

What is the Youth Champion programme?

A guide for teachers



The Youth Champion programme empowers young people aged 14-18 to take the lead in marking Holocaust Memorial Day in their schools, colleges and youth groups.

During the programme, they will develop leadership and communication skills to work towards a safer, better future by ensuring that discrimination, racism and hatred have no place in their communities.

Holocaust Memorial Day takes place on 27 January, and is the day for everyone to learn about and remember the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and the genocides which followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. It also gives us the opportunity to reflect on our society today, and what we can do to have a positive impact.



Benefits of the programme to young people

As Youth Champions, your students will:

- Learn more about the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur
- Engage with survivors' experiences and feel inspired to end hatred and discrimination today
- Gain leadership and communications skills to mark Holocaust Memorial Day
- Be part of a network of young people all over the UK and make a real difference in their community

Each year, Youth Champions will be invited to attend the HMDT Youth Conference to thank them for all of their hard work. They will:

- Engage with survivors of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides
- Participate in workshops and talks from interesting speakers
- Receive a Youth Champion certificate
- Meet other Youth Champions and Youth Advocates from all over the UK



Jessamy and Gemma speak at an HMD event organised by the South West Multicultural Network



Young people pictured with Nicola Walker, Samuel Barnett, Jim Broadbent and Laura Marks OBE, Chair of HMDT



Gida receives her certificate from Martin Stern MBE, a survivor of the Holocaust, at the HMDT Youth Conference

The bronze, silver and gold awards

Youth Champions will grow their engagement with HMD each year by completing their bronze, silver and gold awards. After signing up to the programme, they will receive free resources to help them complete the award. For many students, this will be their first year, so they should complete bronze first.



Bronze

For the bronze award, students will take part in the Postcard Project where they will have the chance to write to a survivor of the Holocaust or genocide and receive a reply from them. They will commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day in a small but significant way and let us know what they did. They will receive a certificate and an invitation to the HMDT Youth Conference.



Silver

Once they have completed the bronze award in their first year, students can build upon their knowledge of HMD and experience of marking the day. They will encourage others to join the programme to support them in organising an HMD activity. They will contribute to the youth-led short film in which a survivor of the Holocaust is interviewed. They will submit their activity to our online activities map and send us photos of their HMD activity to receive a certificate and invitation to the HMDT Youth Conference.



Gold

After completing the bronze and silver awards, students will have the knowledge and skills to complete their gold award. They will learn more about the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and subsequent genocides through film and literature. They will have more ownership and control over the tasks that they complete, making a real difference in their own community. They will take the lead in organising their own HMD activity and they will connect with their local community to increase the impact of their event. They will submit the activity to our online activities map, and send us a brief summary and photos of their HMD activity to receive a certificate and invitation to the HMDT Youth Conference.

As students complete their awards, more opportunities will be open to them, such as:

- Attending the UK Ceremony for Holocaust Memorial Day, a moving and thought-provoking event to honour the survivors of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides
- Volunteering at the UK Ceremony for Holocaust Memorial Day. Youth Champions will gain skills and assist behind the scenes of a high-profile event
- Applying to become a Youth Board Member to represent young peoples' views and help to develop the HMDT Youth programmes

There are many other opportunities which may be open to them in the future.



How you can support your students to get involved

You can encourage your students to sign up to become a Youth Champion at hmd.org.uk/youth

Students may approach you if they need help organising their own activity. You could:

- Allow them to display a promotional poster in school or mention the programme in an assembly or during tutor time. This is the second task to complete as part of the silver award
- Support them to hold a lunchtime club or regular meetings to plan their HMD activity. They could propose ideas to you and you could help them to identify what they need to do in advance, such as book a room or space, print resources or invite speakers
- Encourage older students to continue their involvement when they leave school by joining the HMDT Youth Advocate programme for people aged 18-25

Examples of past HMD activities in schools



Alia led a presentation to year 9 and year 10 students about the different groups persecuted by the Nazis and why it is important to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. She also organised workshops for year 9 students to teach them about the subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.



Tasnia set up a stall at her school. She used the posters in the HMD Activity Pack to make an eye-catching display. She told people about the importance of marking Holocaust Memorial Day and gave out stickers and 'About HMD' booklets to students.

Resources for educators

You can also mark HMD with your students, by using our school materials, including assemblies, lesson plans and Tutor Time activities.


Youth Champions may like to have a role in leading these with you. They could lead the assembly as part of their HMD activity, create something to perform as part of the assembly, support other students to take part in the Postcard Project in class, or lead a section of the Tutor Time activities.

You can find these resources at hmd.org.uk/education.

Find out more...

HMDT Youth programmes: hmd.org.uk/youth

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Learning from genocide - for a better future