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*Remembering Srebrenica.*



**History**

Humanity has lived through the darkest of times, but few events have stained our collective soul more than the Srebrenica genocide. During the Balkans conflict of 1992-1995, Bosnian Serb nationalist forces waged a co-ordinated campaign of 'ethnic cleansing' intended to create a 'Greater Serbian' territory.

In July 1995, Bosnian Serb forces, led by General Ratko Mladić overran and captured the town of Srebrenica in

Eastern Bosnia which had been declared a UN Safe Area in 1993. In the days following Srebrenica's fall, more than 8,000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys were systematically massacred and buried in mass graves. Thousands of women, children and elderly people were forcibly deported. Throughout Bosnia, between 20,000 – 50,000 women and girls suffered rape and sexual violence; a weapon of war used to systematically 'ethnically cleanse' communi-

ties and terrorise them into fleeing.

Described by the United Nations as 'the worst crime on European soil since the Second World War', the massacres at Srebrenica were classed as genocide by both the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. Yet denial of this atrocity is widespread.

Many in Bosnia-Herzegovina are still struggling for justice,

Continued on p3.....

اللهم إني أسألك حبك،  
وحب من يحبك،  
والعمل الذي يبلغني  
حبك، اللهم اجعل  
حبك أحب إلي من  
نفسي، وأهلي، ومن  
الماء البارد

*Dua of the Month*

Abud-Darda' (May Allah be pleased with him) reported:

The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said, "One of Prophet Dawud's supplications was: 'Allahumma inni as'aluka hubbaka, wa hubba man yuhib-

buka, wal-'amalalladhi yubal-lighuni hubbaka. Allahumm-aj'al hubbaka ahabba ilayya min nafsi, wa ahli, wa minal-ma'il-baridi (O Allah! I ask You for Your Love, the love of those who love You, and

deeds which will cause me to attain Your Love. O Allah! Make Your Love dearer to me than myself, my family and the cold water)."

[At- Tirmidhi].

## Community News

### **Re-opening our Centre Safely: Dear Respected Elders, Brothers and Sisters and Our children. السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته هـ**

We are in the process of getting our centre ready for a phased reopening. Our Safety Officer has been appointed and a Risk Assessment is underway. The government has set Saturday 4th July as the start for potential congregational prayers. This will be subject to strict safety procedures that need to be in place and need to be adhered to by the congregation. Further updates will be posted once the Risk Assessment has been completed and we are in a position to ensure your safety.

Measures being put in place to ensure safety include: -

- An allocated officer being stationed at the entrance to register attendees' details
- There will be a queue for registration of all attendees on entering the premises
- Adhering to the separate entry and exit routes
- Adhering to a two-meter rule whilst queuing
- The opening of the Centre 15 minutes prior to Jamma'at prayers
- Bringing your own shoe bag (shoe racks not to be used)
- Socks to be worn inside the mosque (bare feet not permitted)
- Bringing your own prayer mats and face masks (both mandatory)
- The wearing of face masks at all times while inside the prayer hall is mandatory
- Adhering to the age limit restriction and anyone not feeling well to avoid the centre
- The Mosque will be vacated and closed immediately after the Jamma'at
- Praying sunnah/additional prayers at home
- The removal of all chairs at the Centre
- Numbers will be limited according to the capacity set by the Risk Assessment
- BROTHERS over 70, children and sisters are not allowed during the first phase
- NO ACCESS to TOILET or WUDHU facilities
- FRONT-LINE STAFF or those LIVING with someone SHIELDING are asked NOT TO ATTEND

**We kindly ask you to respect the volunteers who are helping to ensure that we keep everyone safe**

## Pearls of Wisdom:

You will surely be tested in your possessions and in yourselves. And you will surely hear from those who were given the Scripture before you and from those who associate others with Allah much abuse. But if you are patient and fear Allah - indeed, that is of the matters [worthy] of determination [3: 186]

### **Hadith of the Day:**

Ebaddah ibn Samit (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated Allah's Messenger (sallahu alayhi wa salim) said: "Guarantee me you'll do six things and I guarantee you Jannah. Whenever you speak say the truth. Fulfill your promises when you make

them. When you're entrusted with something, carry out that trust. Safeguard your private parts, lower your gaze and prevent your hands from harming others." Ahmed (5/323)

### **Wise Quote of the Day:**

Meet people in such a manner that if you die, they should weep for you, and if you live they should long for you.

