

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2018

ACTIVITIES TO EXPLORE THE THEME



This booklet provides you with practical ideas for your Holocaust Memorial Day activity that explore the theme for 2018: **The power of words**

You can also find lots of ideas and resources on our website: hmd.org.uk

THE THEME FOR HMD 2018:

THE POWER OF WORDS



“I want to go on living even after my death! And that's why I am so grateful to God for having given me this gift, which I can use to develop myself and to express all that's inside me. When I write I can shake off all my cares; my sorrow disappears, my spirits are revived!”

Anne Frank, written in her diary, 5 April 1944



WORDS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE – BOTH FOR GOOD AND EVIL

Spoken and written words from individuals, corporations, community organisations or the state, can have a huge impact, whether good or bad. The theme for HMD 2018 explores how language has been used in the past, and how it is used in the present day.

The practical activity ideas in this booklet can help you plan an HMD activity which explores the way words have been, and are still, used for good and evil – both spoken and written down.

Your activity for HMD 2018 could encourage attendees to explore the impact that words had in the Holocaust and subsequent genocides, through propaganda used to incite, through slogans written in resistance, and through memoirs written to record and respond to what was going on.

The words that we see and hear all around us today – in newspapers, online, in conversations – the words that we choose to use, all have an impact upon us and those around us.

Explore this year's theme in full: hmd.org.uk/thepowerofwords

READ A POEM

Poetry is an engaging way for your audience to reflect on the theme of Holocaust Memorial Day in a creative way. You could read a poem at your event, discuss it in small groups, and encourage people to write their own poetry as a response to what they have learnt.

This poem was written at Theresienstadt concentration camp on 4 June 1942 by Pavel Friedmann, a Jewish man who was born in Prague in 1921. On 29 September 1944 he was deported to Auschwitz where he was murdered.

The Butterfly

The last, the very last,
So richly, brightly, dazzlingly yellow.
Perhaps if the sun's tears would sing
against a white stone...

Such, such a yellow
Is carried lightly 'way up high.
It went away I'm sure because it wished
to kiss the world goodbye.

For seven weeks I've lived in here,
Penned up inside this ghetto
But I have found my people here.
The dandelions call to me
And the white chestnut candles in the court.
Only I never saw another butterfly.

That butterfly was the last one.
Butterflies don't live in here,
In the ghetto.

By Pavel Friedmann, 1942

A recording of this poem by the actor Samuel Barnett is available to play on our website: hmd.org.uk/thebutterfly. Download the Poetry Classroom activity from hmd.org.uk/educators.

You can find other poems to read aloud at hmd.org.uk/poetry

PLAY OR SING A SONG

This year we have researched songs that have a connection to or commemorate each of the genocides we remember on HMD. You could play recordings of these songs at your event, or learn one of them to perform with your group. You could invite a local community or school choir to perform at your event and provide them with our songsheets in advance.

Songsheets are available to download from **hmd.org.uk/songs** and explore music connected to:

- The Holocaust
- Nazi Persecution
- Cambodia
- Rwanda
- Bosnia
- Darfur

The Partisans' Song was written in 1943 by a young Jewish poet named Hirsh Glik, whilst he was imprisoned in the Vilna Ghetto. He was inspired to write it by news of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising – an act of resistance by Jewish ghetto residents.

The lyrics acknowledge Jewish suffering during the Holocaust, and encouraged the Jewish people to keep fighting for survival. The song became an act of resistance to Nazi rule, and was adopted by partisans across Europe as their anthem.



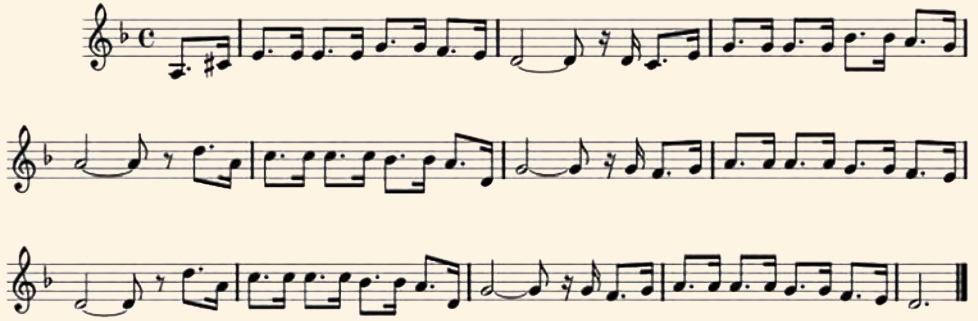
For full information about this song, including the original Yiddish lyrics, please visit: **hmd.org.uk/songs**

The Partisans' Song

Lyrics: Hirsh Glik

Music: Dmitri and Daniel Pokrass

Translation: Miriam Schlessinger



(The last two lines of each verse are repeated)

Never say the final journey is at hand
Never say we will not meet the Promised Land,
The longed-for hour shall come, oh never fear!
Our tread drums forth the tidings - we are here!

