



This conviction that Anne's story has special meaning for present-day youth of her age was reinforced a few weeks ago by the words of the principal of Wellington East Girls' College, Gael Ashworth, when she spoke at the opening of the new Anne Frank Memorial in Wellington, which is situated next to the college.

Gael said:

An entry from Anne's diary dated April 11th 1944, reads:<sup>[11 SEP]</sup> "Let me be myself, then I am satisfied. I know that I'm a woman, a woman with inward strength and plenty of courage". She was 14 years of age and there is no doubt that she was a *wahine toa* demonstrating great bravery, courage and tenacity of spirit.

Our young people are also faced with many challenges; and will themselves need to be courageous and strong. Although they also live in a time of uncertainty for the future, I feel heartened and reassured by their response to step forward and represent their generation. They have a deep understanding of the issues and are brave enough to engage in whatever ways they can. They show *aroha* and compassion for others and are accepting of difference and diversity. They are social activists and are prepared to speak out and take action against injustice. It is these actions that can stifle the ignorance and prejudice that lead to the type of discrimination and persecution that Anne experienced.

Anne was one individual Jewish girl among the millions who died in many different and horrible ways during the years of the Shoah – the Holocaust – but because we know her so fully through her diary entries, we mourn her death as much as we remember and mourn the deaths of the millions. So much for Stalin's saying.

As Jews we are proud that Anne wrote about and celebrated Jewish values. She spoke to Kitty about the sad history of the persecution of the Jews for two thousand years; she was also aware of the likelihood of her own personal fate.

At the core of the story of Anne Frank stands the existence, since pre-Christian times, of antisemitism, called "the longest hatred." For Jews this can never be forgotten or diminished. We experience it at school and in different forms throughout our lives. Now we see it rising again in a Europe which, unhappily, seems to have forgotten that Europe and European-dominated North Africa is where the Holocaust largely took place. And we see antisemitism growing here in Aotearoa New Zealand, too.

That is what we have to learn from this exhibition – even in a civilized country, antisemitism can start with hate speech and end in genocide.

Nobody in our own country should have to experience prejudice, discrimination or racism – because they are disabled, have a different colour or sexuality, or belong to another ethnic community or religious community. We have seen the tragedy of the massacre of Muslims in Christchurch – it must never happen again.

Thank you, Boyd, *heel erg bedankt*, for conceiving and inspiring these projects – the Anne Frank exhibition tours, the publication of her diary translated into Te Reo Māori, the memorial in a Wellington park. Thank you for spreading so widely, and now bringing to Nelson, the same lesson that the Holocaust Centre of New Zealand promotes – understand that the Holocaust happened and how it happened, and that genocides can happen again – but also, as Anne did, as Gael Ashworth repeated, see the good in everyone, that each one of us has the choice and the power to stand up against hate, bullying and racism, and not be a bystander.

Thank you, ngā mihi nui.