

Holocaust Memorial Day Activity Template

One - two hours



HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY TRUST

Here are some suggestions of activities you could do to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day in an assembly or ceremony if you have between one and two hours. Please note you may need to prepare in advance for some of these activities.

Introduction:

Today, 27 January, is **Holocaust Memorial Day**. It is the day for everyone to remember the millions of people killed in the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur. 27 January marks the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp. On HMD we can honour the survivors of these regimes of hatred and challenge ourselves to use the lessons of their experience to inform our lives today.



HMD is a time when we seek to learn the lessons of the past and to recognise that genocide does not just take place on its own, it's a steady process which can begin if discrimination, racism and hatred are not checked and prevented. We're fortunate here in the UK; we are not at risk of genocide. However, discrimination has not ended, nor has the use of the language of hatred or exclusion. There is still much to do to create a safer future and HMD is an opportunity to start this process.

Holocaust Memorial Day: 20 minute activity

Use our 10-30 minute activity template to share the life story of David Berger with your audience, and then to share a Holocaust poem with them. Both of these can be followed with an activity – encouraging your audience to directly engage with this year's theme.

You can find the template here: hmd.org.uk/10-30minutes

Holocaust Memorial Day: 20 minute activity

Share with your audience the life stories of the Holocaust Memorial Garden at the Holocaust Centre: hmd.org.uk/holocaustcentre and of the '6 Million +' memorial: hmd.org.uk/6million

Arrange your audience in small groups and have them discuss what they could do to honour the memory of the survivors and victims of the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and the subsequent genocides. Could they build/make a memorial? Could they create a memorial garden?

After ten minutes, bring everyone back together to share their ideas and to see if together your audience would be able to make something. For more resources that would support you with this activity, please see: hmd.org.uk/memorialgarden



Holocaust Memorial Day: 20 minute activity

If you have time to prepare for Holocaust Memorial Day in advance, you could perform a short play for your audience. We have produced a resource to help guide you through this, which includes a selection of plays for you to choose from:

hmd.org.uk/drama

This is also a good way of collaborating with other groups or organisations.



Holocaust Memorial Day: 20+ minute activity

Share survivor testimony with your audience. If you are able to organise this in advance, you could have a survivor attend your event and share their personal story – ideally you would give them a full hour for this. If this is not possible, there are many video testimonies you could choose. Here is a selection – **please note your audience may find some of these distressing**.



Each of these clips lasts around seven minutes.

Simon Winston – a Holocaust survivor – hmd.org.uk/simon

Sokphal Din – a Cambodian survivor – hmd.org.uk/sokphal

Safet Vukalić – a Bosnian survivor – hmd.org.uk/safet

Appolinaire Kageruka – a Rwandan survivor – hmd.org.uk/appolinaire

For other survivor testimony on video please see: hmd.org.uk/films

Safet Vukalić, in a Moving Portrait created for HMD 2015

Holocaust Memorial Day: Conclusion

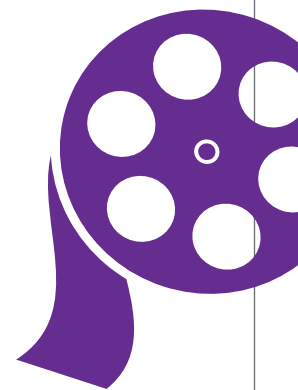
After you have read the introduction and shared either one or more of the above activities with your audience, you should conclude your event.

You could light a candle, or six, representing the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution, and the genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

Observe a minute's silence to honour the victims and survivors of these regimes.

Show a short film from Holocaust Memorial Day Trust: hmd.org.uk/films

As your audience leave, hand out HMD stickers, or 'About HMD booklets' – you can get all of our resources, for free here: hmd.org.uk/activitypack



For advice and support with your event contact us:

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