From land of palm-tree to the far-off land of snow,
We shall be coming with our torment and our woe.
And everywhere our blood has sunk into the earth,
Shall our bravery, our vigor blossom forth!

We'll have the morning sun to set our day aglow,
And all our yesterdays shall vanish with the foe,
And if the time is long before the sun appears,
Then let this song go like a signal through the years.

This song was written with our blood and not with lead;
It's not a song that birds sing overhead,
It was a people, among toppling barricades,
That sang this song of ours with pistols and grenades.

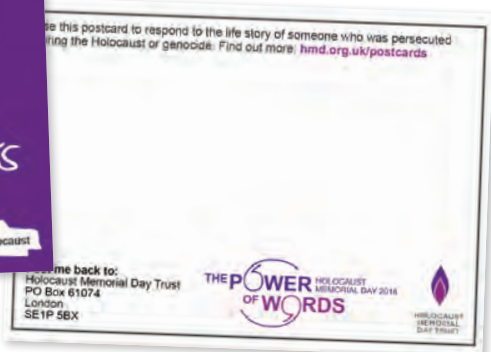
So never say that there is only death for you.
Leaden skies may be concealing days of blue -
Because the hour we have hungered for is near;
Beneath our tread the earth shall tremble: We are here!

HMD 2018 POSTCARD PROJECT

'When I write I can shake off all my cares; my sorrow disappears; my spirits are revived.'

Anne Frank
author, murdered in the Holocaust

One postcard is included in this Activity Pack



Written words have the power to make an introduction, share ideas and bring people closer together.

This year, take part in our postcard project and encourage people at your HMD activity to use their own written words to respond to the experiences of people persecuted during the Holocaust and genocide.

You can either lead a postcard activity or have a writing station for people to take part independently.

1. Visit **hmd.org.uk/postcards** to order more for your event.
2. Choose from two downloadable life stories of people persecuted during the Holocaust and genocide.
3. Read the life stories aloud, discuss in groups, or provide for people to read themselves at your event.
4. Encourage people to write a postcard to one of the people persecuted, reflecting on their experiences.
5. Send the completed postcards back to: **HMDT, PO Box 61074, London, SE1P 5BX.**
6. Receive a postcard response from the individual you have written to.

MORE WAYS TO EXPLORE THE THEME

Our website has many more written and filmed life stories that you can explore with your group, and presentations and activity sheets to help you lead an interactive session. Find them all at: hmd.org.uk/educators

Drama lesson – explore a life story through drama activities.



Learn about antisemitism and discrimination in Nazi Germany, Rwanda and in the UK today – what can you do if you witness or experience prejudice and hate?

Discover our Anne Frank assembly / presentation for younger children. You could follow this up with a diary writing activity.



The responsibility of the press – a resource inspired by media coverage of the Genocide in Bosnia. This is specifically designed for those interested in journalism.

Postcard writing activity for young people – this activity is available for Key Stage 2 and secondary age students.



Read our Theme Vision which can help you explore the elements of this year's theme: hmd.org.uk/thepowerofwords

Online lessons – visit HMDT Interactive for our free, interactive lessons with topics including the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and an introduction to genocide: hmd.org.uk/interactive



HMD YOUTH CHAMPIONS



HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY 27/1

YOUTH
champions

The Youth Champion Programme empowers young people aged 14-24 years old to take action for Holocaust Memorial Day through organising their own activities or events to raise awareness of HMD in their community and amongst their peers. To mark HMD 2018, Youth Champions will be set five challenges:

1. Complete an HMDT Interactive Workshop.
2. Attend a Youth Champion Workshop or download a Youth Champion toolkit.
3. Take part in the HMD 2018 postcard project.
4. Organise an HMD activity.
5. Attend the Youth Champion Day.



By taking part you will:

- Increase your knowledge of the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.
- Develop leadership and communication skills to enhance your CV.
- Make a real contribution to your local community and inspire other young people to end hatred and discrimination today.
- Meet and talk to survivors of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides.
- Attend / volunteer at the UK Ceremony for Holocaust Memorial Day.

To join the Youth Champion programme, please email youth@hmd.org.uk or visit hmd.org.uk/youthchampions