### **Guidance of the Day:**

In death there are 1,000 reposes for the Muslim. As long as you are in this world, there is not a cell in your body that does not experience pain and disease. Once you are out

of this world all of this ends. For the believer there is comfort in death. It is being taken from an abode of difficulty and trial to one of peace and unfathomable freedom.

In Islam the mourning period is short and should not be prolonged. The irony of extending

the mourning period is that it is rooted in the excessive love of this world. The more one

covets this world the greater sense of loss when a loved one dies.

Everyone will experience the loss of a loved one. When the Prophet (peace be upon him) lost

his son Ibrahim, he wept but also praised God, the source of life and death. People who believe in God and in the After life handle death well. The same is true with calamities and tribulations. [Purification of the heart]

### **Food for Thought:**

If there is something we wish to change in a child, we should first examine it and see whether it is not something that could better be changed in ourselves. We cannot become what we need to be by remaining what we are.



**Appendix 6: Should I Pray in the Mosque?**

BRITISH ISLAMIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Are you a high risk person or living with anyone at higher risk?	70 years, eligible for the flu vaccine, frail or condition set as high risk by NHS (e.g. chronic respiratory, heart, kidney, neurological or liver diseases, diabetes, problem with immune system, immunosuppressant drugs, any cancer or solid organ transplant).	✓ X
Do you have any COVID symptoms?	Temp > 37.8c, a dry cough, loss of smell or taste, cold or flu like symptoms.	✓ X
Are you frontline staff in contact with patients?	Doctors, nurses & staff working in clinical settings. Evidence shows that many of them may have COVID-19 without realising it due to increased exposure.	✓ X
Are you unable to socially distance?	Young children, for example under 10 years old, may struggle to maintain social distancing.	✓ X
Do you not fall into any of the above categories?	Also, has the mosque undertaken a risk assessment, have plans in place and a COVID safety officer?	✓ ✓

This is general advice based on public health and government guidance. It needs to be implemented according to local context with local scholars and medical input.

## Remembering Srebrenica. (Continued)

not least the women who were left to pick up the pieces after their families and whole communities were wiped from during the genocide. The Mothers Association of Srebrenica were among the first to collect and document the names of those who were killed and they provided this information to The Hague. They campaign tirelessly so that the memory of their loved ones is preserved, and to ensure that such atrocities never happen again.

On the 11th July, the official date of remembrance each year, we honour the victims and survivors of the genocide, and pledge ourselves to creating a better, stronger and more cohesive society in the United Kingdom.

The lessons learned from Srebrenica are that hatred and intolerance can flourish if left unchallenged. Even in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where people of different faiths had lived peacefully together for many years, an integrated society disintegrated. We must all understand the consequences of leaving hatred and intolerance unchallenged. By doing this, we give ourselves hope of illuminating the darkness and creating a better, safer and stronger society for all.

Story of a Survivor: Nirha Efendić

Nirha Efendić was only 13 years old when the war in Bosnia began. Now a mother of three, she reflects on what it was like to be a child of war.

“I was the youngest child in my family. I had an older brother who was around 16 when the war broke out. You could say we were more aware of the situation because my father was a politician. He was a principled man, who wanted

to save his people. And for that reason, he insisted that we stay in Srebrenica when the war began.

At the time, Srebrenica was a Muslim-majority town, with 75% of the population being Bosnian Muslim. My father decided that we would resist the oppression. He spoke to many people in the town about this, and they all agreed. This was their home, and they would not be chased off by anyone. I remember being mesmerised as a child by the way my father spoke; he had such courage and conviction in what he said.

By the time of the genocide, I was 15. As the Serb military descended upon Srebrenica, we ran for cover. The UN base in Potočari was completely full. So we hid in a nearby factory. My father and brother fled, but they couldn't catch up to the men who had already left. I was told that they were captured by the Serbian military in the hills surrounding Srebrenica.

Meanwhile, my mother and I were in the empty factory with thousands of other women and children for three days. We had no food, and no water. By the fourth day, the Serbian military escorted us onto busses and trucks headed towards the free territory. The journey, which takes a maximum of one hour, took four gruelling hours to complete because of the sheer magnitude of women and children that needed to be transported.

Suffering from exhaustion and a high fever, I was completely unaware of what was happening around me. When we arrived in the free territory, I distinctly recall hearing screams coming from the

river. But I never turned back to see what was happening.

‘I just wanted to keep walking forward; away from the chaos, and away from the stench of death that hung heavily in the air. I can still hear those screams today.’

