



Holocaust Memorial Day

*Learning from genocide
- for a better future*



**HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY TRUST**

*Learning from genocide -
for a better future*

What is Holocaust Memorial Day?

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT) encourages remembrance in a world scarred by genocide. We promote and support Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) – the international day on 27 January to remember the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, alongside the millions of other people killed under Nazi persecution of other groups, and in more recent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

The Holocaust threatened the fabric of civilisation, and genocide must still be resisted every day. Even in the UK, prejudice and the language of hatred must be challenged by us all.

HMD is for everyone. Each year across the UK, thousands of people come together to learn more about the past and take action to create a safer future.

Together we bear witness for those who endured genocide, and honour the survivors and all those whose lives were changed beyond recognition.



hmd.org.uk



**HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY 27/1**

What is genocide?

Polish lawyer Raphael Lemkin first developed the concept of genocide in the 1930s, but it was not until 1948, after the Nuremburg Trials, that genocide became a crime under international law.

The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide defines genocide as: 'any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, such as:

- killing members of the group
- causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group
- deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part
- imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group
- forcibly transferring children of the group to another group

The ten stages of genocide

Genocide never just happens. There is always a set of circumstances which occur or which are created to build the climate in which genocide can take place.

Gregory H Stanton, President of Genocide Watch, developed the 10 stages of genocide which explains the different stages which lead to genocide.

- | | | | |
|----------|-----------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| 1 | Classification | 6 | Polarisation |
| 2 | Symbolisation | 7 | Preparation |
| 3 | Discrimination | 8 | Persecution |
| 4 | Dehumanisation | 9 | Extermination |
| 5 | Organisation | 10 | Denial |

Learn more: hmd.org.uk/tenstages

Overviews of the Holocaust and more recent genocides

Since 1948 UN tribunals and the International Criminal Court have stated that genocide has taken place in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur, which we mark alongside the Holocaust on HMD.

The Holocaust

The Holocaust followed years of persecution of Jews by the Nazis and their collaborators. The Holocaust was the attempt to destroy all European Jews, and by its end, 6 million Jewish people had been murdered in ghettos, mass shootings, concentration camps and death camps.

Find out more: hmd.org.uk/holocaust

The Roma Genocide

Between 200,000 and 500,000 Roma and Sinti people were murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators. The experience of the Roma and Sinti populations has parallels with that of Europe's Jews – both were targeted on the grounds of their race and had suffered centuries of discrimination. Find out more: hmd.org.uk/romagenocide

Nazi persecution of other groups

The Nazis persecuted many peoples alongside Jews. The Nazis persecuted many peoples who, like the Jews, they believed threatened their ideal of a genetically pure Aryan race. Black people, the disabled, gay people, political opponents, and other groups, were all persecuted and hundreds of thousands murdered.

Find out more: hmd.org.uk/nazipersecution

Cambodia

In 1975, under their leader, Pol Pot, the Khmer Rouge seized power in Cambodia. Banning all social classes, Western influences and civil rights, they forced the population to work on collective farms. Approximately 2 million people were murdered, from execution, disease, exhaustion and starvation.

Find out more: hmd.org.uk/cambodia

Rwanda

Over 100 days between April and July 1994 approximately 1 million Tutsis and moderate Hutus were murdered, by killers using machetes and clubs. Frequently the killers were people they knew – neighbours, workmates, former friends, sometimes even relatives through marriage.

Find out more: hmd.org.uk/rwanda



Bosnia

In 1992 Bosnia declared independence from Yugoslavia, leading to war breaking out between the Bosniak (Bosnian Muslim) Croat and Serb populations within the country. In July 1995, following a campaign of 'ethnic cleansing' by Bosnian Serb forces, 8,000 Bosniak men and boys were murdered at Srebrenica in just two days.

