

Marking Genocide Awareness Day as a UCL Beacon School – and developing genocide awareness and prevention opportunities built on strong foundation of Holocaust teaching and learning.



‘What would you include in a textbook about the Bosnian Genocide?’

This was the question that I posed to my Year 9 class back in the summer term. I mentioned that I hadn’t found a textbook that I could use to teach them about the Bosnian Genocide and that, perhaps, they should have a go at writing one themselves. I think that the pupils rose to the challenge superbly.

The class had spent the previous term studying the Holocaust, largely using the resources provided by UCL Centre for Holocaust Education. Within that the class had made use of the [‘Understanding the Holocaust’](#) textbook for some of their lessons and were very much aware of the methodology that the resource utilises.

So, when presented with an explanation of the events of the Bosnian Genocide from a well-known online encyclopaedia (not Wikipedia!) I asked the class what was missing from it? They came up with an extensive list which may not surprise you: no focus on pre-genocide life, no survivor voices, no mention of what happened afterwards and so on. They also mentioned what was in the encyclopaedia entry that they thought shouldn’t be: a narrative that was dominated by perpetrator voices, too many atrocity images with little context... From there, then, the class drew up a criteria for what should be included in a textbook about the Genocide based on the methodology that they found in ‘Understanding the Holocaust’. They then undertook research that they could use to write their textbook. They consulted survivor testimony, scholarly works, court proceedings and media coverage. The outcome is instructive. It is certainly the best textbook on the Bosnian Genocide that I have come across!


Take a look for yourselves:

<https://twitter.com/genocide8020/status/1543992521398931460>

The class were honoured to be able to present their completed textbook to one of the survivors featured in it. We were privileged to have Safet Vukalic join us for a lesson. Safet was able to talk about his experiences and to read through what the pupils had produced. Safe to say it was an experience that the pupils will not forget in a hurry.

...meanwhile, the **Genocide80Twenty** extra-curricular group, who spend their spare time raising awareness of the Holocaust and other genocides have been hard at work. For #GenocidePreventionDay this year they have made a short video that they hope you might be able to watch and show to your students. The focus of the film is on individual victims of genocide and the pupils hope that more teachers will highlight the issues to their classes. Please follow **@genocide8020** on Friday December 9th and see what they have produced.'

Andy Lawrence MBE – Hampton School

 [Hear Andy Lawrence speaking about UCL Centre for Holocaust Education's work and how it underpins his teaching about other genocides](#)