

Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day takes place on 27 January each year. It's a time for everyone to pause to remember the millions of people who have been murdered or whose lives have been changed beyond recognition during the [Holocaust](#), [Nazi Persecution](#) and in subsequent genocides in [Cambodia](#), [Rwanda](#), [Bosnia](#) and [Darfur](#). On HMD we can honour the survivors of these regimes and challenge ourselves to use the lessons of their experience to inform our lives today. 27 January marks the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp.

HMD is a time when we seek to learn the lessons of the past and to recognise that genocide does not just take place on its own, it's a steady process which can begin if discrimination, racism and hatred are not checked and prevented. We're fortunate here in the UK; we are not at risk of genocide. However, discrimination has not ended, nor has the use of the language of hatred or exclusion. There is still much to do to create a safer future and HMD is an opportunity to start this process.

Kate Beckwith is our East of England Regional Support Worker at the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust. She is keen to support schools and colleges on Holocaust Memorial Day by signposting you to free educational resources:

How will your school be marking Holocaust Memorial Day this year?

The Trust has a huge range of resources for educators. You can search for a suitable resource by the genocide which they focus on, the age group they are suitable for, or the year they were produced. A huge variety of lesson plans, assemblies and classroom activities can be found at: <http://hmd.org.uk/content/for-educators#sthash.wRtstZjL.dpuf>.

Testimonies of Holocaust and genocide survivors give a unique insight into the experience of those who have suffered exclusion and persecution. Life stories can be found at: <http://hmd.org.uk/resources/life-stories#sthash.nEW0MAAn8.dpuf>. Easy read and sensory versions of life stories are also available.

The trust would be delighted if you were able to make use of some of their resources for your students.

It is not too late to order an HMDT activity pack (<http://hmd.org.uk/campaign-pack>) or individual items from the pack for free. We provide posters for display and our free About HMD Booklets are a great way to make sure that the participants take the messages of Holocaust Memorial Day away with them. You can order these in quantities of 50 from us and there is no upper limit on how many you can order. The booklets are suitable for all ages. You can download copies from the links below, or order copies by emailing enquiries@hmd.org.uk or calling 020 7785 7029.