

SEDIN MUSTAFIĆ

- EASY TO READ LIFE STORY



HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY TRUST



Key words

Bosnia: A country in south east Europe.

Muslims: People who follow the religion of Islam.

War: A conflict between different countries or different groups within a country. Wars normally involve the use of weapons.

Srebrenica: A small mountain town in the east of Bosnia.

Refugees: People who have been forced to leave their country to escape danger.

Sedin was born in 1986 in **Bosnia**. He lived with his parents, grandparents and older sister. The family were **Muslims**. Sedin's father, Hamdija, worked away from home a lot. When he came back he brought presents. Sedin and his father both loved football and Sedin's favourite present was a rubber ball.

When Sedin was six, a **war** started in Bosnia and his family had to leave their home to try and get somewhere safer. They walked for days, sometimes through snow that came up to Sedin's waist.

Lots of other families were travelling like them. They slept in forests and didn't have enough warm clothes. They ate whatever they could find, such as mushrooms, leaves, fruit and snails.

Finally, Sedin and his family got to **Srebrenica**. People were told this was a 'safe area' where they could be protected from the war. Men had to go and live in one part, and women and children in another. They still didn't have enough to eat, but Sedin's father brought them food whenever he could.

In 1993, Sedin and his mother, sister and grandparents had the chance to go to a new, safer place called Tuzla. His father and grandfather had to stay behind. Sedin felt much less scared there and even received two letters from his father.

In July 1995, the Bosnian Serb army came into Srebrenica, even though it was marked out as a safe area for people. They killed 8,000 Muslim men and boys. Sedin's father was one of the people they killed.

After the war ended life was still very hard for Sedin and his family. There was not enough food and people were starving. Sedin's mother encouraged him to work hard at school, but he had to walk for several hours every day to get there.

When Sedin was 18 he met Selma - a Bosnian girl whose family had moved to the UK to escape the war. She was in Bosnia visiting family when they met. Sedin and Selma fell in love, and Sedin moved to the UK to be with her. They got married in 2007. They now have two children and have fostered young **refugees** for the past few years. Sedin still loves to play football and plays for a local team.



Sedin says 'When I first arrived in the UK, life was not easy as I didn't speak any English and had to start from the beginning. However, football and the community made it feel like my second home.'

Find out more...

Genocide in Bosnia: hmd.org.uk/bosnia

Other resources for educators: hmd.org.uk/educators

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Learning lessons from the past to create a safer, better future

SEDIN MUSTAFIĆ

- HANES BYWYD HAWDD I'W DDARLLEN



YMDDIRIEDOLAETH
DIWRNOD COFIO'R
HOLOCOST



Geiriau allweddol

Bosnia: Gwlad yn ne-ddwyrain Ewrop.

Mwslimiaid: Pobl sy'n dilyn crefydd Islam.

Rhyfel: Gwrthdaro rhwng gwahanol wledydd neu garfannau o fewn gwlad. Mae arfau'n cael eu defnyddio mewn rhyfeloedd gan amlaf.

Srebrenica: Tref fach fynyddig yn nwyrain Bosnia.

Ffoaduriaid: Pobl sydd wedi cael eu gorfodi i adael eu gwlad i ddianc rhag perygl.

Ganwyd Sedin ym 1986 ym **Mosnia**. Roedd yn byw gyda'i rieni, ei fam-gu a'i dad-cu, a'i chwaer hŷn. Roedd y teulu'n **Fwslimiaid**. Byddai Hamdija, tad Sedin, yn gweithio i ffwrdd o gartref eithaf tipyn. Pan fyddai'n dychwelyd, byddai'n dod ag anrhegion. Roedd Sedin a'i dad yn dwlu ar bêl-droed a hoff anrheg Sedin oedd pêl rwber.

Pan oedd Sedin yn chwech oed, dechreuodd **rhyfel** ym Mosnia a gorfodwyd ei deulu i adael eu cartref a mynd i rywle mwy diogel. Buont yn cerdded am ddiwrnodau, weithiau mewn eira a oedd yn cyrraedd canol Sedin.

Roedd llawer o deuluoedd eraill yn teithio gyda nhw. Roedden nhw'n cysgu yn y goedwig a doedd ganddyn nhw ddim digon o ddillad cynnes. Roedden nhw'n bwyta beth bynnag y gallen nhw ddod o hyd iddo, fel madarch, dail, ffrwythau a malwod.

O'r diwedd, cyrhaeddodd Sedin a'i deulu **Srebrenica**. Dywedwyd wrth bobl fod y dref yn 'ardal ddiogel' lle bydden nhw'n cael eu gwarchod rhag y rhyfel. Roedd rhaid i ddynion fynd i fyw mewn un rhan, a menywod a phlant mewn un arall. Doedd ganddyn nhw ddim digon o fwyd o hyd, ond roedd tad Sedin yn dod â bwyd iddyn nhw pryd bynnag y gallai.

Ym 1993, cafodd Sedin a'i fam, ei chwaer a'i fam-gu gyfle i fynd i rywle newydd, mwy diogel, sef Tuzla. Roedd rhaid i'w dad a'i dad-cu aros ar ôl. Roedd Sedin yn teimlo'n llawer mwy diogel yno ac fe wnaeth e hyd yn oed dderbyn dau lythyr gan ei dad.

Ym mis Gorffennaf 1995, daeth byddin Serbiaid Bosnia i Srebrenica, er bod y dref yn ardal ddiogel i bobl. Llofruddiwyd 8,000 o ddynion a bechgyn Mwslimaidd ganddyn nhw. Roedd tad Sedin yn un o'r rhai a laddwyd.

Ar ôl i'r rhyfel ddod i ben, roedd bywyd yn anodd iawn i Sedin a'i deulu o hyd. Doedd dim digon o fwyd ac roedd pobl yn newynu. Cafodd Sedin ei annog gan ei fam i weithio'n galed yn yr ysgol ond roedd rhaid iddo gerdded sawl awr y dydd i gyrraedd yr ysgol.

Pan oedd Sedin yn 18 oed, cyfarfu â Selma - merch Fosniaidd a oedd wedi symud i'r DU i ddianc rhag y rhyfel. Roedd hi ym Mosnia yn ymweld â'i theulu pan wnaethon nhw gyfarfod. Syrthiodd y ddau mewn cariad, a symudodd Sedin i'r DU i fod gyda hi. Priododd y ddau yn 2007. Bellach mae ganddyn nhw ddau o blant ac maen nhw wedi maethu **ffoaduriaid** ifanc yn y blynyddoedd diwethaf. Mae Sedin yn dwlu ar chwarae pêl-droed o hyd ac yn chwarae i dîm lleol.




Meddai Sedin, 'Pan gyrhaeddais i'r DU gyntaf, doedd bywyd ddim yn hawdd oherwydd doeddwn i ddim yn siarad Saesneg ac roedd rhaid i mi ddechrau o'r dechrau. Ond, diolch i bêl-droed a'r gymuned, fues i fawr o dro yn teimlo'n gartrefol yma.'

Am fwy o wybodaeth...

genocideiddio yn y Bosnia: hmd.org.uk/bosnia

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Dysgu gwersi o'r gorffennol er mwyn creu dyfodol gwell a mwy Diogel