Find out more: hmd.org.uk/bosnia

Darfur

In 2003, conflict broke out between the black African farmers and lighter-skinned nomadic Arab populations of Darfur in west Sudan. The Sudanese Government supported armed Arab militia, the *Janjaweed*, who destroyed hundreds of villages and murdered thousands of people. Approximately 200,000 civilian were murdered and around 2.5 million people were displaced. Find out more: hmd.org.uk/darfur



Image: Srebrenica Genocide Memorial © Julian Buijzen

Holocaust and genocide survivors in their own words



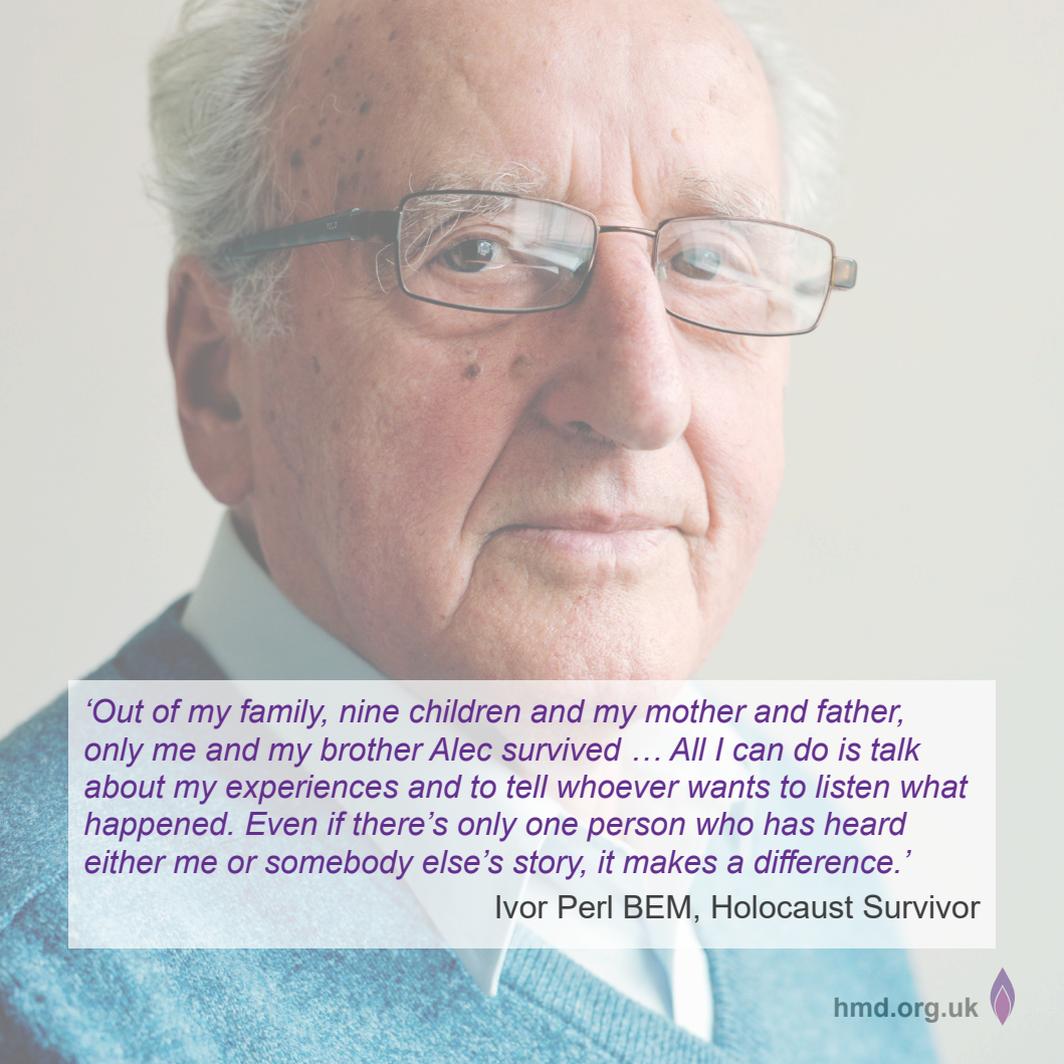
'If the world does not change now, if the world does not open its doors and windows, if it does not build peace ... then I cannot explain why I survived Auschwitz, Bergen-Belsen, and Ravensbrück.'

