



Over 25,000 people took the time over Holocaust Memorial Day 2008 to light a virtual candle on the HMDT website www.hmd.org.uk

Each flame lit during the three weeks that this ran on the website represents 440 of the Jews, Gypsies, gay men and lesbians, Black Germans, mentally and physically disabled people, Trade Unionists and Jehovah's Witnesses killed under the Nazi regime.

Chair of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, Dr Stephen Smith thanked those who had taken the time to light the candle and said: "Our theme for HMD08 was 'Imagine...remember, reflect, react'. Remembrance is important, because the people who became the victims of the Nazis were not only killed, but all trace of them was removed. Remembrance reminds us that their lives as individuals were important. Reflection gives us time to work it out, to think it through, to wonder, to question, to challenge ourselves. The reflection is not a pause for meditation, but a personal challenge. Given similar circumstances, regardless of background, what would we have done? In the community today, how do we make an impact? Do we stand up and speak out, or are we complicit through our silence? To remember, reflect and react does not change history; it does not change the world. It changes us."

The National Commemoration was held in Liverpool on Sunday 27th January and was attended by 1600 people, including Holocaust Survivors, Government Ministers, Members of Parliament, Students from local Schools and Colleges and many others. Participants at the event included Harry Potter star Jason Isaacs, broadcaster Martin Bell and Faith Leaders Sir Jonathan Sacks, The Chief Rabbi and Dr Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury. Rt Hon Hazel Blears MP, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government introduced a video message from the Prime Minister. This can be viewed on the HMDT website: <http://www.hmd.org.uk/resources/item/194/>

Over 300 events took place in youth groups, community groups, museums, libraries, places of worship and councils across the UK – these events included theatre productions, multi-faith services, exhibitions and poetry and music workshops.

Schools and Colleges across the UK held events to mark HMD, holding [Assemblies](#), taking part in [Classroom Activities](#) and hearing from [Holocaust and Genocide survivors](#).

HMD08 gave us the opportunity to remember the past, reflect on the present and react to create a better future.

HMDT are planning activities for HMD09, if you would like to find out how you can become involved, please contact us by emailing: enquiries@hmd.org.uk