

Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day is an annual event that takes place on January 27th. HMD was established in the UK in 2000 and the first HMD was held in January 2001. January 27th marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz- Birkenhau concentration camp by soviet troops in 1945. Holocaust Memorial Day seeks to change the future by learning from and remembering the past. Schools are encouraged to participate in Holocaust Memorial Day in order to remember the victims of the Holocaust and more recent genocides. It provides a framework to explore issues of morality, human reactions, individual experiences, responsibilities and larger questions of the role of governments and democracies. The government, including the Welsh Government, encourages schools and LAs to commemorate this event in some way.

The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust produces materials specific to the theme of Holocaust Memorial Day. The theme for 2016 is 'Don't Stand By'.

HMD's purpose is to commemorate the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and subsequent genocides – to remember. To build on the legacy of HMD 2015, the theme this year will be forward-looking with a clear call to action in the present: focusing on the contemporary relevance of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides, and considering individual responsibilities not to be bystanders to hate crime and prejudice, nor to international threats of genocide. It must be ensured that the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and subsequent genocides are not forgotten, trivialised or denied. Survivors, victims and refugees will remain at the centre of HMD; for many survivors, influencing behaviour today and relationships with others in our communities are crucial reasons for their commitment to speaking about their experiences. For some, the focus needs to be on individual acts of kindness that signify that a blind eye will not be turned when those around us face prejudice or victimisation.

Further information about the theme and free educational resources containing material suitable for primary to post 16 students is available online at <http://education.hmd.org.uk>