

UK Commemorative
Ceremony for

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2021

*Be the light
in the darkness*

Broadcast online
Wednesday 27 January 2021

*Learning from genocide -
for a better future*



**HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY TRUST**



CLARENCE HOUSE

As you gather, albeit in a virtual form, for the National Commemorative Ceremony for Holocaust Memorial Day, I would particularly like, as Patron, to offer each of you a warm and heartfelt welcome to this very special event.

Holocaust Memorial Day occupies a vital place in our national life. It is, above all, an occasion to remember and honour all those who were so tragically and brutally lost in the Shoah – as I had the great privilege of doing at Yad Vashem in January last year – as well as all victims of more recent genocides. It allows us to reflect, together, on those desperately painful chapters of our shared history, and to reaffirm our collective determination that such unspeakable horrors must never be repeated.

In the shadows of fear and ignorance, it is all too easy for prejudice to take root, and for persecution and violence to thrive. Darkness, unchallenged, can allow the malicious and the misguided to deny the past, to distort the present and so to destroy the future.

This is why the theme of this year's National Holocaust Memorial Day, "Be the light in the darkness", is so important. It reminds us of the ultimate triumph of the light of knowledge and reason, of compassion and understanding, and, above all, of hope. It exhorts us to use the light within each of us to reveal wrongs, to expose falsehoods, and dispel hatred wherever encountered.

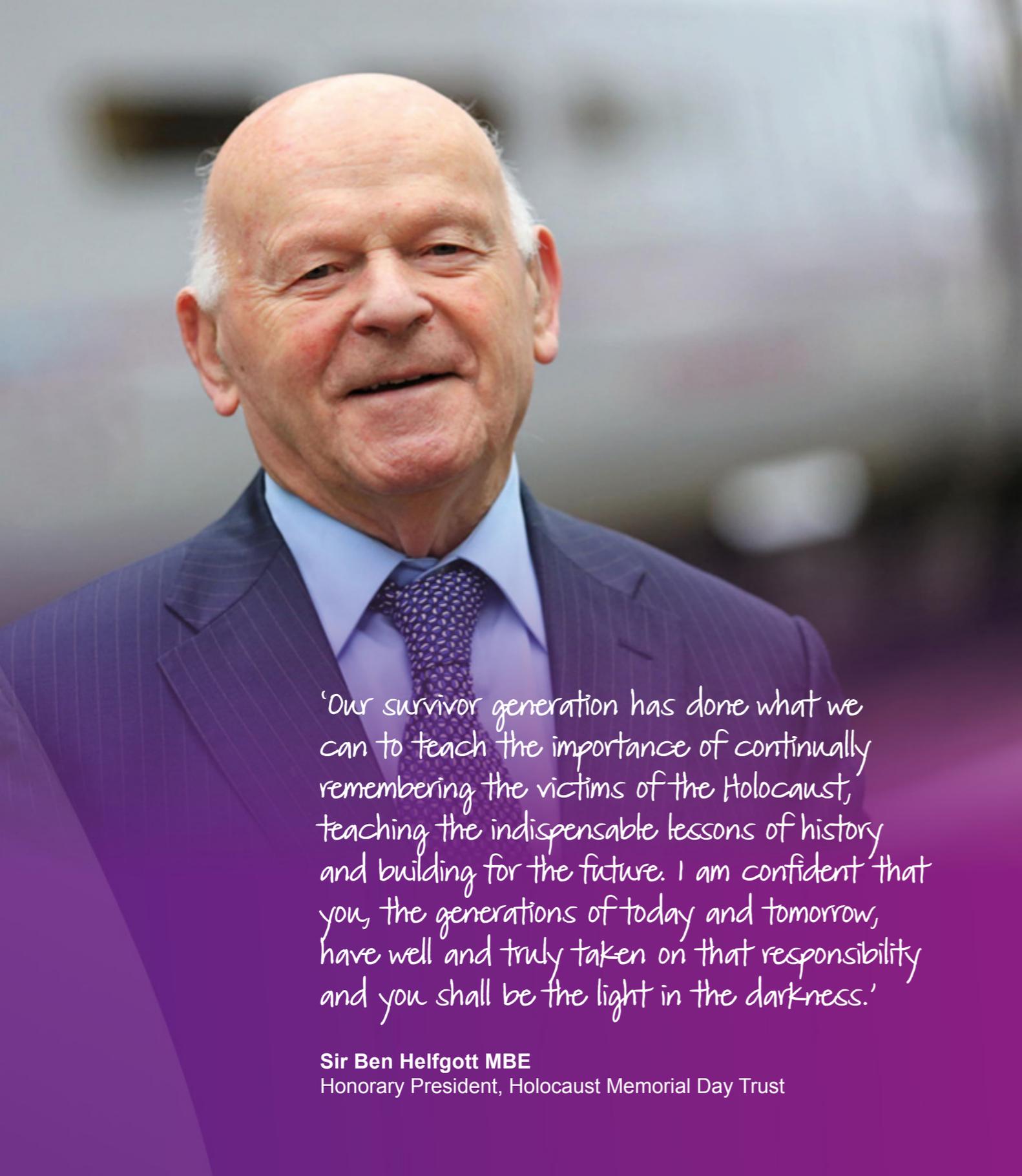
In this task, we might have no better guide than the wise example of Rabbi Lord Sacks – so sadly taken from us last year – who spoke in such a deeply moving way at past Holocaust Memorial Day ceremonies, and who was an inspiration to people of all faiths and none. Through his exemplary life and his inspiring words he displayed a resplendent commitment to the task of resolving conflict between communities and world-views. Unafraid of confronting humanity's failings, yet unshakeable in his belief in humanity's potential, he displayed what seems to me the essential balance of goodwill and good sense that is necessary for goodness to prevail. May his light continue to shine and his memory live on as a blessing.