Ceija Stojka, survivor of the
Roma genocide

'I cannot forget my past. I suffer poor physical health as a result of the malnutrition, the over-work and beatings ... And emotionally too, I still bear the scars. I suffer from anxiety and nightmares when reminded of what I went through.'

Sophari Ashley, survivor of the genocide in Cambodia



A close-up portrait of an elderly man with white hair and glasses, looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. He is wearing a blue sweater over a white collared shirt. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

'Out of my family, nine children and my mother and father, only me and my brother Alec survived ... All I can do is talk about my experiences and to tell whoever wants to listen what happened. Even if there's only one person who has heard either me or somebody else's story, it makes a difference.'

Ivor Perl BEM, Holocaust Survivor



'Before execution, we were forced to take off our clothes. One of the soldiers tied our hands behind our backs. At that moment I, a 17 year old boy, realised it was the end.'

Nedžad Avdić, survivor of the genocide in Bosnia



'The last train to Auschwitz had departed on January 5, 1945, as I later found out, and in March the last transports to Sachsenhausen, Ravensbrück, and Theresienstadt took place. Would they shoot us? Or had we meanwhile become important enough to them for the time 'afterwards'?'

Gad Beck, a gay survivor of the Holocaust



‘One day I returned from school... I found... soldiers had killed my father... they had killed him because we belonged to the Zaghawa tribe. The Government said Zaghawa people didn’t belong in Darfur.’

Abdul Aziz Mustafa, survivor of the genocide in Darfur

‘I was so afraid. I used to imagine a machete cutting my neck all the time ... I was so afraid and lost all hope of survival. But then I reached a point where I wasn’t scared any more. I was no longer afraid of death. Death or life, it meant nothing any more.’

Freddy Mutanguha, survivor of the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda



Read life stories of people affected by genocide:
hmd.org.uk/lifestories

Identity-based persecution today

Sadly identity-based hatred, bigotry and persecution, both in the UK and overseas, remain with us:

The transfer of Ukrainian children by Russian authorities to Russia has been described as having the aim of *'annihilating every link to and feature of their Ukrainian identity.'*

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

'Antisemitic incidents rise to their highest recorded level in the U.S. while antisemitism shows little sign of abating worldwide'

Anti-Defamation League / PBS

Uganda implements one of the world's toughest anti-LGBTQ laws, *'We are appalled that the draconian and discriminatory anti-gay bill is now law. It is a recipe for systematic violations of the rights of LGBT people and the wider population.'*

UN Human Rights Office

'... discrimination, hate speech in the mass media, and acceptance of violent attacks against the Roma have become the lifestyle of the majority in Romania.'

European Roma Rights Centre





Myanmar soldiers ordered to wipe out Muslim Rohingya villages, to *'kill all, irrespective of children and adults'*

Sky News

Research by the University of Manchester, the University of St Andrews and King's College London, shows more than a third of people from ethnic and religious minority groups in Britain have experienced some form of racist assault.

The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights calls on Iran *'to stop the persecution and harassment of religious minorities and end the use of religion to curtail the exercise of fundamental rights'*.

'Their goal is to destroy everyone', Uyghurs face imprisonment, torture, rape and forced sterilisation by the Chinese government

The BBC

'Crimean Tatars in Crimea ... are being subjected to numerous patterns of serious violations of human rights, persecution, discrimination, and stigmatisation by the Russian occupying authorities'

Council of Europe

Image: Rohingya refugees queuing in Cox's Bazar refugee camp, Bangladesh © Allison Joyce / Stringer / Getty

How to get involved in HMD

How you can get involved:

- Organise an activity: visit hmd.org.uk and then let us know about your activity - hmd.org.uk/letusknow
- Attend an activity: use our activity map to find an HMD activity near you - hmd.org.uk/map
- Subscribe to our newsletter: hmd.org.uk/newsletter
- Explore our free resources: including school materials, films, poems and life stories - hmd.org.uk/resources
- Take action: help prevent persecution and discrimination today - hmd.org.uk/takeaction
- Light the Darkness: light a candle and put it in your window or light up a building in purple for HMD - hmd.org.uk/lightthedarkness
- Mark HMD online: visit hmd.org.uk/hmdonline for tips and follow us on social media:



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HMDT resources and support

We have a wide range of resources for all age ranges and organisations to support you with your HMD activities and to help you learn more about the Holocaust and genocide.

