Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) has a profound impact on individuals and communities all across the UK. 7,700 activities took place for HMD 2017, including national events in Scotland and Wales and a regional event in Northern Ireland. At all these events, people from all walks of life have learnt lessons from the past to create a safer, better future.

27 January provides an opportunity for everyone to remember the millions of people murdered during the Holocaust, under Nazi Persecution and in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. On Holocaust Memorial Day we honour the survivors of these atrocities and use the lessons of their experience to challenge hatred and discrimination today.

The theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2017 was **How can life go on?**

The aftermath of the Holocaust and of subsequent genocides continues to raise challenging questions for individuals, communities and nations. The theme for HMD 2017 asked everyone to think about what happens after genocide and of our own responsibilities in the wake of such a crime.

This year’s theme was broad and open ended, with few known answers. As people across the UK came together to mark HMD 2017, they explored these issues and learnt from the experiences of victims, survivors and refugees. From prisons to schools, museums to workplaces, HMD continued to grow this year, with powerful messages shared in thousands of diverse settings.

The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT) is the charity established by the UK Government to promote and support HMD in the UK. This year Laura Marks OBE was appointed as Chair of the HMDT Board of Trustees, succeeding Cathy Ashley.
2017
7,700 activities

This image was submitted by Megan Auld to HMDT’s Wall of Life
Any Bonner
North East
Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS) invited staff and visitors from UNITE and other unions to watch films from the HMDT website. While watching, they shared a buffet of traditional Jewish bread, Challah, and the Rwandan dish Ibirayi n’amashaza. These recipes were taken from HMDT’s recipe cards which include dishes important to communities which were targeted during genocide.

Elizabeth George
South West
Local secondary school pupils joined students at the University of Exeter for their first HMD Schools Conference, organised by Barnabas Balint, a university student and HMDT Youth Champion. Ernest Simon, a Kindertransportee, spoke about his experiences and academics led seminars. Attendees learnt about the ongoing Genocide in Darfur through a display of drawings by Darfuri refugee children. At the end of the day attendees read poems and wrote pledges on a reflections board.

Julian Harrison
East Midlands
Julian gave a presentation to more than 300 young people at Welbeck Defence Sixth Form College. Students learnt about the legacy of the Holocaust, its impact today on Jewish communities, and the ongoing fight to combat antisemitism. Using relevant photos and individual stories, there was also a discussion around the theme for HMD 2017, How can life go on?
Nicola Toms  
**West Midlands**

Warwickshire Pride teamed up with Coventry Pride to hold their first HMD event. An evening of talks and performances was held to remember the victims of the Holocaust, with specific reference to LGBT+ people persecuted by the Nazis. The event included a bespoke ballet and jazz dance piece from street dancer Kian-Taylor Jackson, stories and songs from Yiddish singer Rachel Weston and a moving talk from Surat-Shaan Knan, founder of Rainbow Jews.

Rosie Crook  
**Yorkshire and the Humber**

At the West Yorkshire Police Headquarters in Wakefield, an event was held for officers and was also available over Skype. Officers watched HMDT films and shared Life Stories of survivors who they researched personally. After the event, the film for HMD 2017 was circulated on the staff intranet and emailed to members of the Force’s Equality Board.

Susanna Hunter-Darch  
**Greater London**

Young people from the Amberley Youth Project joined the charity Working with Men, and gathered to reflect on the Holocaust. Using the HMD 2017 online film as a starting point, the lead youth worker encouraged young people to explore modern day issues of human rights today, prejudice and discrimination.
Carole Gillespie
Scotland
Pupils from all over Glasgow gathered at Glasgow City Chambers to listen to the experiences of Saskia Tepe, a survivor of the Holocaust, and Umutesi Stewart, who survived the Genocide in Rwanda. Pupils from Lochend Community High School performed a powerful drama called *These are my shoes*, and musical pieces were performed by Glasgow Schools Strings Orchestra and the Senior Voice Ensemble from Smithycroft Secondary.