As Rabbi Lord Sacks said so memorably, speaking of the shared human virtues that overcome all boundaries: "For though my faith is not yours and your faith is not mine, if we each are free to light our own flame, together we can banish some of the darkness of the world."

Each year, Holocaust Memorial Day falls at the end of Winter, when the returning light is all the more welcome for the long darkness that has gone before. As we look back again this year on the griefs and losses of the past, of the terrible bereavement and loneliness, let us renew our resolve never to forget the lessons of history and to keep the precious light of freedom, understanding and hope alive in the year to come.



Front cover image: Ernest Simon BEM, Kindertransportee, lights a candle for Holocaust Memorial Day 2021.



'Our survivor generation has done what we can to teach the importance of continually remembering the victims of the Holocaust, teaching the indispensable lessons of history and building for the future. I am confident that you, the generations of today and tomorrow, have well and truly taken on that responsibility and you shall be the light in the darkness.'

Sir Ben Helfgott MBE
Honorary President, Holocaust Memorial Day Trust

WELCOME FROM HMDT

This year, Holocaust Memorial Day is like no other. Welcome to our first virtual ceremony.

2020 was extremely challenging, with loss of lives, jobs, ability to see friends & family and all normality. The global pandemic has also challenged the very essence of our own mission. We want everyone to learn from genocide for a better future, but how does one reflect on the past when the present is so overwhelming? In today's divided world of anxiety and misinformation, aren't there more pressing matters to devote our attention to?

In fact, it has never been more urgent than now to remember where division, lies and fear can lead. The horrors of the Holocaust and of subsequent genocides were facilitated when public vulnerabilities were exploited to spread hostility, extreme language and untruths. On Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD), we are reminded that civilisation is fragile, so we must actively protect it. We are reminded that division can escalate unspeakably quickly. These are desperately needed reminders in today's troubled world. In the face of darkness, we need to be the light.



Laura Marks OBE
Chair of Trustees



Olivia Marks-Woldman OBE
Chief Executive

Our hope today comes from the survivors of genocide who continue to share their life stories with courage. Each time they speak, they re-live deep trauma. They do this to warn the world; to protect us, our children and grandchildren from the horrors of genocide.

Our hope comes from our friends in the sector who work hard for this vital cause. And our hope comes from you, the British public: our heroic key workers, kind neighbours and community volunteers who continue to be the lights in the darkness.

So even while physically apart, we still come together on HMD – to learn from genocide for a better future.

