

Holocaust Memorial Day Activity Template

10 - 30 minutes



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 10 and 30 minutes. 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: 10 minute activity

Begin by reading the above **introduction**. Then share with your audience the life story of David Berger, which can be found here: hmd.org.uk/davidberger

If appropriate to your audience and your budget, hand out blank postcards and pens and ask everyone to use the postcard to share the memory of David Berger, as he would have wanted. How can we best share his story? Is it about telling his story to someone else? What other ways can we use the postcard to honour his memory?

You could also use the postcards to encourage your audience to think about how they would like to be remembered – or what they would like to be remembered for.

If you have more time, follow on with another activity as suggested overleaf or **conclude** your HMD activity as suggested at the end of this document.

You can find many other life stories covering the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and the genocides that happened in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur to share with your audience here: hmd.org.uk/lifestories



Holocaust Memorial Day: 10 minute activity

Begin by reading the above **introduction**. Then read a poem to your audience. Below is one suggestion and you can find many more poems here: hmd.org.uk/poetry

Elie Wiesel was born in 1928 in Sighet, Transylvania, which is now part of Romania. He was 15 years old when he and his family were deported by the Nazis to Auschwitz. This poem is from the memoir he wrote about his experiences. Have a minute's silence to honour the victims and survivors of these regimes.

Never Shall I Forget

Never shall I forget that night, the first night in camp, that turned my life into one long night seven times sealed.

Never shall I forget that smoke.

Never shall I forget the small faces of the children whose bodies I saw transformed into smoke under a silent sky.

Never shall I forget those flames that consumed my faith for ever.

Never shall I forget the nocturnal silence that deprived me for all eternity of the desire to live.

Never shall I forget those moments that murdered my God and my soul and turned my dreams to ashes.

Never shall I forget those things, even were I condemned to live as long as God Himself.

Never.

Never Shall I Forget from *Night* by Elie Wiesel.

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Ask your audience (if appropriate) to write their own poem for Holocaust Memorial Day.

If you have more time, follow on with another activity as suggested here or conclude your HMD activity as suggested at the end of this document.

Holocaust Memorial Day: Conclusion

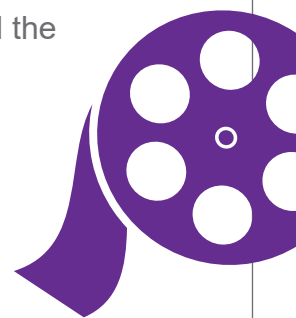
After you have read the introduction and shared either one or both of the above activities with your audience, you should conclude your event.

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

Have 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 activity contact us:

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Let us know about your event or activity:
hmd.org.uk/letusknow