Phil Mears
South East
North West Surrey Synagogue held a four-day workshop for 530 students from local schools. The workshop sessions featured a film, discussions and survivor testimony. At the end of the programme a memorial candle was lit in memory of those who had died. Each student lit a candle, and then handed a personal message card they had written to the survivor speaker.

Mandy Penellum
North West
Thomas Ashton School created a display with input from 395 pupils from special schools in Tameside. Each pupil was asked to think of a dream which would make the world a better place, and to write it on a scroll. The scrolls were then placed into a large glass jar sat on a perspex cube, upon which the names and dreams were also printed. The display also featured a smaller cube, with images focusing on the Holocaust and subsequent genocides.
Sally Richards
Wales
The National Assembly for Wales Cross-Party Group for Gypsies and Travellers organised a vigil on the steps of the Senedd. The Cross-Party Group was supported by South East Wales Racial Equality Council (SEWREC), Bridges, Travelling Ahead, Romani Culture and Arts Company, Unity Project and Gypsy / Travellers from across Wales. SEWREC’s Gypsy Champion produced a book of numbers representing the estimated number of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller victims who were murdered under Nazi Persecution.

Shirley Lennon
Northern Ireland
A week-long series of activities in Down County Museum included Auschwitz survivor Mindu Hornick, a first time visitor to Northern Ireland, speaking movingly to local secondary school pupils about her survival. Primary school pupils took part in cross-curricular workshops focusing on the themes of justice, reconciliation and rebuilding. A spoken word event including a monologue and poetry was organised for adult audiences.

Andrew Morris
East of England
Hertsmere Borough Council’s commemoration began with a candlelight procession by council officials and members of the public. Selma Mustafic read the story of her husband who as a boy survived the Srebrenica massacre. The Borehamwood Community Choir sang two arrangements and a number of HMDT films were shown. MP for Hertsmere, Oliver Dowden, alongside other Hertfordshire dignitaries, lit candles – each representing one of the genocides commemorated on HMD.
HMD YOUTH CHAMPIONS

The HMD Youth Champion Programme empowers young people aged 14-24 to teach their peers lessons from the past to create a safer better future.

This year, HMDT supported 120 young people to be the driving force behind Holocaust Memorial Day. We facilitated:

- Five Youth Champion workshops in Belfast, Cardiff, Edinburgh, London and for the first time, HM Young Offenders Institution Polmont
- Networks for Youth Champions to share advice, experience and opportunities, including the launch of a new Instagram as well as Facebook groups and the Youth Champion e-newsletter
- An engaging social media campaign raising online awareness of HMD, led by Youth Champions

YOUTH CHAMPION CHALLENGES

Throughout the year, Youth Champions were set four challenges:

1. Attend a Youth Champion workshop or complete an HMDT Interactive online workshop
2. Do a ‘teach us about living’ activity
3. Join and share the HMD 2017 Twibbon or send a postcard to someone you know asking them to mark HMD
4. Organise an HMD activity

120 TOTAL NUMBER OF YOUTH CHAMPIONS (UP FROM 54 IN 2016)
HMD YOUTH CHAMPION BOARD

The Youth Champion Board develops and drives the Youth Champion programme. Each Youth Champion Board member works on a specific project which ensures that the programme is youth-led.

“Being on the Board has boosted my confidence, given me the opportunity to meet new people and take part in new experiences.”

Madeleine Wright, Youth Champion
We reached millions of people across the UK with online, print, radio and TV features:

260
BROADCAST PIECES FEATURING HMDT
(UP FROM 135 IN 2016)

2,180
PRINT AND ONLINE MEDIA PIECES ABOUT HMD
(UP FROM 1,277 IN 2016)

Good Morning Britain

The Huffington Post

The Telegraph

The Guardian

BBC Breakfast
Holocaust Memorial Day 2017 was marked by tens of thousands of people on social media. On Facebook and Twitter, people reflected on the experiences of survivors, shared the online film for HMD 2017 and posted photos of their activities.
On Thursday 26 January more than 200 survivors of the Holocaust and genocide were joined by around 800 guests, including faith, civic and political leaders, at the UK Commemorative Ceremony for Holocaust Memorial Day 2017 at the Queen Elizabeth II Centre in central London.