Today we are asking you to remember with purpose, learn from the past and **be the light in the darkness.**

Laura Marks OBE
Olivia Marks-Woldman OBE

RUNNING ORDER

OPENING

Olivia Marks-Woldman OBE

Chief Executive of Holocaust Memorial Day Trust

WELCOME

His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales,
Patron of Holocaust Memorial Day Trust

INTRODUCTION

Naga Munchetty, Narrator

FILM

Pre-war life, Bear Grylls OBE

MUSIC

Tradition by Jerry Brock

Performed by Chineke! Chamber Ensemble

FILM

Pre-war life – survivor testimonies

Featuring: Renee Bornstein, Rachel Levy BEM and Ernest Simon BEM

MUSIC

Kol Nidrei by Max Bruch

Performed by Chineke! Chamber Ensemble

FILM

Nazi persecution, Narrated by Tobias Menzies

READING

Excerpt from the memoir of Ronald Roberts

Delivered by Chi-chi Nwanoku OBE,
Founder, Artistic & Executive Director,
Chineke! Foundation

SPEAKER

Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP

Secretary of State for Housing,
Communities and Local Government

FILM

The Holocaust, Narrated by Robert Rinder

FILM

The Holocaust

Featuring: Renee Bornstein, Rachel Levy BEM and Ernest Simon BEM

STATEMENT

Statement from survivors of the genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur

Featuring: Sophari Ashley, Alphonsine Kabagabo, Sabit Jakupović, Amouna Adam

POEM

We Remember Them, by Sylvan Kamens and Rabbi Jack Riemer

Featuring:

Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP,
Prime Minister

Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer MP,
Leader of the Opposition

Sir Edward Davey MP,
Leader of the Liberal Democrats

Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon MSP,
First Minister of Scotland

Rt Hon Mark Drakeford AM,
First Minister of Wales

Rt Hon Arlene Foster MLA,
First Minister of Northern Ireland

Michelle O'Neill MLA,
Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland

The Most Revd Justin Welby,
Archbishop of Canterbury

Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis
of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth

Senior Imam Qari Asim MBE,
Leeds Makkah Masjid

Swami Suryaprabha Didiji,
Head of Brahmishi Ashram

Lord Indarjit Singh of Wimbledon,
Director of the Network of Sikh Organisations

Summer Dawson, *age 10*

MUSIC

Nemoj Zalit Suzama by Mensura Bajraktarević

Performed by Hafsa Jalisi

Don't grieve with tears
but remember with Du'as (prayers)
don't let your tears flow
when your memories are awakened

Don't grieve, O my father
when you see my Mazaar (grave)
don't let your tears flow
when you remember me, O my father

Don't grieve with tears
but remember with Du'as (prayers)
don't let your tears flow
when your memories are awakened

As if the soul has flown
all of it burning in Nur (light)
and Ridwan, the gatekeeper (of heaven)
stops beside the gate

PRAYER

El Male Rachamim

Delivered by Ernest Simon BEM,
Kindertransportee

God, full of compassion, who dwells on high
May He grant perfect rest on the wings of
Your Divine Presence
In the exalted places of the holy and pure
Who shine as the brightness of the sky
To the six million children of Israel
Adults and children
Who were killed and murdered
Strangled and burnt

Who were buried alive
By the hand of the Nazis and their helpers
We beg you, O Lord of compassion
Shelter their souls for evermore under the
Cover of your wings
And let their souls be bound up in the
Bond of life
The Lord is their portion
And let us say Amen

FILM

Identity-based persecution today
Narrated by Indira Varma

SPEAKER

Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis
of the United Hebrew Congregations
of the Commonwealth

FILM

Light and darkness today
Narrated by Rosie Jones,
featuring Abdul Musa Adam

CLOSING SUMMARY

Naga Munchetty,
Narrator

CLOSING STATEMENT

Statement from: Ernest Simon BEM, Renee Bornstein, Rachel Levy BEM, Sophari Ashley, Alphonsine Kabagabo, Sabit Jakupović, Amouna Adam

CANDLE LIGHTING

Lighting of candles
By survivors of the Holocaust and genocides

MUSIC

Deep River by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor
Performed by Chineke! Chamber Ensemble

CLOSE OF CEREMONY

Laura Marks OBE
Chair of Holocaust Memorial Day Trust

MUSIC

Hallelujah by Leonard Cohen
Performed by Chineke! Chamber Ensemble

NATIONAL MOMENT

Light the Darkness
Everyone



'We will continue to do our
bit for as long as we can,
secure in the knowledge
that others will continue to
light a candle long after us.'

