

## Holocaust Memorial Day 2020

This year on 27<sup>th</sup> January was the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp. This year also marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the genocide in Bosnia.

As usual Croydon put on an event at the Town Hall. Firstly, the Mayor read a pledge from the Council and led people in lighting a candle. We also heard a speech from the Croydon Synagogue. Following this was the event in the Council Chambers. The mayor made a short speech and the proceedings were introduced by Councillor Ali, there were presentations from Oasis Coulsdon and Riddlesdown Collegiate schools with music provided by Whitgift and Trinity schools. Croydon SACRE had run an essay competition and the winners read their essays on the theme of Stand Together. They were Gurinayat Kaur and Gurmehek Kaur, twins from Oasis Coulsdon, while the Primary school winner was Felix from St Peters Primary.

The main speaker was Mr Safet Vukalic who related his experiences as a 16-year-old in Bosnia when all the male members of his family were taken to concentration camps. He begged the audience to stand together in the future and speak out against injustice. Finally, 12 leaders of faiths in Croydon Stood Together led by Rabbi Natan Asmoucha who read the national prayer for Holocaust day. Each leader spoke about the importance of community and working together in support of each other.



