

Birmingham City Council

City Council

11 July 2023



Subject: Srebrenica Memorial Day
Report of: Council Business Management Committee
Report author: Ben Patel Sadler
Senior Committee Manager
Ben.Patel-Sadler@birmingham.gov.uk

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 On the anniversary of the Srebrenica massacre, City Council are presented with a cross-party Motion for their consideration and approval.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the City Council agrees to support the bullet points as outlined in the Motion included in this report.

3 Background

- 3.1 At the meeting of the Council Business Management Committee held on 9 May 2023, Councillor Ian Ward informed Members that Councillor Martin Brooks had requested a cross-party Motion come to the meeting of the Council on 11 July 2023, to raise awareness of hate and genocide, as this was the anniversary of the Srebrenica massacre. It was agreed by the Committee that the Motion warranted a standalone agenda item due to the subject and cross-party nature and it was therefore scheduled for consideration at this meeting.
- 3.2 Following discussions held by the Committee on 9 May 2023 and then again at the meeting on 30 May 2023, the wording of the cross-party Motion was agreed by the Leaders of the Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrat Groups.

- 3.3 It was agreed by all Group Leaders that Councillor Martin Brooks be allocated a maximum of 7 minutes to move the Motion.
- 3.4 It was further agreed by all Group Leaders that standing orders be suspended for this item to allow the speakers from all Groups a maximum of 7 minutes each to second the Motion.
- 3.5 The remaining time allocated to the item will provide other Members with an opportunity to speak (up to a maximum of 4 minutes each) and to provide Councillor Martin Brooks with a maximum of 5 minutes to sum up.

4 Srebrenica Memorial Day – Birmingham City Council Motion

- 4.1 “This Council notes that today (Tuesday 11 July) is Srebrenica Memorial Day which marks the 28th anniversary of the genocide in Bosnia in which over 8,000 Bosnian Muslims were systematically murdered on the basis of their identity over the space of just a few days in July 1995 in what was the worst atrocity on European soil since the Second World War.

This Council therefore:

- Supports the work of communities and schools across Birmingham to tackle hatred and intolerance by raising awareness and educating people about the genocide that took place in Srebrenica;
- Pledges to use the lessons from Srebrenica to combat all forms of prejudice and discrimination in the city that targets anyone because of their religion, ethnicity, gender, sexuality or any other characteristic;
- Commends the work of Remembering Srebrenica, who through organising memorial events and activities which commemorate the victims and educate people of the tragic consequences if hate is allowed to flourish unchecked, have united people from different backgrounds to help build a more cohesive Birmingham and celebrate the diversity that enriches our city”.