

# THE TEN STAGES OF GENOCIDE



HOLOCAUST  
MEMORIAL  
DAY TRUST

## STAGE ONE

### CLASSIFICATION

The differences between people are not respected. There's a division of 'us' and 'them', which can be carried out using stereotypes, or excluding people who are perceived to be different.

## STAGE TWO

### SYMBOLISATION

This is a visual manifestation of hatred. Jews in Nazi occupied Europe were forced to wear the yellow Star of David. In Cambodia the Khmer Rouge forced people from the Eastern Zone to wear blue scarves. From 1991, in north-west Bosnia, all non-Serbian citizens were forced to wear white armbands.



## STAGE THREE

### DISCRIMINATION

The dominant group denies civil rights or even citizenship to identified groups. The 1935 Nuremberg Laws stripped Jews of their German citizenship, made it illegal for them to do many jobs or to marry German non-Jews.

## STAGE FOUR

### DEHUMANISATION

Those perceived as 'different' are treated with no form of human rights or personal dignity. During the Genocide in Rwanda, Tutsis were referred to as 'cockroaches'; the Nazis referred to Jews as 'vermin'.



## STAGE FIVE

### ORGANISATION

Genocides are always planned. Regimes of hatred often train those who go on to carry out the destruction of a people. The Sudanese Government supports and arms the Janjaweed (Arab militia) in Darfur to carry out the violence and killings.



## STAGE SEVEN

### PREPARATION

Perpetrators plan the genocide. They often use euphemisms such as the Nazi's phrase 'The Final Solution' to cloak their intentions. Acts of genocide are disguised as self-defence if there is an ongoing armed conflict or civil war, such as in Bosnia.



## STAGE EIGHT

### PERSECUTION

Victims are identified because of their ethnicity or religion and death lists are drawn up. People are sometimes segregated into ghettos, deported or starved and property is often expropriated. Genocidal massacres begin.



## STAGE SIX

### POLARISATION

Propaganda begins to be spread by hate groups. The Nazis used the newspaper *Der Stürmer* to spread and incite messages of hate about Jewish people.



## STAGE TEN

### DENIAL

The perpetrators or later generations deny the existence of any crime. Evidence is destroyed and witnesses are intimidated. There has been an increase in Holocaust denial online in recent years.



## STAGE NINE

### EXTERMINATION

The hate group murders their identified victims in a deliberate and systematic campaign of violence. Millions of lives have been destroyed or changed beyond recognition through genocide.

Genocide never just happens. There is always a set of circumstances which occur or which are created to build the climate in which genocide can take place. These stages may occur simultaneously or in a different order.