The ceremony featured personal testimonies from survivors of genocide, poetry, films and music. Mishal Husain narrated the ceremony with contributors including Jim Broadbent, Nina Wadia, Nicola Walker, Timothy West and Samuel Barnett. Special recorded readings featured John Simm, Jenny Agutter, Sheila Hancock and Nina Sosanya. Music was performed by The Clothworkers Consort of Leeds, Olivier Nzaramba and Steve Wickham and his band. The traditional Jewish memorial prayer, *El Male Rachamim*, was recited by Rabbi Jeremy Lawrence.

Throughout the ceremony, powerful speeches were given by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Chief Rabbi, Ephraim Mirvis and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP.
UK COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONY

Jim Broadbent

The Clothworkers Consort of Leeds

Mishal Husain

Singer Olivier Nzaramba, dancer Lydia Uwineza and guitarist Andrew Smith

Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis
UK COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONY

Nicola Walker

Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

Amouna Abdelbari Eisa Adam, Safet Vukalić, Eric Eugene Murangwa, Sophari Ashley, Ladislav Balaz and Lily Ebert
Once again it was a truly wonderful experience to work with such great and inspiring people and serve Holocaust and other genocide survivors and their families.

Volunteer at the UK Commemorative Ceremony

The UK Commemorative Ceremony was supported by a fantastic team of 70 volunteers
Survivors’ Reception

On 9 February His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, Patron of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, hosted a reception at St James’s Palace for survivors of the Holocaust and the genocides that followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. More than 120 survivors and refugees attended the reception, sharing their personal stories and experiences of rebuilding their lives in the UK with The Prince.

Lily Bruml, survivor of the Terezin camp and His Royal Highness

His Royal Highness meets Var Ashe Houston, Sokphal Din, Sophari Ashley and Jean Baptiste Kayigamba

Henrietta Franks, Jill Pivnic, Judith Kerr OBE, Marie Obuchowski and His Royal Highness
Survivors of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides have rebuilt their lives following great loss and traumatic persecution based on their faith or ethnicity. To be welcomed by His Royal Highness to St James’s Palace is hugely appreciated and demonstrates his own personal commitment to those who have suffered during the darkest chapters in human history.

Olivia Marks-Woldman, Chief Executive of HMDT

As part of the reception, His Royal Highness was also presented with the Statue of Remembrance by The International Auschwitz Committee (IAC), recognising his commitment to Holocaust remembrance and his support for tolerance today.

Ivor Perl BEM, survivor of the Holocaust, meeting His Royal Highness
At the age of eight, Bea Green witnessed the aftermath of the violent public humiliation of her father, carried out on the streets of Munich. Bea fled Nazi Germany in 1939, but this shocking incident left a lasting impact.

The treatment of Bea’s father was encouraged by Nazi law – because he was Jewish. Such persecution is unlawful here in the UK, but people still face discrimination because of their faith, sexual orientation, race or disability.

Our film for HMD 2017 challenged us all to think about how we can support those who face hostility today and create a safer society together.

To raise awareness of HMD 2017 and this year’s theme How can life go on? we encouraged everyone to share our film and support those who face intolerance in our own communities.
You can view and share the film and discover Bea’s story by visiting: howcanlifegoon.hmd.org.uk
We developed a wide range of resources to help educators teach about the Holocaust and the genocides that followed and to explore the theme How can life go on?

In addition to theme specific lesson plans, assemblies and life stories, this year we produced a Rwandan dance tutorial and recipe cards from communities targeted during genocide. These resources encouraged people to learn about, and to celebrate, the lives and cultures of those who were murdered during genocide.

We were pleased to work with Picturehouse Cinemas and more than 700 school children and members of the public attended film screenings and survivor talks.

We distributed 185,000 about HMD Booklets (up from 100,000 in 2016)

The recipe cards were instrumental in our school marking HMD. Our sixth formers made Challah for the younger students.

