



mnibus

Omnibus – all encompassing, for all, for everyone

June 2015
Edition

Supporting
 REMEMBERING
SREBRENICA

WE ARE BACK!

After some time away we are pleased to announce that *Omnibus* is back!

We are even more pleased to be able to tell you that after 4 years of being a part time service CACH is now available 5 days a week! It is a testament to the work that we do that our partners and funders have supported this development.

Also - we are now covering 3 more districts of Staffordshire so as a reminder to our regular readers and those who are new to *Omnibus* we now cover:

Cannock Chase District
East Staffordshire
Lichfield District
Stafford Borough
South Staffordshire
Tamworth Borough

If you live, or work, in any of these areas please make sure that we are publicised in public spaces and venues and if not - let us know and we'll soon get our posters and leaflets out to you.

DIARY DATES 2015



18th June - 17th July [Ramadan](#) is a month of fasting during which Muslims work on becoming better human beings by giving up bad habits and praying more. They fast from dawn till sunset to show self-restraint and remind themselves of the plight of the poor. The month of fasting ends with the festival of Eid-ul-Fitr on 18th July

15th August [The Feast of Assumption](#) commemorates the death of Jesus' Mother Mary and is mainly celebrated by Roman Catholic Christians.

13th - 15th September [Rosh Hashanah](#) is the Jewish New Year when Jews believe Earth was created.

...and the winner is...



Hifsa Haroon-Iqbal MBE DL and Anna McLauchlan of CACH with Andy Woodfield of PWC and Mark Shrimpton of Disability Rights UK.
Photo Jean-Pierre Magloire Inspiring Photography

For those of you who do not know... where have you been?! In the last couple of years CACH has seen some fantastic successes, most notably winning a [National Diversity Award](#)! Our competition was 4,500 other nominees and within the top 3 were two very impressive organisations working in very different ways. One was a radio station in Liverpool, [KCC Live](#), and the other was an anti-bullying charity in Brighton called [Ditch the Label](#). Whilst we couldn't share the award what we do share is a common goal to promote diversity and equality and that is what these awards are all about!

You can see our moment of fame - caught on camera [here!](#) (We recommend you watch the whole thing of course but we are on it around 33/34 minutes).

Chase against crimes of hate



Out and About

As always we have been out and about in communities making sure those in need of our services are aware of us. Here are just some of the places we have visited since our last instalment of *Omnibus*:

- *Microsoft HQ-London
- * South Staffs College
- * Mencap Service User Groups*
- *Speaking Up Day
- * St Mary's Primary School
- * Cardinal Griffin High School*
- *Stafford College
- * Stafford Police Cadets
- * Local Policing Teams
- * [Cannock Radio](#)*





REMEMBERING SREBRENICA

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide in Bosnia. Whilst this atrocity took place in Europe and within living memory for most, it is one of the lesser known and understood genocides,

The Bosnian war (which was initially a territorial conflict following the breakup of Yugoslavia) led to the planned murder of more than 8,000 Bosniaks (Bosnian Muslims). The ethnic cleansing campaign was carried out by Bosnian Serbs on the order of Radovan Karadžić, co-founder of the Serb Democratic Party. Crimes, including unlawful confinement, murder, sexual assault, torture, beating and robbery were carried out against people who had lived peacefully together for generations.

At our AGM in June we were fortunate enough to have Waqar Azmi, CEO of [Remembering Srebrenica](#), come and talk to us about their work and how to [get involved](#) in ensuring the genocide of Srebrenica is not forgotten. Dr Azmi says on their website:

“I grew up with the harrowing scenes of the war in Bosnia on our television screens - watching neighbour turn against neighbour, friend against friend, ethnicity against ethnicity. I will never forget the [Omarska concentration camp](#), and that ethnic cleansing, systematic mass rape and genocide were all happening in Europe. These were the darkest moments in our lifetime and we owe it to the victims to learn the lesson of Srebrenica: that the evil of hatred, racism and bigotry must be confronted if we are to create a better and safer society for all.”



A mourner at the graves of those killed in the genocide.

For more information see ‘The Impact of Hate’ on page 4 for a survivor’s experience and visit the Remember Srebrenica [website](#).



The *impact* of HATE

Nedžad Advić tells his story.

Early in the spring 1992, our house was burnt and destroyed by Serb soldiers. My family escaped and after months of hiding in the woods, we took shelter in Srebrenica in March 1993.

We lived in difficult conditions and it was a period of starvation. Often we went to seek food all around Srebrenica in the burnt and destroyed villages. We lived this way for 2 years. In July 1995 we were forced to flee again, taking cover in the woods and hills around Srebrenica.

Having lost my father along the way we eventually gave ourselves up. Some 2,000 men and boys were loaded onto lorries and taken to their death.

We were tortured and dying for a drop of water. Before execution, we were forced to take off our clothes. One of the soldiers tied our hands. At that moment I, a 17-year-old boy, realised it was the end. I was trying to hide on the lorry behind the men wishing to live a few more seconds. Finally, I had to jump out. We were told to find a place and lined up, five by five.

I thought that I would die fast without suffering. Thinking that my mum would never know where I finished they began to shoot us in our backs. I did not know whether I lost consciousness, but I lay on my stomach bleeding and trembling. I was shot in my stomach and right arm. The shooting continued and I watched the lines of people falling down. I was dying too in terrible pain and had no strength to call them to kill me. I said to myself: "Oh my God, why don't I die?" The pain was unbearable.

It was midnight and the lorry moved away. Trying to raise my head I noticed a man who was moving. I asked him: "Are you alive?" He answered: "Yes, come to untie me." We succeeded in untying one another and avoided the next lorry arriving.

After days of suffering, wandering through the woods, hiding in the streams, sleeping in the grave-yards, crawling with my terrible pain we managed to reach the territory under Bosnian government control. The man who saved me lives today far away from Bosnia. I returned to Srebrenica in 2007.

Source Interview: Remembering Srebrenica.



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If you have experienced or witnessed a hate crime or just want more information about CACH please do not hesitate to get in touch on admin@cachpartnership.org.uk or 0797 149 7988 <http://www.cachpartnership.org.uk>