



**ANNE FRANK**  
NEW ZEALAND



### **'LET ME BE MYSELF'**

The life story of Anne Frank 'Let me be myself and then I am satisfied,' Anne Frank wrote in her diary on 11 April 1944. By that time, she had been in hiding in Amsterdam for almost two years. The Second World War was raging and the Netherlands had been occupied by Germany since May 1940. In order to escape persecution by the Nazis, Anne, her sister, and her parents had gone into hiding in the Secret Annex, an unused part of her father's business premises.

In the Secret Annex, Anne dreamed of becoming a writer and journalist after the war. She spent a lot of time thinking about the war and the world around her. On 15 July 1944, Anne wrote in her diary: 'it's difficult in times like these: ideals, dreams and cherished hopes rise within us, only to be crushed by grim reality.'

To the Nazis, Anne Frank was just Jewish. They used their racial laws to determine who was Jewish and therefore denied the right to live. The anti-Semitism of the Nazis resulted in the Holocaust: the murder of six million Jewish men, women, and children. Anne Frank was one of them. The first part of this exhibition centres on her life story. Ours is another age.

The differences between then and now are huge, but discrimination and exclusion did not end with the Second World War. In the second part of the exhibition, young people speak of the way they deal with these issues.

### **How do you prepare?**

You can prepare by reading or re-reading Anne Frank's diary and/or by watching a DVD called 'The Short Life of Anne Frank'.

You can also explore one of the websites of the Anne Frank House: [www.annefrank.org](http://www.annefrank.org)  
[www.annefrankguide.net](http://www.annefrankguide.net)

The Secret Annex online: [www.annefrank.org/en/Subsites/Home/](http://www.annefrank.org/en/Subsites/Home/)

The Anne Frank Timeline: [www.annefrank.org/en/Subsites/Timeline](http://www.annefrank.org/en/Subsites/Timeline)

### **What does a tour programme look like?**

Of course, it depends on the size of the group and the time available. Generally speaking, it works best to have around 15 people in each group. While the first group looks at the exhibition, the second group the second group starts in the contemporary section.

The closing section of the tour provides opportunity for reflection: the members of the group may discuss what surprised them in the exhibition, what they learned about others or about themselves,

or what really struck a chord. Be realistic about the amount of information you can convey and the discussions you can initiate. You won't have time to go into all of the information provided on every panel. You have to set priorities. Do what can be done, and know that you can't do everything. Take your time to discuss a few topics rather than touch on too many topics and leave them unfinished. Otherwise, the tour will become too complicated for the group and you may lose their attention.

## **The Exhibition**

The exhibition has two versions with the same content: a version with separate panels and one large version. The separate panel version consists of 34 panels: 25 in the historical part, and 9 in the contemporary part. The large version consists of 13 panels, 4 showcases with objects and a room.

The historical part section focuses on Anne's life, while the contemporary section tells the stories of 6 young people and the way they deal with prejudice, discrimination and exclusion in society today

## **Contemporary Section**

This part of the exhibition is about the here and now. You can use it to discuss your own opinions and experiences. On the panels, you will get to meet six young people. They are all confronted with prejudice and discrimination, like Anne Frank was. These young people do not live in times of war. By watching, listening and talking about the young people on the panels, you will find out more about exclusion, prejudice and discrimination, and how they work. One of the goals of the exhibition is for you to start thinking about things you can do to prevent prejudice and discrimination, and how to discuss this with other young people

## **Resources**

To assist educators is a series of activities that can be used prior, during and after your tour of the exhibition. There is also a section which allows the educators, peer guides or someone leading the tour to ask questions of the students, with guided prompts/questions for each of the panels, to get the students reflecting on what they are looking at.

These resources are designed to help in a variety of cross-curricular classrooms and used as a guide only.

Should you have any questions about the material or assistance that you may need when educating the students on Anne Frank or the Holocaust please get in touch directly with Chris Harris, National Director of Education for the Holocaust Centre of New Zealand/Anne Frank NZ, on [education@holocaustcentre.org.nz](mailto:education@holocaustcentre.org.nz) or 027 292 8163.