A month later, we heard about my father. He had been kept in a hangar in Kravica with several other men, and later executed. His remains were finally identified in 2002 in a mass grave in Srebrenica, and we buried him in 2004. Four years ago, we heard about my brother. They found just 25% of his mortal remains in secondary mass graves. He was killed in Zvornik, just 19 days before his 20th birthday. On 11th July this year, we will bury the pieces of him they found.

I had definitely grown up by the time the conflict was over. My family was literally cut in half; my father and brother snatched from us in the most horrific way. And yet I understood that life had to go on. My mother enrolled me at a school in Zagreb, Croatia, and she went to Germany as a refugee. She insisted that I gain a full education to learn about the history of the world, and recognise that I had to be part of the educated majority who could actively do something to stop such an atrocity from ever happening again. Whilst I understand why she sent me to Zagreb, parting from her after what we went through together, especially at that age, was very difficult for me.

After I finished secondary school, I returned to Bosnia with my mother. We rented a flat in Sarajevo until I graduated, and then my mother moved back to Srebrenica.



**Bridge in Mostar – a rebuilt 16th century Ottoman bridge.**



## Remembering Srebrenica. (Continued)

. I always knew that she would go back. She believes in justice, and she wanted to fight for what was and is rightfully hers — her home. So I was adamant to support her.

But I chose to make a life for myself in Sarajevo. I married, had children, and attempted to continue with my life. But the war, and in particular, the genocide, continue to haunt me. That sort of experience scars you in a way that cannot be communicated in words. I go back to Srebrenica at every opportunity I get. Not only for my mother, but also for myself — as a method of finding some stillness now in memories that are seared with the chaos of bloodshed and horror.

'I pray that my three children grow up to be kind, tolerant people.'

I want to teach them to al-

ways to be aware of everything around them, and to be smart about the decisions they make. I want to teach them about my past, so that they can be aware of their history. But for now, I just want them to enjoy a happy, carefree childhood, where they can feel safe and protected in their own home.

### Living the Lessons Pledge

We pledge that when we hear the language of "us and them", we will reach out and find common ground with our neighbour.

We pledge that, when we hear stereotyping and scapegoating, we will find and share alternative positive stories.

We pledge that, when we see discrimination in our schools or workplaces, we will challenge this and promote equal opportunities for all.

We pledge that, when we hear dehumanising language, we will remind the speaker of our common humanity.

We pledge that, when we see members of our community becoming disenfranchised, we will make an effort to engage and include them.

We pledge that, when we hear divisive propaganda, we will challenge this effectively.

We pledge that we will protect those who speak out against human rights abuses.

We pledge that, where we see persecution, we will do everything in our power to protect those who are suffering.

We pledge that, where we believe that extermination is taking place, we will call on our governments and the international community to take immediate action.

We pledge that we will always

challenge denial by believing the victims and sharing their stories.

We pledge that we will always choose the side of those who are suffering over the side of the oppressor.

You can sign this pledge online [here](#)

### The Srebrenica Prayer

**We pray to almighty God,**

**May grievance become hope**

**May revenge become justice**

**May mothers' tears become prayers**

**That Srebrenica Never happens again**

**To no one and nowhere**



# AHMA IS NOW RECRUITING!

## PART TIME MOSQUE ADMINISTRATOR ROLE

The ideal candidate would have some experience of working in an office management role, have good IT/Microsoft Office knowledge, strong organisational skills and be an excellent communicator.

If you want to be part of a major transformation at AHMA, you can find more details at  
**[www.ahma.co.uk/vacancies](http://www.ahma.co.uk/vacancies)**

If you are interested, please send your CV to **[admin@ahma.co.uk](mailto:admin@ahma.co.uk)** or ring **Br Zainul Sachak** on **07968 025730** for an informal chat

**Altrincham & Hale Muslim Association**  
Islamic Culture Centre, Grove Lane, Hale, WA15 8JG

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# My Personal Challenge

As an individual, you can help raise awareness of **Srebrenica Memorial Day** by taking part in the **Every Action Matters Personal Challenge**: 11 actions to mark 11th July.



