



Why Holocaust Memorial Day?

What are the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust's objectives?

- To commemorate and remember the victims of the Holocaust; the persecution and mass murder of six million Jews.
- To commemorate and remember the victims of persecution and murder that resulted from the targeting of other groups of people by Nazi race policies. These include the Roma and Sinti, black people, mentally and physically disabled people, lesbian and gay people and many of the Slavic peoples;
- To promote harmony between communities, including racial and religious harmony;
- To promote universal human rights;
- To promote equality and diversity and the elimination of discrimination by raising awareness of the causes and effects of racism and prejudice in society. This includes awareness of the impact of the Holocaust and other acts of systematic discrimination that leads to genocide.

Why is it Holocaust Memorial Day and not Genocide Day?

Why the Holocaust?

- The Holocaust was the first time in history that industrialised methods were used in an attempt to exterminate an entire race.
- The intention of the Holocaust was to exterminate all Jews, wiping out an entire race, wherever they were in the World.
- Many other groups were also targeted for murder on the basis of them not fitting in with Nazi ideology about how a human should be.

Why is Holocaust Memorial Day relevant to the UK?

- The Holocaust was a defining event of the 20th century and is a significant part of UK history.
- Although mainland Britain and Northern Ireland were not occupied during World War Two, the impact on Britons was significant and wide-ranging.
- Refugees fled to Britain from Nazi persecution; and there were also some British survivors and victims.
- Britain was engaged in a war to defeat the attempt of the Nazis to occupy and oppress the European continent with its supremacist ideology.
- UK soldiers liberated Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.
- Survivors and refugees who rebuilt their lives in Britain are part of British heritage.
- Britain played a lead role in developing the international conventions protecting universal human rights, after World War Two.
- Holocaust Memorial Day is for the whole of the UK. It is distinct from Yom HaShoah, the Jewish day of remembrance for the Jewish victims of the Nazis that falls in late April.

Repercussions that affect the 21 Century

- The introduction of the Genocide Convention (Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide) in 1948 was a direct repercussion of the Holocaust.
- In 1948 the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was a response to the Holocaust.
- The term 'Never Again' was coined as a response to the Holocaust.
- In October 2005, the United Nations designated 27th January as International Holocaust Memorial Day.

- The term genocide was created by Raphael Lemkin in response to the Holocaust.
- The central focus for Holocaust Memorial Day remains the Holocaust, but it is also an opportunity to reflect on more recent atrocities that raise similar issues, such as the Rwandan and Bosnian genocides.

What is the theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2007?

- The 2007 theme paper is entitled "The Dignity of Difference". From that, a communications campaign has been devised around the strap-line 'Same. But Different'.
- 'Same. But Different' will be used in a national effort to strengthen society's respect for difference emphasising the benefits that a diverse and multicultural society can bring.

What are the key messages for 2007?

- We are all the same but different. We need to learn the lessons of the Holocaust to create a society that respects both our differences and our common humanity.
- HMD is about learning from the past to build a better future; it is about tolerance, respect and understanding.

Further information about Holocaust Memorial Day and 'Same. But Different' and downloadable logos for either can be obtained from our website.

For press enquiries contact hmd@geronimocommunications.com