAL OR LOCAL  
IN-PERSON MEETING OR ONLINE  
ice-breaker

**THE IMPORTANCE OF RELATIONSHIPS**  
DO OUR FRIENDS influence us? YES!  
Peer-pressure is also there...  
My friendships SUPPORT ME!  
I relieve you!  
It's **NOT** Your fault!  
AS A FRIEND  
You can get help here!  
Small things make a **BIG** difference!  
AS A VICTIM  
What could I have done DIFFERENTLY?  
FIND YOUR FRIENDS  
Not turning a blind eye...

**INHIBITORS**  
I'm being loyal to my mate?  
WE'RE NONE of my business!  
CULTURE  
Lack of tools  
FEAR  
IF NOT FOR THE SITUATION  
Lack of tools

**BRAND CHALLENGES...**  
My core values  
Ambitious, **LEADER**  
Energy! Passion!  
Resilient  
Resilience  
Resilience  
Resilience  
Authentic  
Your presence is your **GREATEST** SUPERPOWER!  
To what are you aiming?  
Working in other's shoes

**FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS... HURT OTHERS**  
ARE YOU OK?  
What's Yours?  
What's Yours?  
When one person speaks up... so do others in the crowd.  
Let's not diffuse responsibility  
It's difficult to rebel!  
Gross Vigil...

**CONNECTING before CORRECTING**  
What would work on you?  
You can say more in private  
Ask gently - be curious  
Don't shame me

**WHEN YOU CHALLENGE & SPEAK UP**  
then others will too!  
SOCIAL MEDIA isn't the problem it's the way it's USED...  
How can we support you?  
I want to SPEAK OUT about this... but don't want to be a 'snitch'

**BRINGING IN THE ACTIVE BYSTANDER**  
We can make a DIFFERENCE  
Stepping in to the situation

**SCENARIO EXPLANATIONS...**  
I'm the right person to deal with this?  
I'm going to validate them I'm not going to ignore this!  
I feel controlled by my boyfriend  
You're safe if you speak up!  
It's not your fault!

**WE'RE ALL THINKING ALONG THE SAME LINES! WE'RE ALL ALLIES**  
Let's call it in!  
ALL OF US HAVE THE POWER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

**LEARNINGS**  
Calling in!  
Active bystander  
Empathy  
Community  
REFLECTIVE  
Humans helping humans!  
Validate  
Bystander Toolkit  
COMFORT THE VICTIM  
RESPONSIBILITY  
IMPACT ON THE VICTIM  
Dad... this man is staring at me on the train...  
IMPACT ON THE VICTIM  
Hey! this behaviour is NOT OK  
IMPORTANCE OF SPEAKING UP

**INSPIRED BY YOU!**  
USE YOUR INNER COMPASS!  
Graham Goulden

Drawn by: [www.sandrahowgate.com](http://www.sandrahowgate.com)

# Hold perpetrators to account

## **PAC – Prevent and Change**

The PAC project runs over 7 boroughs, £2 million funding over 2 years. Lambeth are the lead borough.

PAC worker (Richmond Fellowship)

PAC IDVA (Refuge)

The criteria: must have been discussed at MARAC, Drugs, alcohol, homelessness, ADHA, autism

Since June, there has been 20 men identified to be referred to the PAC worker

# 16 days campaign

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an annual international campaign that kicks off on **25 November**, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs until **10 December**, Human Rights Day.

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# Hate Crime



## What is a hate crime?

A hate crime is defined as any **criminal offence** which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a person's:

- **Race**
- **Religion**
- **Sexual orientation**
- **Disability**
- **Transgender identity**

The government were looking at whether Misogyny should be classified as a hate crime.



## **What is a hate incident?**

A hate incident is any incident which the victim, or anyone else, thinks is based on someone's prejudice towards them because of their race, religion, sexual orientation, disability or because they are transgender **but does not breach criminal legislation.**

**Not all hate incidents will amount to criminal offences, but it is equally important that these are reported and recorded by the police.**

## Reporting a hate crime to the police

- You should always call **999** when it is an emergency, such as when a crime is in progress, someone suspected of a crime is nearby, when there is danger to life or when violence is being used or threatened.
- If you have a non-emergency but require police assistance, call **101** or report online at **met.police.uk**.
- The police also have a specific hate crime reporting page – **True Vision**  
<https://www.report-it.org.uk/>

## Other ways to report and get support

*If you do not feel comfortable reporting directly to the police there are a number of services in Merton that can support you with making a report or getting support and advice:*

- **Stop Hate UK Helpline for Merton**

You can speak confidentially to **Stop Hate UK 24 hours a day, seven days a week** to report a hate crime or incident:

Call Stop Hate UK free on **0800 138 1625**

Text 'Stop Hate UK' to **07717 989 025**

Report online using the [Stop hate UK website](#)



## Other ways to report and get support

- Via a hate crime **Third Party Reporting Centre** (*list on hate crime web page*).
- **Merton Hate Crime Advice Surgeries** (*second Wednesday of each month 12pm-1pm* ).
- *See Merton Council's hate crime webpage for all info:*  
<https://www.merton.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/crime-prevention-and-community-safety/hate-crime>

# Merton's Hate Crime Strategy Group

- **Merton's Hate Crime Strategy Group** is made of up of partners from the council, police and members of the community representing each strand of hate crime.
- The aims of the group are to **raise awareness of hate crime and the support services available to victims to encourage victims to report and get the support they need. Developing a partnership approach to tackling perpetrators.**
- The group meets quarterly and leads our hate crime strategy and work plan. We have a **strategy 2022-26 and work plan**
- **Regular reassurance messaging** via Merton Councils media channels that Merton is no place for hate and hate in any form will not be tolerated.
- The group continue to work on **expanding Merton's hate crime Third Party Reporting Scheme.**

# Engaging with the community

## IDAHOBIT 23







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Hate crime Awareness week Baitul Futuh Mosque



Wimbledon Piazza

- **Stop Hate UK** have been successful in applying for funding from the Violence reduction unit ty MOPAC for a Hate crime project.
- This is to include delivering workshops/training sessions to children and young people in Merton Schools

The aim is for pupils to understand what hate crime is, its impact in relation to serious violence on both themselves and others.

- It will also aim to provide pupils with the knowledge on how and where to report and gain support.





## Current political events

- **Discussions had with the Baitul Futuh Mosque in Morden- event held during Hate crime awareness week.**
- **Support Events offered to The Wimbledon Synagogue.**
- **Working closely with Police and other partners over planned events being held locations of possible concern requesting extra police presence.**
- **CCTV operators vigilant - led to an arrest for Racist graffiti recently.**
- **Regular comms on how and where to report/receive support relating to Hate Crime.**

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