**Executive Summary**

This report presents the key learning and related evidence of the evaluation of the In Our Hands Project delivered by the National Holocaust Centre between September 2012 and March 2015.

The In Our Hands project used an outreach model to deliver learning to children, young people and parents regarding difference. The project worked through educational institutions (Children’s Centres, primary and secondary schools) in communities in Nottinghamshire where concerns existed regarding attitudes towards people of difference, with the goal of making meaningful connections for participants between a study of the events and truths of the Holocaust with the day-to-day lives of families, and the changes being experienced in the communities in which they live.

The core model of delivery used within the project was a set of workshop activities delivered in schools which sandwich a visit to the National Holocaust Centre. This enabled both preparatory work to be undertaken prior to the visit, and reflective follow up work after the visit. The National Holocaust Centre developed materials and teaching practice throughout the project in partnership with the schools and settings worked with. The teaching resources and materials focus on identity and belonging (pre-visit) and connecting learning about the Holocaust to the present day and the communities in which participants live (post-visit).

The project was developed as a pilot to enable the National Holocaust Centre to assess the potential of using an outreach model to deliver values based education that offers Holocaust focused learning and an exploration of difference and otherness which aims to influence the attitudes and behaviour of participating children, young people and parents.

This report provides feedback and analysis on the impact of the project for children and young people, for parents and within communities in which the project worked. The report also considers the learning identified regarding the methods and approaches used, and the efficacy of the outreach model around which delivery was structured.

**The report concludes that the In Our Hands project has been a credible and effective piece of value driven community education that has positively influenced the attitudes of children and young people towards people they see as different to them. The report also concludes that the basic structure of the project has been demonstrated as a coherent model of learning provision, which has potential for ongoing use and development by the National Holocaust Centre alongside partners in education, and community and social development.**

The report demonstrates that the project has enabled children, young people and parents to learn about difference, and provides solid quantitative and qualitative evidence that children and young people’s attitudes towards people who are different to them (in particular people with a different skin colour and people who have come here to live from other countries) have been positively influenced through involvement in the project. The evaluation has evidenced an openness from children and young people to finding out new things about people who are different to them, and also identified concerns and anxieties held by children regarding difference (the strongest of which was that people who were different would be bullies). The report also identifies that strong negative views are held by some children and young people towards specific cultural and ethnic groups. The evidence indicates that the project has provided good opportunities for learning regarding the Holocaust, and enabled a greater understanding of the realities of the Holocaust for many participants.

The evaluation has validated the basic structure and approach to delivery as an effective means of engaging schools and generating opportunities for learning. The visit to the National Holocaust Centre has been identified as an essential part of that structure, and affirmed that the elements most valued by children, young people and parents are the experience of the two principle exhibits at the Centre and meeting a Holocaust survivor. The evaluation has also provided good evidence that the package of teaching materials is of a high quality in terms of content, approach to delivery and connectivity to the curriculum followed by schools, and identified a number of success factors in partnership working with schools that can be used to shape future practice.

The report illustrates the logistical challenges involved in the delivery of a project such as In Our Hands. These include the practical realities of delivery alongside schools, the challenges of delivering effective parental engagement (particularly in reaching those less likely to see the value of programmes such as this), and the level of work involved in creating good quality community based learning. The report affirms the value and potential of engaging parents and communities, and also identifies the need for strong partnerships with other providers in communities as necessary in realising that potential.