

Message from the Jo Cox Foundation

The world today is witnessing huge political and cultural shifts – one of these is the rise of extremism. Extremism in all its forms presents those working with children and young people with the challenge of how to have responsible, honest and caring conversations with children.

Long before the act of hatred that took Jo Cox from us, Jo was concerned about what was happening to tolerance in our world. Acts of extremism and hate are designed to divide us but Jo believed we are stronger when we unite around the things that we hold in common.

Jo spent a lot of her time as an MP in schools in her home constituency of Yorkshire talking about her vision for a fairer, kinder and more tolerant world. These values are only as strong as the foundations underlying them and the scaffolding that we create. Jo believed that values and beliefs are shaped from the youngest age – children and young people can and should be equipped with the confidence to stand up for these values.

Jo really did live by the conviction that we have ‘more in common than that which divides us.’ As this book also shows, it is this phrase that can and should guide conversations with children about extremism in all its forms.

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