



The Church of Scotland

MODERATOR OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

30 June 2025

This below is being sent to: Presbytery Clerks, Ministers, OLMs & Auxiliaries, Interim Moderators & Locums, Readers, the Diaconate, MDS, Ministry Candidates & Probationers, and Session Clerks

Dear Friends,

On 8 May we commemorated 80 years since VE Day and the ending of the Second World War in Europe. In August we'll be remembering 80 years since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the 80th anniversary of VJ Day. VE Day and VJ Day. Days of celebration. The long, dark years of war were at an end.

Yet, in the words of the poet Steve Turner,

*History repeats itself.
Has to.
Nobody listens.*

He's so right. We're still living in a world of war and fear, inhumanity and horror. We haven't learned the lessons of history.

There's another anniversary coming up. Friday 11 July is Srebrenica Memorial Day, 30 years since the genocide in Srebrenica.

*30 years ago, the Bosnian war ripped apart a multi-ethnic country in the heart of Europe. 100,000 people were killed. No village, town or family was unaffected. The single worst atrocity happened in the town of Srebrenica in July 1995. Over 8,000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys were systematically murdered by Serb forces. This genocide was the worst atrocity in Europe since the Holocaust. Genocide does not happen overnight. Politicians and others spread fear and hatred, breaking apart decades of trust in communities, turning neighbour against neighbour. In Bosnia, and many other places, the world did too little, too late to prevent or stop this.
(Beyond Srebrenica)*

We need to learn the lessons of history. Please take time to remember Srebrenica this weekend.

Pray for those who still bear the scars of war.

Pray that the dignity and worth of each individual will be recognised and valued.

Pray for peace in our world today.

Resources are available from **Beyond Srebrenica**, a charity that promotes awareness of the Srebrenica genocide and wider atrocities against the Bosnian population.

<https://srebrenica.scot/welcome/>

Yours in Christ,

Rt Rev Rosie Frew
Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland

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121 George Street • Edinburgh, EH2 4YN

Tel: 0131 225 5722 • **Email:** moderator@churchofscotland.org.uk • **Web:** www.churchofscotland.org.uk

Scottish Charity Number: SC011353