Gena Turgel MBE (1923-2018)
Survivor of the Holocaust

CEREMONY

CONTRIBUTORS

Amouna Adam

Amouna is a survivor of the Genocide in Darfur. She arrived in the UK in 2009 after losing many family members in the violence in central Darfur. She was a teacher of Biology and Chemistry, but living in London, she is now involved in charity work in her community, campaigning against female genital mutilation and supporting survivors and refugees from Darfur. This includes a support group for Sudanese women, which she attends with her three children.

Abdul Musa Adam

Originating from Darfur, Abdul Musa Adam arrived in the UK under a lorry at the age of 15. He now works for Classic-winning racehorse trainer, Andrew Balding, at the renowned Park House Stables in Kingsclere, Hampshire. He is caring for and riding some of the world's most expensive thoroughbreds whose owners include Her Majesty The Queen. Abdul has told his inspirational story in a book that was recently published, called *The Journey*.

Sophari Ashley

Sophari was born in Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia. She was aged ten when she was forced to leave her home by the Khmer Rouge. During the Genocide in Cambodia Sophari lost three of her siblings, her father and much of her childhood. Sophari has since led a much more secure life. In 1994 she married a British man who was working for the UN peacekeeping mission; they have one son and live in London where Sophari enjoys the reassuring sense of security, rule of law and freedom.

Renee Bornstein

Renee was born in Strasbourg, France in 1934. After the Nazi occupation of France, Renee survived the Holocaust by hiding in barns, farms and convents. Marianne Cohn, a resistance worker, was murdered by the Gestapo for trying to help Renee and other children escape. After the Holocaust Renee married Ernst Bornstein, a concentration camp survivor, and they had three children.

Chineke! Chamber Ensemble

Chineke! Foundation was founded by Chi-chi Nwanoku OBE in 2015 to provide career opportunities to established and up-and-coming Black, Asian and ethnically diverse classical musicians in the UK and Europe. Chineke!'s mission is: 'Championing change and celebrating diversity in classical music'. The organisation aims to be a catalyst for change, realising existing diversity targets within the industry by increasing the representation of Black, Asian and ethnically diverse musicians in British and European orchestras. The ethos of Chineke! is of inclusion and creating a safe space.

Bear Grylls OBE

Bear has become known worldwide as one of the most-recognised faces of survival and outdoor adventure. The BAFTA award winning TV host and number one best-selling author began his journey in the British Special Forces (21 SAS) before becoming one of the youngest-ever climbers of Mount Everest.

Sabit Jakupović

Sabit came to the UK from Bosnia in 1992 as part of a group of 68 people who were selected by the International Red Cross, as they needed immediate hospital care. He had been imprisoned for 120 days in two different concentration camps in Bosnia, one of which was the notorious Omarska camp. He has now rebuilt his life in the UK and works for Hertfordshire County Council.

Hafsa Jalisi

Hafsa is a 21-year-old medical student studying in London, her hometown. Growing up she attended Bosnian school weekly, where she began singing Bosnian folk songs for her local and national community. Her singing has taken her back to her mum's hometown to perform at the international singing festival *Studentsko ljetno*.

Rosie Jones

With her infectious laugh and high energy, Rosie Jones has quickly become a must-see act on the UK comedy circuit. The ex-television researcher has completed two sell-out runs at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, receiving critical acclaim. Rosie is also an incredible actor and show writer, her recent achievements include her Channel 4 travel series, *Mission: Accessible*, and a guest appearance in *Casualty*.

Alphonsine Kabagabo

Alphonsine came from a Tutsi family of 14 children, but by the time the genocide started in 1994 only two of them still lived in Rwanda with their parents. The rest of her siblings lived in exile because of the discrimination and persecution they had faced for many years. Alphonsine and her family survived the genocide with the help of a Belgian soldier, who was Alphonsine's brother in law. Today Alphonsine is the Vice-Chair of Survivors Fund (SURF), an organisation that is committed to rebuilding the lives of survivors of the Genocide in Rwanda.

Rachel (Ruzena) Levy BEM

Rachel was born in a village called Bhutz in the Carpathian Mountains. It was a mixed community that included non-Jews who succeeded in hiding Rachel and her family from the Nazis for two years. After this, she survived Auschwitz, a death march, and Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp. After the Holocaust, Rachel was reunited with her brother and they both came to the UK as part of a group of orphaned refugee children that became known as 'The Boys'.

