

# GET INVOLVED GUIDE

## for museums and galleries



HOLOCAUST  
MEMORIAL  
DAY TRUST

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) is held on 27 January each year and thousands of events and activities take place around the country on or around this date. What will your museum or gallery do?

## Your museum or gallery and Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day offers museums and galleries an opportunity to spark interest and to inspire creativity through your collections, to challenge discrimination and promote a positive activity for the whole community. By organising an HMD display or workshop, you can bring a meaningful experience to your visitors and school groups, and engage new audiences.

## IDEAS AND RESOURCES

Museums and galleries are ideally placed to commemorate HMD. As community-based organisations which regularly communicate powerful messages to the public, you can use your collections and your expertise in learning and interpretation to engage your local communities with the message of HMD.

- Display posters from our free Activity Pack [hmd.org.uk/activitypack](http://hmd.org.uk/activitypack)
- Order some free 'About HMD' booklets – these handout booklets explain HMD and provide a simple way for your visitors to find out more about the Holocaust, genocide and the importance of HMD [hmd.org.uk/handouts](http://hmd.org.uk/handouts)
- Use the **Emmanuel Ringelblum and the Oneg Shabbat Archive** story. This story can be brought to life by inviting school groups to reflect on the story and to then create their own time capsules or memory box and consider how they would like to be remembered. What objects might it contain? [hmd.org.uk/onegshabbat](http://hmd.org.uk/onegshabbat)
- Invite a survivor speaker to share their story or to introduce your exhibition or workshop. We have guidance for you about how to do this [hmd.org.uk/speakers](http://hmd.org.uk/speakers)
- Link the stories of refugees in your local community and the memories of their arrival in the UK with the stories of those who rebuilt their lives after the Holocaust and subsequent genocides



## EXAMPLE ACTIVITIES



### Friends of Down County Museum

The Friends of Down County Museum created a wall hanging of a menorah which was presented to the museum for HMD 2016. It was displayed for a week around Holocaust Memorial Day 2016. The exhibition received a very positive reaction from visitors to the museum as well as the local community. The wall hanging has become a permanent addition to the museum's collection and will be used to mark HMD in the future.

'This...is not just about remembering the atrocities committed against Jewish people and others during the time of Nazi Germany, but also about sharing these lessons of the past and indeed all current occurrences so that we remember to speak up and speak out against all acts of racism and genocide to help create a better world.'

**Councillor Aislinn Lee, who hosted the St Albans  
2012 HMD Commemoration Evening at the Verulamium Museum**

## EXAMPLE ACTIVITIES

### Rugby Art Gallery and Museum

For Holocaust Memorial Day 2014 Rugby Art Gallery and Museum organised an exhibition of paintings by Rugby-based artist Iris Anne Berger focusing on the story of Anne Frank. A discussion on the history of the Holocaust and more recent genocides was generated by sharing Anne Frank's journey with a diverse range of visitors who attended the exhibition. On 27 January the museum invited two local schools to take part in a study day linked to the Anne Frank exhibition. The study day included a HMD presentation, talk and tour of the exhibition, followed by workshops.



© Rugby Art Gallery and Museum

With a focus on experiential learning, museum and gallery collections can be used to engage communities with the lessons of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides and are valuable in helping communities understand the impact on individuals.

Students with local MP Mark Pawsey and artist Iris Anne Berger at a Rugby Art Gallery and Museum HMD 2014 workshop (right).



## IDEAS AND RESOURCES

- Run an art or poetry workshop using artefacts from your collections relating to memories such as photographs, diaries, letters and household artefacts for inspiration.
- Put on an exhibition or display which showcases the culture of one of the groups persecuted under the different genocides. You could make links with local organisations from the Jewish, Roma, LGBT, disabled, Cambodian, Rwandan, Bosnian or Darfuri communities.

# Get in touch

To get your free activity pack: [hmd.org.uk/activitypack](http://hmd.org.uk/activitypack)

To get your free handout materials: [hmd.org.uk/handouts](http://hmd.org.uk/handouts)

To let us know about your event: [hmd.org.uk/letusknow](http://hmd.org.uk/letusknow)

**For advice and support with your event contact us:**

[hmd.org.uk](http://hmd.org.uk)  
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*Learning lessons from the past to create a safer, better future*