Dale Hicks, Teacher at Porth County Community School, Wales
We partnered with Waging Peace to create educational resources featuring drawings by Darfuri children who had witnessed the genocide and were displaced to camps, encouraging students to examine the difficulties facing a refugee from Darfur and identify our responsibility in helping life go on after a genocide.

This year we launched HMDT Interactive – an online, interactive resource to support educators in teaching about the Holocaust and the genocides that followed through lessons, survivor testimony, animated videos and activities.

“THE IMPACT ON THE PRISONERS HAS BEEN FAR REACHING AND IT HAS ENABLED PEOPLE TO CONNECT WITH EACH OTHER.

Nina Jeffries, Art Tutor at HMP Exeter

HMDT facilitates the Collaborative Group, bringing together organisations working in the sector, and benefits from two advisory groups: the Experts Reference Group and the Legacy Group, made up of survivors of the Holocaust.
Reflections on loss and living is a nation-wide project building on the theme for HMD 2017: How can life go on? This project explores living with absence and the roots of life through artistic responses sent in by the public.

Artwork was submitted in response to ‘Birdsong’, a poem written by Gillian Clarke, the former National Poet for Wales.
You can view the Wall of Life online by visiting: howcanlifegoon.hmd.org.uk
Holocaust Memorial Day Trust commissioned 12 groups from around the UK to create a permanent artwork in their local community that commemorates Holocaust Memorial Day. The artworks created explore the themes of absence, and the roots needed for life to regrow after a genocide.

**New Visuality**
Yorkshire & The Humber
Flowers echoing the star of David created using a 3D printer.

**St Nicholas Catholic High School**
North West
Signposts featuring motifs of absence, roots and rebirth sit in a rosemary and lavender herb garden.
REFLECTIONS ON LOSS AND LIVING

3

**Bloomln Art**
**North East**
Exploring stories of displacement and refugees using creative writing, fused glass and wet and needle felting.

4

**Sawston Village College**
**East of England**
Wall sculpture made from galvanised steel featuring a bird emerging and taking flight.

5

**London Schools Group**
**Greater London**
A collaborative artwork featuring a variety of mixed media including collage and photography.

6

**Jaio Lihi**
**South West**
A 3D relief sculptural plaque created out of stoneware clay with a carved design.
**Repton School**
**East Midlands**
Part of a collaborative sculpture featuring figures working together towards a compassionate future.

**Works 4 Me**
**West Midlands**
An arts trail of small ceramic pieces hanging in trees, leading to a bigger ceramic installation.

**Firrhill High School**
**Scotland**
Memorial collages and lanterns celebrating the lives of the victims of the Holocaust and their families.
REFLECTIONS ON LOSS AND LIVING

HMP Grendon Therapeutic Community South East
A mural of a tree and its roots to represent genocide and regrowth after genocide.

Merthyr Tydfil Public Libraries Wales
A garden of reflection and community space with raised centrepieces.

HMP Magilligan Northern Ireland
Cut-outs of family and friends, and newly planted silver birch trees.

Front cover: Our cover is made up of images submitted to HMDT’s Wall of Life, which was part of the HMD 2017 arts programme *Reflections on loss and living*. Photos, drawings and other art forms submitted by members of the public reflected on the themes of absence and the roots of life. Thanks to all those who have taken part including those featured on the front cover: Hannah Carter, Alisde Taylor, Caroline Streetfield Chalk, Sgoil Lionacleit, Logan Forsythe and Solihull School.

Back cover: Top - Junior Ministers Megan Fearon and Alastair Ross with survivor of the Holocaust Mindu Hornick at the commemoration in Northern Ireland. Middle - Eva Clarke, survivor of the Holocaust, spoke at the Wales National Service of Commemoration. Bottom - Saskia Tepe, whose mother survived the Holocaust, at the National Holocaust Memorial Day commemorative event in Scotland.
Holocaust Memorial Day Trust is the charity, established by the UK Government, that promotes and supports Holocaust Memorial Day.

We encourage, inspire and support individuals and organisations across the UK to play their part in learning lessons from the past to create a safer, better future.

HMDT is supported by

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