Tobias Menzies

Tobias is a Golden Globe nominated actor who has extensive credits across both stage, television and film. Most recently he has appeared as Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh in Netflix's *The Crown* for which he received his second Golden Globe nomination. Other recent television credits include *This Way Up*, *Outlander* and *Game of Thrones*.

Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis

Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis is the Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth. Now in his eighth year in office, he is well known as a principled spiritual leader, who has strengthened Jewish community life and broken new ground in the areas of education, tolerance, interfaith and social responsibility.

Naga Munchetty

Naga is known and loved nationwide as one of the main presenters on Breakfast TV. Her career as a journalist began at the Evening Standard and The Observer newspapers, and soon moved into reporting for Reuters Financial Television. Naga was named by the Asian Power List as one of the UK's most powerful Asian females. As well as hosting her own programme on Radio 5 Live, Naga has presented several TV shows and documentaries and has won numerous awards, including most recently, 'the 'Media Personality of the Year'.

Chi-chi Nwanoku OBE

An international classical double bassist, Chi-chi is professor of double bass at the Royal Academy of Music and the Founder, Artistic & Executive Director of Chineke! Foundation. She broadcasts regularly for BBC and Classic FM. Awarded the OBE in 2017 for Services to Music, she won the Commonwealth Cultural Enterprise Award, Creative Industries Award, Top 10 BBC Women in Music and has received two Honorary Doctorates. She features in *Powerlist 2020: 100 Most Influential Black People in the UK* and *100 Great Black Britons*.

Robert Rinder

Barrister, TV Presenter, columnist and grandson of a Holocaust survivor, Rob Rinder began starring in his reality court show Judge Rinder in 2014. Since then, he has presented an impressive number of television shows as well as *Raising the Bar*, a BBC Radio 5Live series. In December 2020, Rob presented *My Family, the Holocaust and Me*, a 2-part documentary that explores his family's connection to the Holocaust.

Ernest Simon BEM

Ernest was born in May 1930 in Eisenstadt, Austria. Following the *Anschluss* (the annexation of Austria into Nazi Germany) in March 1938, he and his family moved from Eisenstadt to Vienna where he witnessed *Kristallnacht* (a Nazi campaign of hatred against Jews) at the age of eight. In 1939 Ernest was one of the children who came to the UK on the *Kindertransport*. He now regularly speaks to children in schools about his experiences.

Indira Varma

Indira has extensive credits across stage, screen and television. **TV:** *For Life*, *This Way Up*, *Carnival Row*, *Melrose*, *The Truth*, *Paranoid*, *Game of Thrones*, *Rome*. **Theatre:** *Exit The King*, *Man and Superman*, *Ivanov*, *Remembrance of Things Past*, *Othello* for the National Theatre. *The Seagull* (Playhouse Theatre), *Present Laughter* (Old Vic – Olivier Award for Best Supporting Actress in a Play) **Film:** *Dreamland*, *The One & Only Ivan*, *Official Secrets*, *Close*, *Exodus*, *Silent Hours*.

LIGHT THE DARKNESS

We, people across the UK, are lighting the darkness by putting candles in our windows at 8pm on 27 January

To remember all those who were murdered for who they were

To stand against prejudice and hatred in the world today

JOIN THE NATION

Put a candle in your window at 8pm to light the darkness on Holocaust Memorial Day.

[#HolocaustMemorialDay](#)

[#LightTheDarkness](#)



HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY TRUST

IDENTITY-BASED PERSECUTION TODAY

On Holocaust Memorial Day, we stand in solidarity with those facing identity-based persecution right now. Hatred, prejudice, racism, xenophobia and discrimination still exist in the world today.

We see reports of Uighur Muslims in China, shackled and blindfolded, separated from families and put onto trains. Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar are persecuted, confined to camps and denied basic rights, like health care, education, and livelihoods. In a world scarred by genocide, these reports bear a very painful resonance.

In the UK we are fortunate to enjoy so many rights and freedoms. Yet, we know there are individuals and communities still living in hardship because of who they are.

The global pandemic and economic crisis are causing division, anger, misinformation and anxiety. But the UK also has a culture of caring, expressed through the kind acts of individuals, as well as institutions such as the NHS and thousands of charities working at home and abroad for a better future. In today's vulnerable world, we can protect each other with care, compassion and honesty, supporting those in the UK and internationally against discrimination and hostility.