Our website has:

- School lessons, assemblies and projects for Primary, Secondary and SEND schools
- Social media assets and blog templates
- Get Involved Guides for: Cinemas, Colleges and Universities, Emergency Services, Faith and Interfaith Groups, Libraries, Local Authorities, Museums and Galleries, Prisons, Trade Unions, and Workplaces
- Films, life stories, artefacts, poems, posters and booklets and so much more

For support or advice our outreach team is available to help at enquiries@hmd.org.uk.

HMD Activity Organisers across the UK

'Marking (HMD) ... and thinking about ... what happened in the Holocaust, in Bosnia and Rwanda and Darfur, makes people ... think beyond themselves, makes them think about much bigger social issues.'

Gary Milling, Governor, HMP Magilligan, Northern Ireland

'The speakers reminded us of other tragedies that have beset the world since the Holocaust and reminded us that evil acts will persist if it is not spoken about and publicised.'

Bournemouth and Pool HMD event attendee

'This was my first HMD event and I found myself reflecting on the true scale of the Holocaust. I am keen to learn more about subsequent genocides and stand up against prejudice today.'

Theo Frater, Glasgow University HMD event attendee

'Events like this can really help the community to come together as one and think about how we've progressed maybe, and to stop this stuff from repeating itself.'

Welsh Muslim Cultural Foundation HMD event attendee



Take action

Marking HMD helps build empathy, understanding and helps create better and safer communities. But it is also a call to action, for individuals, communities and organisations to take what action they can to prevent identity-based persecution and discrimination.

Our website has a list of suggestions and ideas for how you can take action to prevent persecution both here in the UK and around the world and to see what others have done. There are actions that take five minutes, one hour, and longer, depending on how much time you have:

hmd.org.uk/takeaction

'I resolved that I would do my utmost to help create greater harmony, mutual respect and understanding amongst people. It is a resolution from which I have never wavered.'

The late Sir Ben Helfgott, Holocaust survivor and former Honorary President, Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, 1929-2023

Short answers to big questions

Knowing the facts about the Holocaust and genocide are vital, and our short answers to big questions provide key information for everyone to learn and share.

What was the Holocaust?

The Holocaust was the attempt by the Nazis and their collaborators to destroy all Jewish people in Europe. It took place across 22 different countries, with the active participation of some of the citizens of those countries. Building upon centuries of antisemitism (anti-Jewish hatred), persecution of Jewish people began as soon as the Nazis came to power in 1933.

How many Jews were murdered in the Holocaust?

6 million Jewish men, women and children were murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators.

What is Antisemitism?

Antisemitism is an act of discrimination or hatred toward Jewish people (individuals or an organisation) or people who have Jewish heritage, are deemed to be Jewish or who work closely with the Jewish community.



What other groups of people were persecuted by the Nazis?

The Jews and Roma were targeted for total annihilation; the Nazis persecuted other people, including disabled people, LGBT+ people, black people, Jehovah's witnesses, Polish and Slavic citizens and POWs, trade unionists and many more who didn't conform to Nazi ideals. Millions of people were affected.

Does discrimination based on identity still exist?

Discrimination against part of a person's identity did not stop with the Holocaust, and it is still happening in the world today.

What is genocide?

Genocide is the deliberate attempt to destroy a specific group of people based on one or more of a person's characteristics.

How do genocides happen?

Genocides have clear stages from discrimination, through to murder and denial of genocide. They are not inevitable and can be stopped.

Where have genocides taken place?

Since the Holocaust, genocides have taken place in other countries including in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT) is the charity, established by the Government, to promote and support Holocaust Memorial Day in the UK. HMDT encourages remembrance in a world scarred by genocide. Each year, thousands of people come together to learn more about the past and to take action to create a better future.

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