

# Light Up The Darkness: Creative Guidance



HOLOCAUST  
MEMORIAL  
DAY TRUST

We're so pleased that you are taking part in our Light Up The Darkness photography competition. Here you will find tips and advice to help you capture a great image.

We are looking for original images focussing on the people, groups, images and objects which light up the darkness. Photos are immediate and capture the contemporary situation faster than any other creative medium. They also give us extraordinary insight into past events.

Think about what the 'darkness' and the 'light' have been for you, or for others in the past. How would you capture this in a photo? Who or what has been a source of hope, inspiration or support through dark times? Photographs could be realistic or abstract. You may want to use shadows and brightness to depict 'light' and 'darkness'. Alternatively, you may opt for a more realistic style, capturing a true to life image.

Photojournalism has been used to document the horrific conditions of concentration camps and the atrocities of genocide and war and has served as a powerful testimony for combatting Holocaust denial. However, there have also been recent discussions on the inappropriate use of distressing images. Do not try to recreate any images from past conflicts, do not photograph people in distressing situations and focus your image on what has been the light rather than the darkness.



Top left: **Annalisa Silvestri of the San Salvatore Hospital in Pesaro, Italy, at the end of her shift during the COVID-19 pandemic** (Alberto Giuliani, 19 March 2020.)

Top right: **Black Lives Matter Protest, Bristol, UK** by KSAG Photography (licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0)

Bottom: **Urban abstract reflections #2 - New York City** by Andreas Komodromos

## Checklist

1. Get to know the theme for 2021 through our **Be The Light In The Darkness theme vision** and read the life story of a survivor of the Holocaust or one of the more recent genocides on our website. You might like to read about the experiences of **Mussa**, a survivor of the Genocide in Rwanda, who sees his passion for photography as a tool for change.
2. Think about how this theme is relevant to you. What is the 'darkness' and what is the 'light'?
3. Research how other photographers have used themes of light and dark visually in their work for inspiration.
4. Be creative! Make your photo as unique to you or your group as possible. We are looking for original, relevant and diverse images.
5. You can use phone filters if you want to but remember not to use any editing software like Photoshop or Illustrator.
6. Use your 50 accompanying words wisely. Think about the key information you want us to know about this picture, why you chose to take it, why it is relevant or the process you used.
7. Submit your photo!

## Looking for inspiration?

- Roman Vishniac captured photos of Jewish culture before the Holocaust and famously photographed many of the ghettos in Eastern Europe. Gerda Taro, Robert Capa, Dorothea Lange and Don McCullin tackled themes of social injustice, often capturing images of poverty, war and conflict from the frontlines. More recent photographers working with themes of race, identity and history include **Zanele Muholi** and **Lorna Simpson**, who have a more conceptual style.
- Read about **Gallery 11/07/95**, the first memorial gallery in Bosnia and Herzegovina – 'an exhibition space aiming to preserve the memory of the Srebrenica tragedy and the 8372 persons who perished in the massacres.'
- **The Power of Photographs**, a blog by HMDT Staff.
- Magnum Photos has visually documented most of the world's major events and personalities since the 1930s, covering society, politics, events and conflict. You can find out more at [www.magnumphotos.com](http://www.magnumphotos.com).

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