Image: Members of Myanmar's Muslim Rohingya minority walk through a broken road at Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, 2017 © Sk Hasan Ali / Shutterstock.com

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY TIMELINE

Since Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) was established in 2000, millions of people have learned about the Holocaust and genocide, and many have gone on to take actions to create a better future. Our timeline highlights key events in the history of HMD.

2000

46 governments from across the world sign the Stockholm Declaration, and 27 January is established as HMD. The Declaration became the cornerstone for remembering the Holocaust around the world. [View the declaration: hmd.org.uk/stockholmdeclaration](http://hmd.org.uk/stockholmdeclaration)



Representatives from around the world at the signing of the Stockholm Declaration, © International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance

2001

First HMD takes place in the UK, run by the UK Government, and organised through the Home Office.

2005

We (HMDT) are registered as a charity, funded by the government, and responsible for promoting and supporting HMD in the UK.



Trustees at the HMDT launch

2010

758 HMD activities take place in the UK.



Nottingham Interfaith Council HMD Service, 2010, © Clive Burton

2006

266 HMD activities take place in the UK.



Camden Council HMD event, 2006, © Piers Allardyce

2016

HRH The Prince of Wales succeeds HM The Queen as our Patron.



HRH The Prince of Wales with survivors at a reception in 2015



HRH The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge light candles at the UK Ceremony for HMD 2020

Ministers from the 34 countries of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) adopt a Ministerial Declaration to underline and renew the commitments made in the 2000 Stockholm Declaration.

View the declaration: holocaustremembrance.com/about-us/2020-ihra-ministerial-declaration

The UK Ceremony for HMD 2020 is **watched by over one million people** on the BBC and attended by HRH the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

2020

We mark 75 years since the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, with a record **17,000 HMD activities across the UK.**

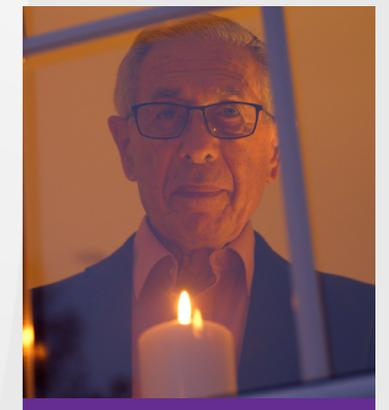


Nick Sharratt and Sarah Donaldson, judges of our 75 Memorial Flames arts project, at the launch of our 75 Memorial Flames exhibition

2021

The UK Ceremony for HMD is broadcast online for the first time, due to the global pandemic.

Households across the UK are lighting candles in their windows at 8pm on 27 January, to actively remember victims of genocide and light the darkness together.



Ernest Simon BEM, Kindertransportee, lighting the darkness

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY ACTIVITIES

Each year for HMD, thousands of activities take place across the width and breadth of the United Kingdom.

Last year, there were more than 17,000 activities.



AVOW marking HMD in 2020

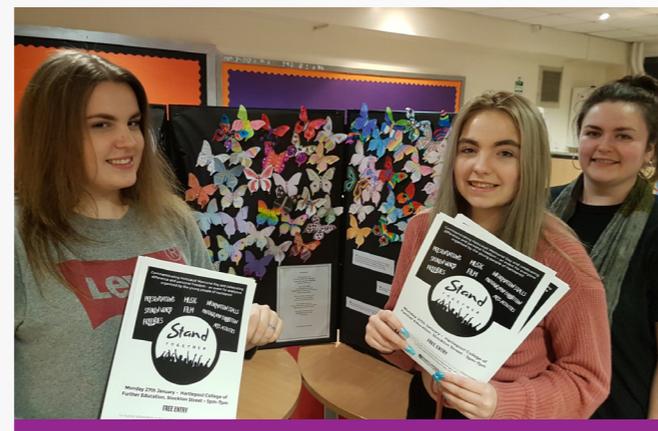
Association of Voluntary Organisations Wales (AVOW)

AVOW held an event on 21 January 2021 to commemorate HMD. Simon Baynes MP and The Bishop of Wrexham, Peter Brignall, spoke at the virtual event.

Gathering physically to mark HMD whilst living with the challenges of Covid-19 may not be possible, so we created our 'HMD Together' resources. Our new resources enable activity organisers to mark HMD with their community, from the safety of their home. Artistic, virtual, reflective and digital activities are taking place right now, all around the UK. Here is a small selection of them.

