



41% Believe A Holocaust Could Happen in Britain

41% of us believe a Holocaust could happen in Britain, yet 36% think most people would stand by and do nothing in the event of genocide in the UK, according to research released today by Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT). The survey results, conducted by YouGov on behalf of HMDT, are released ahead of Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January, and the charity is calling on the public to light a candle on the day as a symbol of their commitment to learning the lessons of the past and creating an inclusive society for the future.

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust Chairman, Dr Stephen Smith commented:

“These alarming figures raise an important question - if 40% of us think a Holocaust could happen in this country and a significant minority believe we would do nothing to stop it, have we really learnt from the genocides of our recent past? With increasing levels of hate-crime, prejudice and ignorance towards those that are in some way different to ourselves, we really need to be vigilant in tackling prejudice and intolerance. As genocides in Europe, Rwanda and Bosnia have shown, it doesn't take much to turn these negative conditions into something far more calamitous. We need to be constantly on our guard against this, which is why we are asking the public to show their support by lighting a candle to commemorate those killed in past genocides.”

As well as the number who would stand by and do nothing, the survey also found that:

- 79% of those surveyed are not aware that black people were persecuted and killed during the Nazi regime
- Around 50% of people are unaware that lesbians and gays, disabled people and the Roma community were also persecuted and killed during the Nazi regime The Roma community were targeted for genocide.

The key message of Holocaust Memorial Day 2007 is Same. But Different. It invites the public to take pride in both their differences, and their common humanity. The day highlights the importance for the nation all the victims of the Holocaust, Nazi persecution and other genocides, to build a society that celebrates difference.

Alec Ward, a survivor of Auschwitz living in the UK, observed:

“I believe society is like an orchestra. If we were all the same instrument it would lead to a cacophony of noise. However, if you have different instruments in an orchestra, you can create a beautiful melody. Society needs different people to make it rich. This week’s Holocaust Memorial Day is more relevant than ever and these statistics emphasise it is not just about remembering – it is also about learning the lessons to ensure the horrific experiences my friends, family and I endured are not repeated.”

If you want to be a part of Holocaust Memorial Day, visit the www.hmd.org.uk to find out where your local event is taking place.

For interviews with Dr Smith or a survivor, contact Lauren Hamburger on 020 7299 8757.

Notes to Editor:

Holocaust Memorial Day

- Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) is the 27 January every year, to commemorate the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. The United Kingdom national commemoration will be on 28 January in Newcastle upon Tyne. It will highlight the tragic results of prejudice and intolerance, through learning about the Holocaust, other victims of Nazi racial policies and genocides like those in Rwanda and Bosnia, and the situation in Darfur.
- In November 2005, the United Nations established Holocaust Memorial Day as a day of remembrance across the World.
- Further information can be found by visiting www.hmd.org.uk

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust

The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust is a registered charity, established in 2005. Its objectives can be summarised as:

- 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.

Holocaust Memorial Day Theme 2007

- The 2007 theme paper is entitled 'The Dignity of Difference'. From that, a communications campaign has been devised and resources centred around the strap-line 'Same. But Different'
- 'Same. But Different' emphasises the benefits that a diverse and multicultural society can bring
- The Same. But Different logo is available for use and can be downloaded from [**www.hmd.org.uk**](http://www.hmd.org.uk)

YouGov

- Research was carried out in December 2006
- 2,400 individuals were interviewed from across the United Kingdom by YouGov
- YouGov is a member of the British Polling Council (<http://www.britishpollingcouncil.org>)

Celebrity Supporter

- Kick-starting a week of national events to mark Holocaust Memorial Day on the 27 January, Ade Adepitan, the paralympic medallist, unveiled the message for 2007 'Same. But Different'.
- Over 25,000 people are due to attend local events across the country in the run up to the day, and politicians and religious leaders will be gathering in Newcastle for the national ceremony next weekend.
- In support of the day, the UK's leading outdoor media company, Clear Channel Outdoor, has donated a prominent London site to the Trust to launch the message.