

Amerjit Basi
Department for Education
By email: amerjit.basi@education.gov.uk

12 November 2025

Dear Amerjit Basi,

RE: Request for meeting

We are writing to request a meeting to explore ways of including the Roma experiences of the Holocaust in the national curriculum.

In 2024, at the Holocaust Education Trust's annual dinner, the PM pledged to allocate at least £2.2 million to their work and to keep Holocaust education in the national curriculum. In response, we wrote to the PM on the 20 November 2024 (please see letter attached).

Catherine McKinnell, then Minister for School Standards, replied to this letter on the 6 January 2025 confirming that the Department of Education was providing £500,000 and £2 million in funding to the UCL centre for Holocaust Education (CfHE) and the Holocaust Education Trust (HET) respectively (please see letter attached). The minister also shared your contact details, should we wish to discuss the matter further.

Through our work with civil society organisations, we understand there has been positive interaction with the CfHE. However, they stated that regrettably the funding available to them limits their capacity to build specialised programmes on the Genocide of the Roma. We were encouraged that Ruth-Anne Lenga in her capacity as a member of IHRA, co-authored the IHRA's Recommendations for Teaching and Learning about the Persecution and Genocide of the Roma During the Nazi Era - an extensive 2 year IHRA project. UCL have the expertise and commitment to work with civil society organisations such as Roma Support Group (who have done extensive work on this), but would apparently need additional funding to expand beyond what the Centre already offers.

Sally Sealey, Chief of Staff to the UK's Post Holocaust Issues Envoy, discussed this with HET on behalf of the Roma Support Group and was informed that funds focus on the experience of the Jewish people with limited focus on the experience of all other victims.

We do acknowledge that both organisations try to include where possible the history of the Genocide of the Roma but it needs its own finance stream in order to expand

into this area of specialism and do it justice. The restriction of funding prevents the continuation and expansion of this vital work and ensuring that Roma experiences during the Holocaust are better represented in the national curriculum.

We want to work with your department, alongside civil society organisations, to address this issue and discuss with you how the DfE can help support organisations to include the Genocide of the Roma accurately and authentically and kindly request a meeting with you to explore how to do so.

Yours sincerely,



Mary Kelly Foy MP and Baroness Janet Whitaker and Mary Foy MP
Chair and Co-chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Gypsies, Travellers and Roma