

# **COMBAT STRESS 100**

## **LEARNING RESOURCE 5a PTSD & MORAL INJURY**

**Davina & The Bosnian War  
by students from  
Convent of Jesus & Mary Language College**

## **GEMMA**

### **The Bosnian War 1992-1995**

The Yugoslav Wars were a series of separate but ethnic conflicts – wars of independence and insurgencies - fought in the former Yugoslavia from 1991-2001, which led to the breakup of the Yugoslav state in 1992.

The Bosnian War was part of the breakup of Yugoslavia. The Bosnian War was characterised by bitter fighting, indiscriminate shelling of cities and towns, ethnic cleansing and systematic mass rape, mainly perpetrated by Serb – and to a lesser extent Croat and Bosnian – forces.

The UK agreed to join the UN force to protect humanitarian convoys in Bosnia. The British soldiers were first deployed to Bosnia in 1992 - during the country's vicious civil war. They were sent as peacekeepers and to protect the ones being persecuted.

### **Students meet with and interview Davina**

**March 2020**

\* *There is no transcript for this interview*

## **DAVINA**

### **Extract from the 'Combat Stress 100' film**

It was an experience. Sometimes you saw people who hated you. Sometimes you saw people who would look at you with so much hate that would make your stomach clench because you'd think, "God, you really would just destroy me if you could." Then you'd get people that would come out of their homes or shops and like a woman shut the door of her shop and I thought, what the hell's going on? It was a little local shop we would go to and she held both my hands and thanked me for being there. Just thanked us for keeping her safe and told us that she slept better because she knew we were there. I related a lot to what she said, because I remember my time in Ireland when I lived there and obviously with the terrorists and all that, knowing the police and army were there, it did make you sleep better. I had one incident when there was a little kid-

**Interviewer:** Are you all right?

**Davina:** Sorry. I've got something in my eye.

**Interviewer:** Don't say anything you don't feel you want to say.

**Davina:** No, no, that's cool. This little kid he was starving. He'd lost his family and we weren't allowed to do anything, feed him or anything. I couldn't bear it. I'll probably get into trouble for even saying this now but I used to shove my lunch box out of the window so he could have it. Because I knew where I was going I'd get fed...I'd look at him and he just reminded me of me when I lived in Ireland. That desperate look, that empty look he had in his eyes, that he'd seen some terrible stuff.