

STAND UP TO HATRED





The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT) is a national charity formed in 2005. Its vision is that the Holocaust and subsequent genocides are known; that victims are commemorated and lessons learnt are translated into contemporary action in the UK.

HMDT is responsible for the annual, national commemoration of Holocaust Memorial Day. In addition it aids, promotes and supports HMD events and projects in local communities, schools and educational institutions.

The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust was officially registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales on 8 May 2005 (Registered Charity Number: 1109348). HM The Queen agreed to be the Patron of the Trust in June 2006.

The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust is made up of individuals from a broad range of backgrounds and who are committed to delivering and developing the aims of Holocaust Memorial Day across the UK.

Charitable Objectives of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT)

The charitable objectives of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust are:

- 1) the promotion of the mental and moral improvement of mankind by:
 - a) commemorating and remembering the victims of the Holocaust
 - b) by promoting a public sentiment in favour of the exercise and protection of those fundamental human rights which constitute freedom from genocide, freedom from torture, inhuman or degrading treatment, slavery and unlawful forced labour and the right to freedom of thought, conscience, expression and religion, and
 - c) by promoting racial and religious harmony.
- 2) the advancement of education for the public benefit in the events of the Holocaust.
- 3) the promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit.

What we have achieved – 2008/9

HMD09 saw more organisers than ever participate in Holocaust Memorial Day, bringing knowledge of the Holocaust and Nazi persecution and issues raised by subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur to contemporary Britain. People heard our message and embraced it. Around the country - from Schools in Plymouth to LGBT groups in Edinburgh, Councils in Calderdale to Youth Groups in the Rhondda Valleys, individuals and groups made a pledge to **Stand up to Hatred**.

The promotion of the mental and moral improvement of mankind by commemorating and remembering the victims of the Holocaust.

The National Commemoration of HMD09 was held in the Belgrade Theatre, Coventry on 25th January. Attended by Holocaust and genocide survivors, HMDT Trustees, Ambassadors, young people from schools and community groups across the city, Government Ministers and faith



leaders, the commemoration took the form of a 'theatre-style' event and included dance pieces and music. In addition to survivor testimony and an address from the Chief Rabbi, Secretary of State Hazel Blears MP reinforced the need for all sections of society to 'Stand up to Hatred'.

The event was preceded by a lunch-time reception for Holocaust survivors, hosted by the Lord Mayor of Coventry. Approximately 100 Holocaust survivors travelled from across the UK, on transport provided by HMDT to attend the event. The Chief Rabbi, HMDT Trustees attended the reception and Minister for Community Cohesion, Sadiq Khan MP read a message of support from the Prime Minister.

As the focus of national commemoration, Coventry hosted a variety of public events to promote the values of HMDT. These included:

- A performance of the opera, Brundibar
- Exhibitions by Marion Davies and Jenny Stolzenberg were open to the general public at the Herbert Art Gallery
- A film made with the Jewish community in Coventry about their past and present lives in the city.
- A new piece of theatre, Cat and Mouse was performed by 50 young people in Coventry, together with professional actors, starting on 27 January for a three week run.
- Sculptures were commissioned and now form a permanent reminder of HMD09 in Coventry
- A group of young people visited Poland with the Lord Mayor, which included a visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau.

In addition, Coventry Cathedral hosted the Anne Frank Exhibition.

Over 500 events took place throughout the UK to mark HMD09 - this is an increase of events from 2008. The feedback that has been received from organisers demonstrates that events attracted many more attendees, and that the theme for HMD09 has been welcomed within their communities, providing a focus for contemporary action, based in the lessons of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides. Full details of the events which were held to mark HMD09 are detailed in our HMD09 commemorative book. A copy of this is sent to each Council in the UK, to every MP and sent out throughout the year to serve as an inspiration for future events.

