

## “Declaring An Interest”

Dear Teacher,

The Anne Frank Trust UK is the partner organisation of the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam. We work throughout the UK to perpetuate the message of Anne Frank, and we encourage all schools to mark Anne Frank’s birthday each year in order to raise pupils’ awareness of the significance of her life and times. This assembly allows pupils to reflect on the power of one child’s story during a terrible time in history.

This year’s theme is the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Anne Frank Declaration and the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This assembly explores the impact and importance of that book, which came to be written in such extraordinary circumstances. More generally, Anne’s story may allow you to address problems in school, such as bullying, isolation and racism.

We recommend that this assembly is used in the week of Anne Frank Day (12<sup>th</sup> June) or near the anniversary date of the diary publication (25<sup>th</sup> June).

This assembly is suitable for class or year group use and fits well with KS 3 Citizenship / PSHE, Year 9 History and KS 3 and 4 English Literature.

We hope you enjoy using this assembly and please contact The Anne Frank Trust UK if you need any further information. We welcome and value your comments, so we would be very grateful if you could send an email to the education team to let us know how the assembly was used and received. For the development of our future projects, we would also like to know if you chose to adapt the assembly in any way. Thank you for your participation.



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# “Declaring An Interest”

## Themes and Aims of Assembly:

- Learning the story of Anne Frank
- Understanding the impact of Anne Frank’s diary
- Understanding the importance of Human Rights
- Understanding the consequences of prejudice
- Understanding the importance of respecting one another

## Approach:

- Teacher led with pupil reflection and some pupil involvement

## Delivery:

- Teacher in class or in hall

## Introduction:

Each year in the UK on June 12th, we mark Anne Frank’s birthday by calling this day “Anne Frank Day”. We try to remember Anne Frank and her legacy – everything her story can mean to us today. This year, we’re looking at human rights.

The reason we know so much about Anne Frank is because of her diary – which was first published as a book, in the Dutch language, in 1947. Millions of people have read the thoughts and hopes of one young girl and have been inspired by them. But why? Who was she? And why is her story so important? And what does her story have to do with us today? Anne Frank’s story is one of a loss of human rights, eventually leading to loss of life. We need to all understand why it is important to respect one another, and ensure we safeguard our rights as people – all different, but all equal.

## Assembly:

Today we’re going to have our assembly, and at the end of it, we’re going to all stand up together, and make a pledge. Let me tell you why.

You might have heard of a girl called Anne Frank. Anne Frank was born in Germany in 1929, she had two parents and a sister, Margot. Anne and her family were Jewish.

In Germany in the 1930s, a man named Adolf Hitler came to power. He was a dictator – he put himself in charge of nearly everything that happened in the country, and the citizens of Germany were not allowed to vote or complain or protest about what was

happening in the country. If they did, it was very likely they would be punished and imprisoned. Hitler's political party were called the Nazis.

In the mid 1930s, Hitler began to put in place rules and regulations which took away the rights of Jewish people – and other groups – and they began to find it very difficult to carry on their normal lives. Many of them were suffering from discrimination and were being isolated from the rest of their community.

Anne's father Otto, realised that the Nazis being in control of Germany was going to mean bad news for Jewish people, and so in 1934, he moved his family to another country, Holland.

Holland was a very accepting country, and lots of German Jews moved there to escape persecution. The Franks moved to the city of Amsterdam.

Hitler became more and more powerful, he wanted to rule other countries as well as Germany, so he began to invade other nations, and take them over. First he attacked Poland, and then other Western European nations such as France, Belgium and Holland. In May 1940, when Anne and her family had lived in Holland for six years, the Nazis arrived.

Very quickly, the same kinds of rules against Jewish people they had escaped from in Germany were put in to place in Holland. But by now, Hitler and the Nazis had begun to murder hundreds of thousands of Jews across Europe. Otto decided the family would go into hiding, and so they moved from their house to a secret building above and behind Otto's office. They stayed in this secret place for over two years, with five other people. While they were hiding, Anne wrote nearly every day in her diary, about day to day life, the funny things that happened, the scary things that happened. She also wrote about her feelings, changes that were happening to her as she grew older, her fights with her sister and mother. She was very opinionated and had something to say about nearly everything!

In August 1944, the eight people in hiding were discovered by the Nazis in the hiding place. Somebody had told them "there are Jews hiding in 263 Prinsengracht". They were taken away by the Nazis and Dutch police and were sent to prison camps. They were mistreated and starved, and worked like slaves. They began ill and weak, and within eight months of their arrests, all of them apart from Otto, had died at the hands of the Nazis. Why? Because they were Jewish. These deaths, and the deaths of six million other people across Europe in the 1930s and 1940s is called the Holocaust. Jewish people, black people, disabled people and gay people were all targeted. Also Roma gypsies, Jehovah's Witnesses and political opponents of the Nazis. Thousands of camps and prisons were established across the continent, some with dedicated systems designed to kill lots of people at once.

When Anne Frank was arrested, she wasn't allowed to take her things with her, and so her diary and notebooks were left behind. They were given to her father when he returned from the war. In 1947, they were published as a book, which is still being read by people all across the world. It is called *The Diary of a Young Girl*. Millions of people have read Anne's diary, and it has been translated into more than 70 languages.

After the war, when the Allied forces had discovered the extent of the crimes the Nazis had committed against so many people, representatives from many countries recognised the need to protect the innocent citizens of all nations from such atrocity.

So as a result of the Holocaust, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which has come to be regarded worldwide as one of the most important policy documents ever written, was created.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was created on December 10, 1948. Officials from the governments of 48 countries came together at the United Nations headquarters in Paris to commit to a set of principles about the value and dignity of all human life. The declaration is a list of basic rights that these people agreed were "inherent" and "equal" for all human beings.

The Universal Declaration says that we all have freedom and rights, regardless of our colour, creed, race or religion. It is true that many freedoms and rights can conflict with one another, but the Declaration aims to protect people and keep them from harm, or death.

It is now 60 years since the creation of that Declaration, and although so many countries committed to it, many people in the world still face abuse and harm because of something that makes them different, like their religion, race or where they live. Even in this country, people are facing prejudice and discrimination.

In 1998, ten years ago, The Anne Frank Declaration was created. It was created to echo some of the Universal Declaration, but also to honour the memory of Anne Frank. Anne Frank is one of millions of children who have been frightened, hurt or killed in wars and conflicts around the world. The Anne Frank Declaration is not as famous as the Universal Declaration, but it is a declaration that every single person – here in this room – and across the country can sign up to.

Today, we're going to all make a pledge to follow the guidelines of the declaration in our live times, so that we can try and stop the suffering of other children and adults in the future:

***All stand and listen***

***Teacher or pupil reads:***

**Anne Frank Declaration:**

***Anne Frank is a symbol of the millions of innocent children who have been victims of persecution. Anne's life and death show us what can happen when prejudice and hatred go unchallenged. And because prejudice and hatred harm us all, we declare that:***

***We will stand up for what is right and speak out against what is unfair and wrong***

***We will try to defend those who cannot defend themselves***

***We will strive for a world in which our differences will make no difference - a world in which everyone is treated fairly and has an equal chance in life***

***Teacher:***

*The Anne Frank Declaration is an inspiration to us all to work for a better world,  
where we respect and care about one another.*