

# Make a Memorial Flames display – a group activity for HMD



HOLOCAUST  
MEMORIAL  
DAY TRUST

This activity is suitable for use by primary, secondary or SEN schools, young people and HMD activity organisers.

Read about the experiences of people affected by the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution or genocide, and do a craft activity to make a commemorative display, using the image of a memorial flame.

Your group will learn historical information, connect with the experiences of those affected, and take action as a result.



Solihull School

This activity can be run with different groups by making the following adaptations:

## Primary or SEN schools

Select an easy to read life story to share with your group. We suggest the Veseli family or Susanne Kenton – both are linked to below. You may need to make some of the introductory information simpler. Different classes could all contribute to one large display.

## Secondary schools

Deliver the activity in an Art, History, RE or Citizenship lesson, or across a series of tutor times. Create a display for the school featuring the work of different classes.

## Young people

Get together a group of people from your school, college, university or youth group to read a life story and create your artworks. Teachers or youth leaders may be able to help. Where could you display your work?

## HMD activity organisers

This could be a craft activity as part of an event. Make sure you have life stories for people to read, and someone to lead the activity. Alternatively, contact a local community group who can do this activity in advance and create a display for your event.

## Activity: Make a Memorial Flames display

### Introduction to Holocaust Memorial Day

As the activity organiser, explain to your group what HMD is:

Each year on 27 January we mark Holocaust Memorial Day, to remember:

- the six million Jewish people who were systematically persecuted and murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators during the Holocaust
- the Nazis' other victims, including Roma and Sinti people, disabled people, gay people, political opponents and many others who faced persecution and death at the hands of the Nazis
- the millions of men, women and children, who have been murdered in the genocides which followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur

In this session we are going to learn more about these events, discover the experiences of people who were affected, and be inspired to take action.

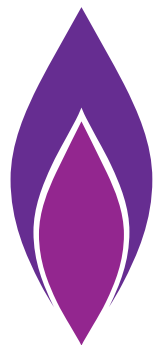
Genocide does not come from nowhere. It is a process that begins with prejudice and discrimination. Genocides are still happening around the world today, and it is up to all of us to stand up against prejudice in our society today, to make the world a safer place for all.

### Making your Memorial Flames display

#### Step one:

Introduce and discuss the idea of Memorial Flames:

The logo for Holocaust Memorial Day is a Memorial Flame. This symbolises our commitment to remember and honour those affected and murdered during the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and the genocides that followed. To keep a flame burning you must tend to it, be vigilant and keep it burning. It is the same with our commitment to remembrance – we must keep learning, sharing and taking action so the memory of these events is kept alive for years to come. As a group, take the image of a Memorial Flame as the starting point for a display.



#### Step two:

Read and discuss the experiences of someone affected by the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution or a more recent genocide, using a life story resource from the HMDT website. Some suggestions are below, or **find more online**. How could your Memorial Flame honour the people in the story, and help share their experiences and messages with more people?

Please note that some life stories contain upsetting details. If you are leading the activity, we recommend you read through them before sharing with your group.

Suggestions:

- **The Veseli Family** (or easy to read version) – A Muslim family who rescued Jews during the Holocaust
- **Susanne Kenton** (or easy to read version) – Rescued on the Kindertransport
- **Ivor Perl** (this comes with a short animated film) – Survivor of the Holocaust
- **Nedžad Avdić** – Survivor of the Genocide in Srebrenica, Bosnia
- **'Faiza'** (or easy to read version) – Refugee from Sudan

In small groups discuss the story and complete the life story worksheet provided. Each group can present their answers to one of the questions as part of a whole group discussion about what we have learnt.



Ivor Perl, survivor of the Holocaust

## Step three:

Plan your Memorial Flames display – ask yourself:

- Where will it be?
- Do you need to get permission?
- How many Memorial Flames will be featured?
- Is it a wall display, or a larger exhibition space?
- Could you have sculptures, or just 2D artworks?
- Who will come to see the display?
- Can the audience interact with the display – for example, write messages or pledges?
- What information needs to go with the artworks? You should explain that it is for Holocaust Memorial Day, and share the stories you have been inspired by.
- You can order 'About HMD' booklets at [hmd.org.uk/orderresources](http://hmd.org.uk/orderresources).