[www.srebrenica.org.uk](http://www.srebrenica.org.uk)

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

**Microsoft**

Registered Charity Number 1101378

## Prayer Schedule July 2020

Day	Date	Fajr	Fajr Jama'at	Sunrise	Dhuhr	Dhuhr Jama'at	Asr	Asr Jama'at	Maghrib	Isha	Isha Jama'at
Wed	July 1	3:19	4:00	4:45	1:14	1:30	5:39	8:00	9:41	11:06	9:56
Thu	2	3:19	4:00	4:46	1:14	1:30	5:39	8:00	9:40	11:05	9:55
<b>Fri</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3:20</b>	<b>4:00</b>	<b>4:47</b>	<b>1:14</b>	<b>1:45</b>	<b>5:39</b>	<b>8:00</b>	<b>9:40</b>	<b>11:05</b>	<b>9:55</b>
Sat	4	3:20	4:00	4:48	1:14	2:00	5:39	8:00	9:39	11:04	9:54
Sun	5	3:20	4:00	4:48	1:14	2:00	5:39	8:00	9:39	11:04	9:54
Mon	6	3:21	4:00	4:49	1:14	1:30	5:39	7:30	9:39	11:04	9:54
Tue	7	3:22	4:00	4:51	1:15	1:30	5:39	7:30	9:37	11:02	9:52
Wed	8	3:23	4:00	4:52	1:15	1:30	5:39	7:30	9:37	11:02	9:52
Thu	9	3:24	4:00	4:53	1:15	1:30	5:39	7:30	9:36	11:01	9:51
<b>Fri</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3:24</b>	<b>4:00</b>	<b>4:54</b>	<b>1:15</b>	<b>1:45</b>	<b>5:39</b>	<b>7:30</b>	<b>9:35</b>	<b>11:00</b>	<b>9:50</b>
Sat	11	3:25	4:00	4:55	1:15	2:00	5:38	7:30	9:34	10:59	9:49
Sun	12	3:26	4:00	4:56	1:16	2:00	5:38	7:30	9:33	10:58	9:48
Mon	13	3:27	4:30	4:57	1:16	1:30	5:38	7:30	9:32	10:57	9:47
Tue	14	3:27	4:30	4:59	1:16	1:30	5:37	7:30	9:31	10:56	9:46
Wed	15	3:28	4:30	5:00	1:16	1:30	5:37	7:30	9:30	10:55	9:45
Thu	16	3:29	4:30	5:01	1:16	1:30	5:37	7:30	9:29	10:54	9:44
<b>Fri</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>3:30</b>	<b>4:30</b>	<b>5:03</b>	<b>1:16</b>	<b>1:45</b>	<b>5:36</b>	<b>7:30</b>	<b>9:28</b>	<b>10:53</b>	<b>9:43</b>
Sat	18	3:31	4:30	5:04	1:16	2:00	5:36	7:30	9:26	10:51	9:41
Sun	19	3:31	4:30	5:05	1:16	2:00	5:36	7:30	9:25	10:50	9:40
Mon	20	3:31	4:30	5:05	1:16	1:30	5:36	7:30	9:25	10:50	9:40
Tue	21	3:33	4:30	5:08	1:16	1:30	5:35	7:30	9:22	10:47	9:37
Wed	22	3:34	4:30	5:10	1:16	1:30	5:34	7:30	9:21	10:46	9:36
Thu	23	3:35	4:30	5:11	1:16	1:30	5:34	7:30	9:19	10:44	9:34
<b>Fri</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>3:36</b>	<b>4:30</b>	<b>5:13</b>	<b>1:16</b>	<b>1:45</b>	<b>5:33</b>	<b>7:30</b>	<b>9:18</b>	<b>10:43</b>	<b>9:33</b>
Sat	25	3:37	4:30	5:14	1:16	2:00	5:32	7:30	9:16	10:41	9:31
Sun	26	3:38	4:30	5:16	1:16	2:00	5:32	7:30	9:15	10:40	9:30
Mon	27	3:39	4:30	5:17	1:16	1:30	5:31	7:00	9:13	10:38	9:28
Tue	28	3:40	4:30	5:19	1:16	1:30	5:31	7:00	9:12	10:37	9:27
Wed	29	3:40	4:30	5:21	1:16	1:30	5:30	7:00	9:10	10:35	9:25
Thu	30	3:41	4:30	5:22	1:16	1:30	5:29	7:00	9:08	10:33	9:23
<b>Fri</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>3:42</b>	<b>4:30</b>	<b>5:24</b>	<b>1:16</b>	<b>1:45</b>	<b>5:28</b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>9:06</b>	<b>10:31</b>	<b>9:21</b>
Jumma Khutba will start at 1:15pm with Jama'at at 1:45pm. Maghrib and Isha will be combined until 2nd Aug. *Isha time guidance for those who do not wish to combine the prayers.											