There is no such thing as right or wrong HMD event. HMDT strive to inspire event organisers to use the experience and needs of their own communities to arrange appropriate events. The events can centre around a Holocaust survivor's testimony, or the HMDT short film, among many other programmes. Organisers may choose to use stories from their own community to illustrate the theme. This was very true of the HMD09 Stand up to Hatred theme. Events this year ranged from panel discussions on Hate Crime, starting from Nazi persecution and working forward to experience of hatred in contemporary Britain. Drama workshops took place to look at how unchecked hatred can grow. Railway stations handed over their advertising space to



artwork produced by Holocaust survivors. Candles were lit in memory of the 11 million men, women and children murdered under the Nazi regime. Hate Crime Awareness campaigns were launched and the messages of HMD were taken far and wide.

Other events included:

- Holocaust or genocide survivors sharing their testimony
- Primary or Secondary schools adopting a whole-school approach to HMD
- Panel discussions
- Civic events
- Film Showings
- Exhibitions
- Music performances
- Literature evenings
- Candle Lighting
- Wreath-layings
- Faith and inter-Faith services
- Drama performances
- Themed football matches
- Library events
- Anti-discrimination walks
- Art and Poetry competitions

“Having joined HMDT in September 2008, it has been truly remarkable to work with Holocaust and genocide survivors. Spending time at the National Event, where we supplied transport for 100 survivors from across the UK, it has struck me how important HMD is in ensuring that their memories are not forgotten. After attending the event at the Belgrade Theatre, I am more committed than ever to Stand up to Hatred. I will not let the people around me use the language of hatred. I have made my pledge for HMD09, and will use what I have learned from the survivors to become part of **The Legacy of Hope for HMD 2010.**”

James Hurst - Operations Manager

The advancement of education for the public benefit in the events of the Holocaust.

HMDT works alongside partner organisations, especially those whose work also encompasses aspects of Holocaust and genocide remembrance and education. These individuals and organisations are of great assistance to HMDT throughout the year.

In 2008/09 we produced a Local Activities Pack designed to make organising HMD commemorations easier. The pack contained guidance notes, posters, hand out materials - suitable for most events. 1800 copies of the LA guidance were sent out in the post, with a further 4264 downloaded from the HMDT website. In addition, a 4 part A3 poster series was also created and a 6 part postcard series was also available. These were sent out free of charge to organisers in the UK to assist them in passing on the key messages of HMD. (8485 sets of postcards and 2295 sets of A3 posters were sent out.)



HMDT held their annual conference in Bournemouth in June 2008. This event provided an opportunity for HMD event organisers to come together, to hear about the new theme and to discuss best practice and new ideas for their events.

Targeted campaigns for specific stakeholder groups were developed to encourage participation in HMD09. A Prisons toolkit was produced in partnership with HMP Lancaster Farms, which was advertised to all Prisons and Young Offenders Institutions in the UK. Over 70 establishments requested and used the packs. A toolkit for Trade Unions was also produced for use by Union branches.

"It has been a pleasure to work with local organisers on the HMD09 events. It never ceases to amaze me how individuals take on board the aims of Holocaust Memorial Day and translate it to their communities. HMD09 marked a real turning point for event organisers. More groups than ever became involved, and through our targeted campaigns for Prisons, we reached a brand new audience. The attention and commitment that HMD organisers show through their events helps us deliver the Day. I look forward to welcoming new organisers to participate in HMD 2010 and **The Legacy of Hope.**"

Louise Hector - Stakeholder Development Manager

HMDT's cross-curricular education resource pack, suitable for teachers across all the key stages from Primary to Post-16, again proved to be a particular success. 4600 hard copies of the education pack were sent out, and a further 5044 downloaded from the HMD website.

Three years at HMDT has gone by very quickly and what a privilege it has been to share in the creation of resources to help people all over the UK share in the commemoration of HMD each January. Each year teachers and their students both surprise and amaze me in the imaginative and original ways they engage their school and college communities with the annual theme. I am pleased that the educational resources we provide act as a springboard each year for student activities. Last year the huge response to the web exclusive creative and cross-curricular activities was very exciting and I hope that the new education website will generate similar exciting and imaginative commemorations. The young people of the UK took the Stand up to Hatred message of 2009 and made HMD relevant to all generations. I am sure that Legacy of Hope will also inspire teachers and students to make a difference on 27th January."

