

Holocaust Memorial Day Activity Template

Half a day - a day



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 half a day to a day. 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: half a day activity

One of the activities from the one – two hour template is about imagining what memorial your audience might create to **honour victims and survivors of the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and the subsequent genocides**. With half a day, your audience could create a memorial or memorial garden. You might wish to prepare for this in advance by finding a suitable plot of land or place for the memorial, and purchasing relevant materials. Or you might simply like to give your audience more time to design something which could be built in the future.

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

Begin by arranging your audience in small groups and have them discuss whether they could 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: one hour activity

There are lots of activities you can do involving photography and memory.

Ask your audience (in advance) to bring in photographs that capture an important memory.

- You could then display these photographs to form an exhibition for everyone to look at.
- Or you could ask everyone in the group to share their photograph and describe **why it is important to them**.
- You could then ask people (either individually or in groups) to go and photograph something that represents the theme for HMD this year. (They can use their phones or you could provide disposable cameras). Encourage them to think clearly about what they are photographing and why. Ask everyone to email you their photograph or return the cameras be developed. These photographs could then be displayed somewhere prominent for others to look at.



HMDT have produced some cinemagraphs of survivors of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides, in their own homes. Share these images with your audience - you will need a projector, screen and you need to download the images in advance. You can display these images as an exhibition and give your audience time to look at each one. A discussion could then be had with your audience. You could use the following questions as prompts, if need be.

- What do these images tell us about the people in them?
- What object have they all chosen to pose with, and what do you think these represent?
- Do you like the images?
- How do these images honour survivors?



Holocaust Memorial Day: conclusion

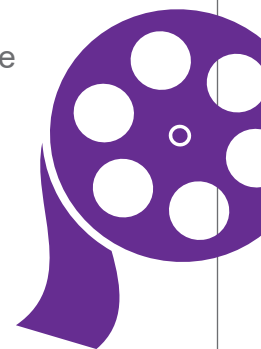
After you have read the introduction and shared either one or both of the above activities with your audience, you should conclude your event.

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

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 from here: hmd.org.uk/activitypack



For advice and support with your event contact us:

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