PUBLIC INVITED TO TAKE PART IN LIGHTS OUT ON 4 AUGUST TO MARK CENTENARY OF THE OUTBREAK OF WAR

In one of the most ambitious UK-wide events ever organised, everyone in the UK is being invited to take part in LIGHTS OUT by turning off their lights from 10pm to 11pm on Monday 4 August and to leave on a single light or candle for a shared moment of reflection to mark the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War. Members of the public can take part in whatever way they choose, either at home or by going out to experience a LIGHTS OUT event in their local area.

The project is being organised by 14-18 NOW, the official cultural programme for the First World War Centenary Commemorations.

The inspiration for LIGHTS OUT comes from a famous remark made on the eve of the outbreak of war by the then Foreign Secretary, Sir Edward Grey: “The lamps are going out all over Europe; we shall not see them lit again in our life-time”. Britain declared war on Germany at 11pm on 4 August 1914 ushering in one of the darkest periods in our history.

The centenary will be marked by a series of events and services across the UK on 4 August in which members of the public are invited to participate. These range widely to include: the motorbike community of Portsmouth gathering at the Viewpoint and shining hundreds of headlights across the city; a special service at Bevis Marks Synagogue, the oldest synagogue in London; a projection of the night sky as it was on 3 August 1914 at Birmingham’s Thinktank Planetarium; a torch-lit procession at the Bowes Museum in Teesdale; and a candlelit vigil at a replica WW1 trench in Newtonabbey. In Piccadilly Circus, a “roll of honour” will be screened on the world-famous Piccadilly Lights, commemorating over 2,000 residents from Westminster who fought and died in the First World War.

Thousands of iconic buildings, landmarks and institutions across the UK have agreed to take part by turning off their lights at 10pm that evening. They include Blackpool Illuminations, the Houses of Parliament, Tate, the Eden Project, the Imperial War Museums, Wales Millennium Centre, Durham Cathedral, Gateshead Millennium Bridge, Old Trafford, Lincoln Castle and the National History Museum. Across the City of London a number of buildings and offices will go dark including St Pauls’ Cathedral and Bloomberg’s European headquarters.

British Embassies and High Commissions around the world will take part in LIGHTS OUT by lighting a candle at 11pm local time and posting pictures of their candles on Twitter. In this way, the image of the lit candle will travel around the world.
A BBC Late Night Prom will include a posthumous premiere from the late John Tavener, and the audience at the Royal Albert Hall will be invited to participate in LIGHTS OUT at the end of the performance.

The Royal British Legion is supporting LIGHTS OUT and has launched a campaign for at least one million candles to be lit across the UK. Other organisations supporting LIGHTS OUT include the Football Association, Women’s Institute, Marks & Spence, Lancashire County Cricket Club, Home Office and the British Library.

Four leading international artists have been commission by 14-18 NOW to create striking public artworks in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and England, as LIGHTS OUT focal points for each of the UK’s four nations. Each work takes the extinguishing of electric lights and the lighting of candles as a point of departure: Bombay-based artist Nalini Malani will present a large-scale video projection across the façade of the Scottish National Gallery in Edinburgh, commissioned with the Edinburgh Art Festival; Welsh artist Bedwyr William’s work will take the form of a large-scale light and sound installation presented at the site of the WW1 North Wales Memorial Arch in Bangor, commissioned with Artes Mundi; leading artist Bob and Roberta Smith’s new large-scale work at Belfast City Hall using thousands of candles will be created by a range of community based groups in Belfast, produced by Factotum. In London, a spectacular artwork will be revealed on 4 August at 10 pm.

Turner Prize-winning artist Jeremy Deller has created an original LIGHTS OUT artwork in the form of an app which is available for the public to download for free.

LIGHTS OUT complements the candlelit vigil service to be held in Westminster Abbey from 10pm to 11pm on 4 August.

The BBC will be including LIGHTS OUT as part of their World War One coverage on 4 August.

The 14-18 NOW programme is funded by £10 million granted from the National Lottery including The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and Arts Council England (ACE) which are contributing £5million each.

For details about LIGHTS OUT in your area, to see a full list of supporters, and to view the interactive map of events across the UK please go to:
1418NOW.org.uk/lightsout

National Press Enquiries:
Erica Bolton or Lara Delaney, Bolton & Quinn
6 Addison Avenue
London W11 4QR
Tel: 020 7221 5000
Email: erica@boltonquin.com / lara@boltonquinn.com

Regional Press Enquiries:
Anna Christoforou
Notes to Editors:

**14 -18 NOW, WW1 Centenary Art Commissions**
A programme of special commissions by leading artists from Britain and around the world to mark the centenary of the First World War as part of the UK’s official centenary commemorations. The programme will centre around three key moments: 4 August 2014 (Anniversary of the Declaration of War), July 2016 and November 2018. The first events will take place from June to August 2014. 14 -18 NOW is supported by the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund and Arts Council England, and by additional funders, including Bloomberg Philanthropies for Dazzle Ship London.

**First World War Centenary Partnership Programme**
14-18 NOW is a member of the First World War Centenary Partnership and an independent programme hosted within Imperial War Museums.

The First World War Centenary Partnership was established by IWM (Imperial War Museums) in 2010 and to date has over 2,500 members from across 45 countries. The Partnership is presenting a collective programme of activities and events to mark the centenary, developed at grass roots levels. This diverse and far-reaching programme has been developed to reflect how people want to remember, commemorate and debate the conflict in their own communities, in a way that is meaningful for them. 1914.org is the official website for the First World War Centenary Partnership. Throughout the centenary new events and activities will be added each week to the events calendar, produced in partnership with Culture 24.

**Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)**
Using money raised through the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) aims to make a lasting difference for heritage, people and communities across the UK and help build a resilient heritage economy. HLF has supported over 36,000 projects with £6bn across the UK www.hlf.org.uk

**Arts Council England**
Arts Council England champions, develops and invests in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people’s lives. Between 2010 and 2015, it will invest £1.9 billion of public money from government and an estimated £1.1 billion from the National Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country.

[www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk)