

Letter to newspaper editors to mark anniversary of the Genocide Convention

Sir,

On the 69th anniversary of the adoption of the Genocide Convention we, as genocide survivors, are joined by secondary school pupils in our recognition of the crucial role that education can play in the prevention of future genocides. Moreover, such initiatives will contribute to the creation of a more cohesive and inclusive society.

However, a recent survey conducted by young people showed that eighty percent of their peers have never heard of the genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. Troubling but sadly familiar pictures continue to appear in the media. We believe that a greater focus should be placed upon educating the next generation about the Holocaust and other genocides. Our society will be stronger, safer and more united if we do.

Yours sincerely,

Christopher Austin (Hampton School)

Nedzad Avdic (survivor of the genocide in Srebrenica)

Samuel Axford (Hampton School)

Ruth Barnett (Holocaust survivor)

Oliver Casale (Hampton School)

Sokphal Din (survivor of the genocide in Cambodia)

Chris Gilmour (Hampton School)

Eric Murangwa Eugene (Survivor of Genocide against the Tutsi, Founder and Managing Director of FHPU & ST/Ishami Foundation)

Jean Baptiste Kayigamba (Survivor of Genocide against the Tutsi & Rwandan Community Association in the UK Leader)

Naila M Kira (Survivor of Genocide against the Tutsi and ST/Ishami Foundation Trustee)

Alphonsine Kabagabo (Survivor of Genocide against the Tutsi)

Sophie Masereka (Survivor of the Genocide against the Tutsi)

JO Ingabire Moys (Survivor of Genocide against the Tutsi and ST/Ishami Foundation Trustee)

Antoinette Mushimiyimana (Survivor of Genocide against the Tutsi - ST/Ishami Foundation Member of Speaker's bureau)

Bosco Ngabonzima (Survivor of Genocide against the Tutsi - RCA-UK & URUMURI)

Kemal Pervanic (survivor of the genocide in Bosnia)

Pierre-Celestin Rusengatabaro (Survivor of Genocide against the Tutsi and ST/Ishami Foundation Trustee)

Louis Strickland Sweeney (Hampton School)

Mariam Tumukunde (Survivor of Genocide against the Tutsi - ST/Ishami Foundation Member of Speaker's bureau)

Chantal Uwamahoro (Survivor of Genocide against the Tutsi and URUMURI Deputy Chair)

Beatha Uwazaninka (Survivor of Genocide against the Tutsi - URUMURI & ST/Ishami Foundation Member of Speaker's bureau)

Safet Vukalic (survivor of the genocide in Bosnia)

Paul Wilkinson (Hampton School)