Hartlepool Borough Council Northeast England

Hartlepool Borough Council has worked with its youth services and centres on a community art project for HMD. Young people have worked together to create lanterns, symbolising being the light in the darkness, which will be lit up on 27 January.



Lauren Stamp, Willow Russell-Ainsley and Annabelle Napper at Hartlepool Borough Council's HMD 2020 event



The Royal Conservatoire of Glasgow's HMD 2020 Concert © Alan Kay

Violins of Hope at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

Dr Lev Atlas and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland have planned a Covid-compliant mixed media event featuring the *Violins of Hope* – a collection of instruments which survived the Holocaust, even if their owners did not. Including live performances and presentations, it will be streamed nationwide.



Noemie and Derek at an HMD 2020 event



Pupils and staff from Millisle Primary School with Eve Kugler, survivor of the Holocaust, earlier in 2020

Millisle Primary School, Northern Ireland

Every year the students and staff at Millisle Primary School hold a memorial service in their Holocaust memorial garden, reading poems and singing songs before holding a silent period of remembrance for victims and survivors.

University of Exeter Southwest England

The University of Exeter's HMD event will take place on 29 January. Dr Noemie Lopian, daughter of Holocaust survivors, will join Derek Niemann, grandson of an SS officer, to deliver the keynote talk at the university's annual HMD Conference - *Speaking Across the Divide*.

Discover more activities on our interactive map: hmd.org.uk/activities

LIGHT UP THE DARKNESS



This year, we teamed up with Girl Guiding, Scouts, National Union of Students and Union of Jewish Students to create *Light up the darkness*, an exhibition of photographs taken exclusively by young people. Young people across the country sent us photographs that celebrate the people, groups, places and objects which bring light and hope in times of darkness.

Thirty winning images were chosen by an expert panel, including photographer and director Rankin, sculptor and Holocaust survivor Maurice Blik, Labour MP Tulip Siddiq and our CEO Olivia Marks-Woldman OBE.

Image: Memory Lane by Light up the darkness entrant, Rosie Ingamells.

Rosie says:

'My grandma has dementia so living alone has been hard. Whilst we help her, she brings us so much joy in return.'

Find out more:
hmd.org.uk/lightupthedarkness

LEADERS' MESSAGES OF SUPPORT



Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister

I will never forget last year's national commemoration for Holocaust Memorial Day. We gathered in our hundreds in Central Hall Westminster to mark the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz and we listened to survivors as they once again summoned the strength to share their sacred, yet harrowing, testimonies. We sat in horror as Corporal Ian Forsyth, a British liberator of Bergen Belsen, described the depths to which humanity can sink. We stood alongside people of every age and background from across our United Kingdom, promising to remember and to unite against oppression.

This year's ceremony will feel very different, online with no television cameras and no survivors present to meet in person. Yet this moment of commemoration is as important as any, because it demands of each and every one of us that we renew our commitment to cherish the message of our survivors every day of our lives.

That means resolving to remember the lessons of the Holocaust, including the times they have not been learned – in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. It requires us to inoculate our society against the wretched virus of antisemitism - a new wave of which has shamefully returned to infect countries across Europe, including our own. And it demands that we follow the lead of our survivors – to *be the light in the darkness*, as they have been throughout their lives – by fighting against all forms of hatred and prejudice wherever and whenever they are found.

While we watch this ceremony alone, let us make this promise together - and let us keep it together, today and every day, for generations to come.



Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP

Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government

On Holocaust Memorial Day we remember the darkness of the murder of six million Jewish men, women and children, and all other victims of Nazi persecutions, as well as those of subsequent genocides. But we also shine a light on those precious few who saved Jews and others; on the survivors who we are blessed to have continue to share their testimony and to educate and inspire the next generation; and on the importance of tackling Holocaust denial and distortion, antisemitism and all hatred. This year's Holocaust Memorial Day theme, 'Be the light in the darkness', is a call to action, not merely to remember but to act ourselves wherever and whenever we encounter antisemitism or other forms of hatred. It is an entreaty to us all, to live courageously, helping in our own small way to build a better and more tolerant world. The Government will continue to do all we can to honour the memory of those murdered in the Holocaust, not least by progressing our plan for a National Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre, which will stand alongside our other great national monuments, for everyone, forever.



