



## **Beacon Schools at launch of Genocide Education Report**

Students from two UCL Beacon Schools (Hampton School and Tapton School), along with their colleagues from Reach Academy Feltham and Pimlico Academy (among their Beacon School network hub) recently visited Westminster to launch a report on the status of genocide education.

Since September the students have surveyed almost eight hundred of their peers along with 82 teachers.

The students also interviewed genocide survivors as part of the project. James, part of the team, said: "Hearing a genocide survivor speak about their experiences was the single most moving and eye-opening talk of my life. I was inspired and quickly sought out a way to find out more about this topic."

The results of their survey were enlightening: almost eighty percent of young people have never heard of genocides that happened after the Holocaust. The research also reinforced the findings of the Centre for Holocaust Education's study which showed that students' understanding of the Holocaust is narrow and limited.

During the visit the group of students presented their report to Dr Tania Mathias MP, Stephen Twigg MP and Jeremy Lefroy MP as well as members of the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation. Importantly, there were also survivors Eric Murangwa and Safet Vukalic as well as representatives from organisations Waging Peace, Remember Srebrenica, the Holocaust Educational Trust in the audience.

"The project has allowed me not only to discover the truth about such events but has also inspired me to educate about the tragedies of the past in order to help prevent tragedies in the future. The topic of genocide is a phenomenal avenue through which powerful moral and educational messages can be used to positively influence society to be more understanding and involved in providing a stable future for the world."

Tim summarised his motivation for being part of the research team.



“I chose to take part in the genocide awareness scheme because genocide is still an ever-present problem and we must be made aware that it still poses a serious danger. I also have a personal reason in taking part, because genocide is a horrifying part of my country’s history so I understand better than most young people and know that in order for humanity to progress it must never happen again.”

Similarly, Seb spoke about the importance of the project

“I believe it is important for this project to happen as genocide is something that should be known about, especially among the younger generation as they are the ones who will be in charge of this country’s future...and will have the power to make sure that ‘Never Again’ actually happens.”