## Step four:

Make your Memorial Flame artworks. These can be made individually or in small groups. They could be drawings, paintings, collage, sculpture, digital design – the options are endless, and you can adapt the method for a range of audiences to make the activity accessible to all. Some examples of other groups' artistic work is provided below.

Memorial Flames can be inspired by:

- Different life stories or easy to read life stories
- Details from the history of the Holocaust, Nazi persecution and genocides.
- Poems written in response to genocides

You can respond to these starting points artistically by, for example:

- Incorporating archive images, maps, quotes or words into your flame.
- Choosing particular details from a person's testimony that give you visual ideas for your flame, such as an activity they enjoyed before the Holocaust or genocide, or something that gave them hope.
- Including names, such as to honour rescuers, or remember people who were murdered.

## Step five:

Please tell us about your activity! This helps us to measure the reach of HMD, and evaluate the success of particular resources and projects. We'd also love to see pictures of your display.

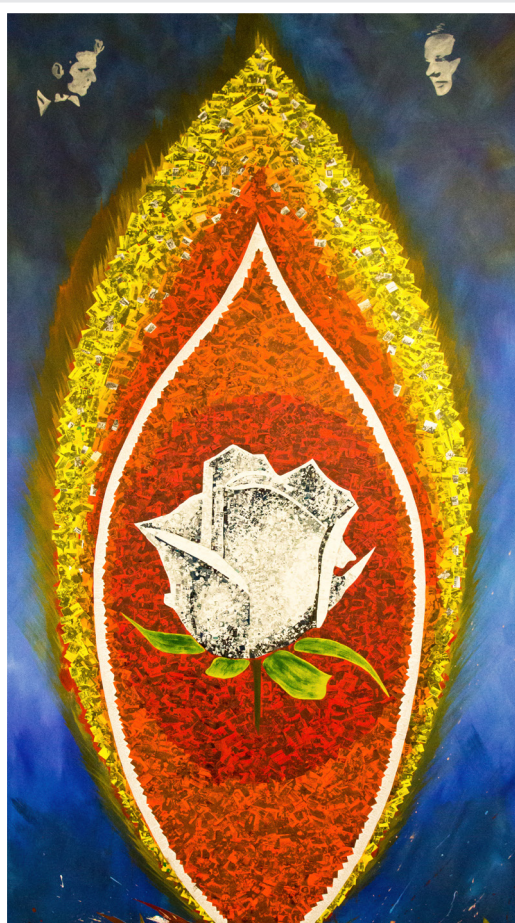
You can do this by emailing [education@hmd.org.uk](mailto:education@hmd.org.uk), or adding your activity to our map – [hmd.org.uk/letusknow](https://hmd.org.uk/letusknow).



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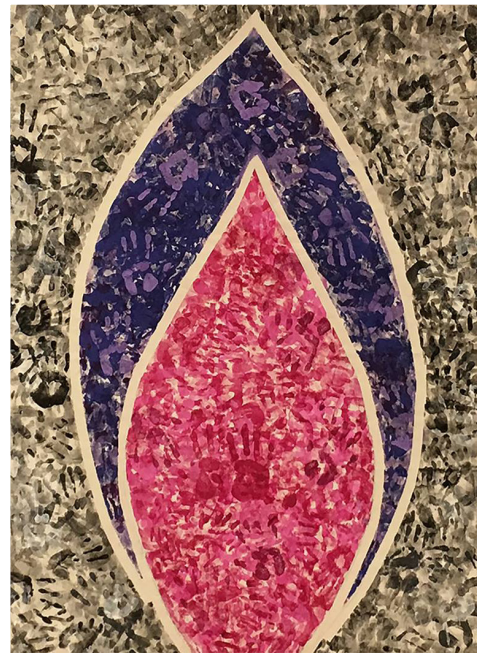


This flame by Kirkham Prison Library is made of archival photographs of the White Rose Resistance Group

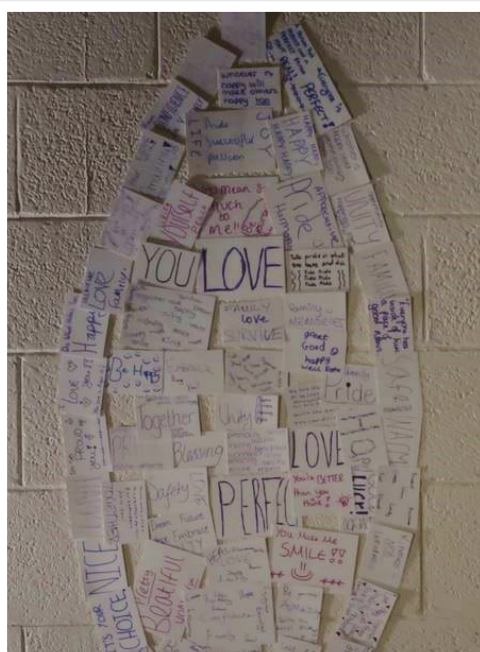




A menorah made of clay to honour a Holocaust survivor by Sobell Centre pottery group