Sir Kier Starmer MP

Leader of the Opposition

Never again. That was the promise the world made after the horror of the Holocaust was unveiled. The promise we would not let the appalling suffering experienced by Jewish people be repeated. But even after the murder of six million Jews in Europe, genocides and persecution still take place around the world. And as the Holocaust recedes from living memory, it is more important than ever that we remember on Holocaust Memorial Day.

This year the theme is 'be the light in the darkness'. The world has experienced a lot of darkness in 2020 – but we have also seen many examples of light. Neighbours caring for one another, communities coming together, people making sacrifices to protect the vulnerable. It takes more than words for good to triumph over evil, knowledge over ignorance and love over fear and hate: it takes action. This year should give us hope.

Let us all recommit to being a force for good in the world, to work to prevent future atrocities and to be the light in the darkness.



Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon MSP

First Minister of Scotland

This Holocaust Memorial Day is an occasion to reflect upon the terrible events of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides, and remember the millions who were murdered or who have suffered due to their background, race, faith or sexuality.

The theme 'be the light in the darkness' encourages consideration of the many ways in which hate and prejudice manifests itself across modern society and inspires us to explore the individual and collective actions we can take to create the fairer, compassionate society we all want.

By learning from the stark horrors of some of the world's darkest days, we can build a brighter future.



Rt Hon Mark Drakeford MS

First Minister of Wales

On 27 January, we will mark Holocaust Memorial Day – the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz and the annual day of remembrance for all those who died in the Holocaust and subsequent genocides around the world.

This year we will be marking the occasion differently due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. We will come together in virtual events, from the safety of our homes. Let us all join together to **be the light in the darkness** and work towards a more inclusive society, free from oppression and persecution.



**Rt Hon
Arlene Foster MLA**

First Minister of Northern Ireland

It is important that we continue to remember those who lost their lives in the Holocaust and subsequent genocides. Society has to learn lessons from the past to create a better future for us all.

The theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2021 is 'Be the light in the darkness'. That is particularly poignant at the present time. Not only is it associated with the Holocaust and subsequent genocides, but the challenges we face with the Covid-19 pandemic and the impact it has had on everyone's lives. It urges all of us to show the better side of our humanity.



Michelle O'Neill MLA

Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland

The Holocaust is a poignant and powerful reminder of what can happen when bigotry and discrimination go unchecked. Holocaust Memorial Day is an opportunity for all of us to remember the millions of people who were persecuted during the Holocaust and subsequent genocides. We must do everything we can to ensure such atrocities never happen again.

Holocaust Memorial Day reminds us that we all have a role to play in tackling prejudice, ending division and building a shared future. We must embrace and celebrate difference and diversity in order to create a better society for all.

**THANK
YOU**

We can only do our work thanks to the support that we receive each year. Thank you to The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) which has funded our work since 2007. Thank you also to everyone who made generous donations to our work, as well as all those who contributed their time and efforts to HMD 2021.

Your support has enabled us to extend our work, ensuring millions of people across the UK learn from genocide, for a better future.

To support our work, please go to hmd.org.uk/donate

Honorary President

Sir Ben Helfgott MBE

Honorary Vice President

Rt Hon Lord Eric Pickles

Trustees

Laura Marks OBE, *Chair*

Sir Leigh Lewis, *Vice Chair*

Amanda King, *Treasurer*

HE David Ashley

Ruth Herzberg-Wellin

John Howell OBE MP

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Dr Anita Peleg

Rev Mark Poulson

Tulip Siddiq MP

Naved Siddiqi

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With support from

Jakob Riegler,

Gedekndiener

Kirsty Robson

Special thanks to

Rich Bentley, *Producer*

Blackdog Creative

Ollie Clark

Fat Beehive

First Colour

Christian Grohs

Anne Heasell Design

JCDecaux

Jewish Care's Holocaust

Survivor Services

Kick Digital

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Ocean Outdoor

Postcard Productions

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Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the UK Commemorative Ceremony and helped us *Light the darkness*.

HMDT supported by:

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The Gerald and Gail Ronson

Family Foundation

The Scottish Government

Shoresh Charitable Trust

'It's difficult in times like these: ideals, dreams and cherished hopes rise within us, only to be crushed by grim reality. It's a wonder I haven't abandoned all my ideals, they seem so absurd and impractical. Yet I cling to them because I still believe, in spite of everything, that people are truly good at heart.'

Anne Frank (1929-1945)
who was murdered during
the Holocaust



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