

# Don't stand by

## A sensory statement to support Holocaust Memorial Day



HOLOCAUST  
MEMORIAL  
DAY TRUST

This resource for Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) is designed to be accessible for young people and adults with a range of SEN, physical or sensory impairments, and is available for anyone who would like to take a creative approach to marking HMD.

The statement reinforces our individual responsibilities to build a safe society free from prejudice. It reminds us to not stand by, and to speak out against evil and wrong doing. It can be accessed through words and through sensory stimuli.

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### Experiencing the statement through sensory stimulation

The sensory statement can be experienced one on one, or in a circle with a group of experiencers. The sensory experiences address each of the seven sensory systems. The broad range of experiences also means that if a statement experiencer has a sensory impairment they have opportunity to access the statement through other areas.



## The statement

### ***Don't stand by***

I am connected to you.

We may be different but we are still connected.

If you are hurt I will try to help.

I will not stand by.

I will speak out.

I will say 'stop'.

I will say 'no'.

Will you not stand by?

Will you speak out?

Will you say 'stop'?

Will you say 'no'?

If I am hurt, will you try to help?

We may be different but we are connected.

You are connected to me.

If someone tries to hurt me,

Please don't stand by

Please speak out

Please say 'stop'

Please say 'no'

We may be different but we are connected.

You are connected to me.

## Resources you will need

You should be able to find the items on the resource list for little or no cost or improvise alternatives using items you already own. Do not worry if there are resources on the list that you cannot find or that you feel would not suit your statement experiencers. Alternative suggestions have been given and you can add to these with your own ideas.

- A swathe of thin, stretchy fabric, in any colour, but earthy colours (blues, greens, browns) would give the impression of a globe. Your fabric will need to be long enough to encircle the people with whom you are sharing the statement.

**Alternatives:** A loop of thick elastic, tights or stockings stitched or tied together in a loop. A physical alternative would be to have everyone experiencing the statement to hold hands - this would serve the purpose of representing our connectedness but would not be such a strong proprioceptive experience. Some statement experiencers will find the sensation of being wrapped in the fabric calming, it will help them to find stillness and engage with the statement, so if you are able to find a way to deliver this experience as a proprioceptive one then do have a go.

- A clear jug, a set of clear glasses and different colours of squash or food colouring.

**Alternatives:** Any clear receptacle will do for the jug or the glasses. If you are sharing the statement with an experiencer who is unable to drink from a glass then you may also need a straw, pipette, sponge or beaker.

- Lemon juice and balsamic vinegar solution, a rag, sponge, or cotton wool and a container to keep everything in.

**Alternatives:** This is a smell experience to represent 'pain'. You can choose a different smell if you like, such as one associated with the cleaning of wounds, for example TCP or anti-bacterial gel. Be wary of using smells that will distress your statement experiencers by bringing back bad memories. Lemon and vinegar is a sharp smell that tends to make us recoil at first, so it is a good approximation for a representation of pain, without being so unpleasant that it will upset or harm statement experiencers.

- The ability to affect the lighting in the space where you are sharing the statement. How you do this will depend entirely on the space in which you share the statement. It may be as simple as drawing and opening the curtains or switching a light on and off. To heighten the effect you could consider masking the windows so that the internal lights are the only source of light and switching them off causes a big experience of darkness, rather than a dulling of the light. You could create darkness for a single statement experiencer or a small group by holding a dark blanket over them.
- A mirror
- A large ball

## How to facilitate the sensory stimuli for Don't stand by

### I am connected to you

**A proprioceptive (awareness of body in space) experience:** Wrap your statement experiencer/s in a stretchy cloth, this cloth is the tangible expression of the abstract notion of connection. Allow time for your statement experiencer/s to feel that everyone's movements cause a change in experience for others. If you are sharing the statement one to one you will need to be wrapped in the cloth with your statement experiencer.

### We may be different but we are still connected

**Gustatory (taste) and visual (sight) experience:** In this experience we get visual information about our difference and taste information about our connectedness. Use a clear jug to pour water into clear glasses for each of your statement experiencers. If you are sharing the statement one on one with a statement experiencer put a glass out for yourself. Prepare the glasses with a drop of food colouring, or a measure of concentrated squash at the bottom of each one. Use different coloured food colouring or squash for each glass. As the water is poured into each glass your statement experiencers will see that each glass is different, although each glass has the same water inside.

You could emphasise the colours by using a torch with colour filters, or a projector, to bathe your statement experiencer/s in different coloured light to match the different coloured waters.

### If you are hurt I will try to help

**Olfactory (smell) experience:** Using a mixture of lemon juice and balsamic vinegar (or your chosen alternative), soak a rag in the solution and offer it to statement experiencers to smell. Use a dish to prevent drips.