A flame made of handprints from all the participating students at Solihull school



A flame made up of positive words by Millthorpe School



A fabric flame as part of a display by Sawston Village College

Find out more...

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust: [hmd.org.uk](http://hmd.org.uk)  
Discover resources for educators and other materials for  
your activities: [hmd.org.uk/resources](http://hmd.org.uk/resources)

# Life story worksheet

## Head:

What were they thinking about?

## Eyes and ears:

What did they see and hear?

## Arms:

What actions did they take?

## Heart:

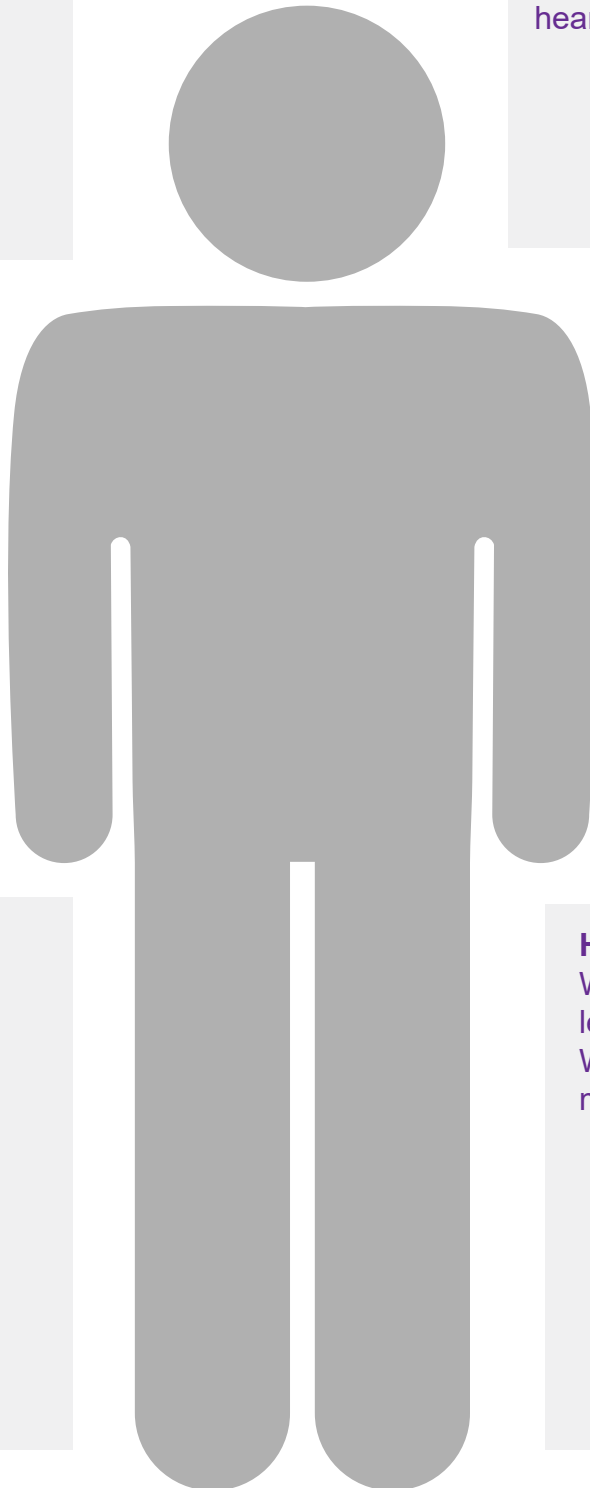
How do you think they felt?

## Legs:

How did they escape or survive?

## Home:

What did they have to leave behind?  
What would they have missed?



## Feet: Follow up questions

1. What have you learnt about the genocide from reading this person's story?
2. What can we learn from these stories to apply to our own lives and actions?
3. What would you like to say to this person?