

# FACING HISTORY AND OURSELVES, Ltd. in ENGLAND

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For more than 30 years Facing History and Ourselves has been dedicated to teaching history to make a better future. Through rich resources, seminars, interactive methodology and rigorous history, teachers are enabled to help their students make connections between history and the issues they face in their own lives. Thoughtful reflection on events such as the Holocaust, Truth Commissions in South Africa and the development of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights provide young people with the opportunity to recognize the importance of civic participation and learn from the courage and resilience of others. Recently Facing History has published new resources that explore what it means to be British in an evolving UK (*see sidebar*).

Facing History offers a proven model for teaching history and ethics and helping teachers develop informed, compassionate, active, global citizens. Studies have shown that Facing History classes engage young people and motivate them to learn—critical factors in improving student achievement. Working with a network of over 50,000 educators from 120 countries, Facing History reaches approximately 1.9 million students every year.

To date, nearly 500 UK teachers have participated in Facing History, including 184 from 82 schools, universities, museums and NGOs who have been trained in week-long seminars. In Northern Ireland, Facing History works with schools and a wide range of strategic partners to achieve peaceful coexistence after decades of conflict.

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## SPOTLIGHT: TEACHERS FACE HISTORY, FIND THEMSELVES

In the summer of 2009, 35 teachers—half from schools in England including Notre Dame in Southwark, Harefield Academy, Townley Grammar and Woolwich Polytechnic School as well as NGO representatives from Beth Shalom and the Citizenship Foundation—and the others from Cambodia, South Africa, Rwanda, Northern Ireland, Sweden, Uganda and Mexico, came together for a week of rigorous study of *Facing History and Ourselves: Holocaust and Human Behaviour*, Facing History's core resource. In exploring the choices made by individuals in this powerful history, many gained new insight into strategies for facing their own violent pasts. Claire Mullord, head of citizenship at Woolwich Polytechnic School, said about the seminar: 'It was an incredibly all-encompassing, highly educational and very emotional week. It gave me a real understanding of why this work is so important.'



## NEW PUBLICATIONS

As debates about national identity and integration have taken on increased urgency, Facing History and Ourselves introduces **IDENTITY AND BELONGING IN A CHANGING GREAT BRITAIN**, a critical and relevant resource for British educators who are promoting community cohesion.



**WHAT DO WE DO WITH A DIFFERENCE? FRANCE AND THE DEBATE OVER HEADSCARVES IN SCHOOLS** explores the role of religion

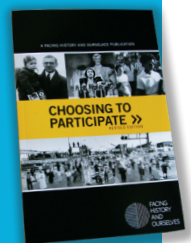
in public life by examining the French Republican model of assimilation.



**STORIES OF IDENTITY:**

**RELIGION, MIGRATION, AND BELONGING IN A CHANGING WORLD** reflects the way that migration affects personal identity.

**CHOOSING TO PARTICIPATE** focuses on civic choices people make about themselves and others. Readings illustrate that the decisions people make may not seem important at the time, but little by little they shape us as individuals and responsible global citizens.



For a complete list of our publications, visit [facinghistory.org/resources/publications](http://facinghistory.org/resources/publications).

## SKINNERS' COMPANY'S SCHOOL FOR GIRLS IN HACKNEY

This school offers a 12-week Holocaust and Human Behaviour course as a way to reduce prejudice and discrimination and help students reflect on their own choices as they negotiate the tensions and misconceptions prevalent in their community. The school is in a very multi-cultural area and is a voluntary aided comprehensive school with a diverse population. Eighty-five percent of the students at Skinner speak English as their second language and come from a wide range of religious and ethnic backgrounds. Teachers Adam O'Brien and Rebecca Warren created the course for year 9 students in history and citizenship. Two of their students reflect:

Fella Cherid, "Learning about the Holocaust helped me understand the history of the Jewish people who live in our community. It (the Holocaust) had a big impact on me and through how the teachers taught it I learnt to think about what makes us human and what makes us the same."

Zahra Bajuny, "Learning about the Rwandan genocide deeply affected me. . . . Having learnt how the UN and the international community abandoned Rwanda, I felt betrayed . . . . Coming from Kenya but brought up in the UK, I had the idea that places like Rwanda were places that you can't help out . . . and what has it got to do with me? In the future, I want to work for an organization like the EU or the UN so that . . . I can take what I have learnt and influence the decisions so we don't repeat mistakes like Rwanda again."



TEACHER REBECCA WARREN PICTURED WITH HER STUDENTS.

## MY ENGLAND: CONFESSIONS OF A MODERATE MUSLIM

On 19 November, Guardian journalist, BBC documentary filmmaker, and author of the critically acclaimed memoir *Greetings from Bury Park*, Sarfraz Manzoor discussed growing up as a young Muslim living in Britain. Manzoor provided cross-cultural insights that have shaped his understanding of what it means to be British. *My England* was hosted by Deutsche Bank.



For up-to-date information about programmes visit, [www.facinghistory.org/offices/london](http://www.facinghistory.org/offices/london)

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED

\* Attend one of our EVENTS. For up-to-date information about programmes please visit [www.facinghistory.org/offices/london](http://www.facinghistory.org/offices/london)

\* Visit [WWW.FACINGHISTORY.ORG](http://WWW.FACINGHISTORY.ORG) to learn more about Facing History's international work

\* GIVE A GIFT to Facing History and Ourselves Ltd. Charity Number 1103592

\* CONTACT Senior Director Judy Wise at [Judy\\_Wise@facing.org](mailto:Judy_Wise@facing.org)