Catherine Bowness - HMDT Education Resource Manager



Website

The HMDT website has now become the primary focus for interaction with HMD organisers, stakeholders and the general public. HMD09 attracted more visitors than ever and this was enhanced by some of the developments that took place to improve the look, feel and diversity of resources on the site. New developments included:

- Creation of 'about the Genocides' section. This gives new website users an opportunity to find out more about the background of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides.
- Creation of pod-cast section, which gives a new way of finding out more about HMD.

All of the resources produced by HMDT were made available on the HMDT website, and new resources are constantly added. By keeping the site up to date and promoting this as our primary method of point of contact information, the statistics for the number of users have grown year on year for the month of January.

For the second year running, HMDT launched a virtual candle on the homepage on the site, which gave individuals the opportunity to mark HMD09 in a simple way. Over 33,000 people did so. They were then encouraged to explore the site further and to make full use of our resources.

Publicity is vitally important to us in getting our message across to the UK. In particular, this year, HMDT partnered with Trinity Mirror Group - one of the largest publishers of local papers in the UK. This generated a large amount of coverage both for HMD, HMDT and the events taking at a local level throughout the UK.



The promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit.

A special short film was again produced for Holocaust Memorial Day and made available in hard copy and on the HMDT website. The film, named 'The Hate Game' looked at instances of hate crime during the Holocaust and in contemporary Britain; it urged viewers to Stand up to Hatred. 1515 copies were sent out upon request and the film was viewed over 7000 times in the month of January alone.

"The theme for HMD09 asked everyone in the UK to **Stand up to Hatred. The theme came about after our thinking about how the Holocaust did not just 'happen'. The genocide in Bosnia did not just happen overnight. Genocide happens when hatred is left unchecked. This hatred can be expressed in many ways, through exclusionary behaviour, through language, through our actions. It is only through recognising it that we can stop the building blocks of genocide being laid. Over 700 Hate Crimes are reported every day in Britain. We do not live in Nazi occupied Europe, or Pol Pot's Cambodia. HMD09 gave us an opportunity to look at our own society and pledge to **Stand up to Hatred**."**

Carly Whyborn - CEO



A schools' workshop took place in conjunction with Valleyskids in the Rhondda Valley in South Wales. Over 120 young people attended this event in November 2008, where activities used the 'Stand up to Hatred' theme and encouraged pupils to make a commitment to take what they had learnt back to their classmates.

As the national focus for HMD 2009, activities in Coventry included a conference of Year 9 pupils on the theme Stand up to Hatred and a '**Stand up to Hatred**' walk through the city centre. The community events to support the national event included the creation of sculptures, including a 'Swing in Time' - an empty swing made out of willow, the seat left suspended, the absence of a child playing on this passing on the memory of the 1.4million children murdered under the Nazi regime. Placed in Coventry City Centre over the course of the weekend's activities, it now has a permanent home in a Special School in Coventry. Talks from Holocaust and genocide survivors over the HMD period opened up discussions around hatred and discrimination and promoted equality amongst all. The events, both in Coventry and throughout the UK, encouraged attendees to Stand up to Hatred.

Looking to 2009/10

Holocaust and genocide survivors are at the very heart of what we do. It is their experience and their memories which underpin our purpose. They provide the foundations to creating a safer, better future. We work to honour their memory and, this work has prompted us to build the HMD 2010 theme around their **Legacy of Hope**.

HMDT are expecting a much higher take up of activities to commemorate HMD 2010. We're working hard to ensure that there is a 25% increase in the number of events held to commemorate the Day. We'll be working within the Nations to ensure that spotlight events take place in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and within each English Region. In order to reach more teachers, we will be launching an education website, which will provide more resources than we ever have before, designed for all subject and curriculum level teachers. We will be increasing our web presence through the appointment of a Web Officer and our aim is that the virtual candle will be lit 50,000 over the HMD period. Our National Event will be taking place in London, and education and community activities will be built around this. We will endeavour to encourage everyone, throughout the UK, to become part of **The Legacy of Hope**.

The work of HMDT is funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government. Without their guidance and support, HMD would not be making the impact that it is today.

www.hmd.org.uk

stand up to
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HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL DAY TRUST
PO Box 61074
London SE1P 5BX
Tel: 0845 838 1883
www.hmd.org.uk