Our ability to experience a smell and experience pain are neurologically connected, depending on the same synapses. Our sense of smell is unique among the senses, being the only one processed by the limbic brain (the emotional brain). Smell is therefore very powerful and our personal associations between scents and bad or painful experiences will be very strong.

### I will not stand by

**An experience of movement:** To not stand by to something means to present it with a firm obstacle. Roll the big ball past all your experiencers and ask them to stand by and watch it roll. Then roll the ball past them for a second time but this time ask them to not stand by and to stop it rolling, using any means appropriate to them. For all statement experiencers you want the big experience of this sentence to be the not standing by, as that is the behaviour we are looking to emphasise.

### I will speak out

**Auditory experience:** The sound experiences in this statement will be of the clearly spoken words coming up in the next two lines, those of 'stop' and 'no'.

**Visual experience:** Allow your statement experiencer/s time to look at their reflection in the mirror. The sensory experience associated with this line of the statement conveys the message that this statement is about you, the person in the mirror.

## I will say 'stop'

**Tactile experience:** The hand sign for stop, of a raised flat palm, is fairly universal. Position your hand so that it is palm to palm with the hand of your statement experiencer, or put people into pairs to do this action. Move your hands around gently, on the word 'stop' press firmly against your partner's hand and bring both of your hands to a stop.

## I will say 'no'

**Visual experience:** Darkness

**And/or auditory experience:** Silence

## Will you say 'no'?

**Visual experience:** Light

**And/or auditory experience:** Say no

## Will you say 'stop'?

**Tactile experience:** As before: palm to palm 'stop'.

## Will you speak out?

**Visual experience:** As before: mirror.

## Will you not stand by?

**Movement experience:** As before: rolling and stopping the ball.

## If I am hurt, will you try to help?

**Olfactory experience:** As before: vinegar and lemon juice solution.

## We are different but we are connected

**Gustatory experience:** Statement experiencers can sip their water once again and then everyone pours their water back into the main jug, to see all the different colours mix.

## You are connected to me

**Proprioceptive experience:** End the sensory statement with everyone wrapped up together again, this will enable everyone to feel their connection and provide a calming proprioceptive experience in which to digest their learning. You do not need to rush to unwrap everyone at the end of the statement. Allow time for the feelings of connectedness to sink in. This can be a bonding experience for your group of statement experiencers.

The third verse is optional. If you are going through the statement in front of an audience this is an opportunity to 'perform' a verse to them using the actions, or include them in the actions.

## Using the statement to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day

You can use the statement to be the centrepiece of an assembly or a public event commemorating Holocaust Memorial Day. The sensory statement is ideal as a performance piece as it does not have to be rehearsed. Your performers will be the statement experiencers, they will perform by experiencing the statement live.

Researchers have found that when sharing sensory stories, experiencers respond more over repeated sharings. If you do have the opportunity to share the statement prior to performance you may find you have a more active performance when it comes to the event.

### You might want to think about:

- Choose a big piece of cloth so that your audience can see the statement experiencers completely enclosed in the cloth. If you were being particularly ambitious you could use a blue cloth and mark out in green the nations of the world upon it.
- You may be able to use an aroma diffuser to share the scent with the whole audience, if you are going to do this you may want to select a sharp lemon smell, or find a shop that sells essential oils and explore your options. If you are sharing the statement in the open air you may be able to safely light paper then blow out the flame so that you can use a smell experience of smoke and share it with the audience.
- Use a projector hooked up to a camera to enable you to project the different faces of your statement experiencers for your audience to see as you read the line of the statement about being different.
- If you are able to use a projector hooked up to a live feed as described above then you will be able to turn the camera on the audience and involve them when the statement asks 'Will you speak out?' When you do this allow time for the camera to pan, and for each audience member to feel its gaze rest on them.
- Consider other ways of getting the audience involved in experiencing the statement, perhaps by having everyone link hands, or by serving the water to everyone during the lines about our connectedness.
- Add another layer of narrative by using a projection screen to project images relating to the statement on a screen behind your statement experiencers. These could be photos from the HMD website, photos of other people in your community, photos of friends and families, photos of protestors or people who have spoken out against persecution.
- At the end of the statement invite performers and the audience to do a shared movement to confirm their commitment to the statement, such as raising hands, standing up or clapping.



## Take the learning further

You may be interested in some activities to do before or after the sensory statement. You can find more resources such as inclusive craft activities, easy to read life stories and teaching materials at [hmd.org.uk/schools](https://hmd.org.uk/schools).

**Let us know about your activity** by emailing [education@hmd.org.uk](mailto:education@hmd.org.uk).



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Find out more...

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