



Introduction and welcome from the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust Youth Forum

On Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) each year, thousands of people come together to learn more about the past and take action to create a safer future.

HMD takes place on 27 January each year and is a time to remember the millions of people murdered during the Holocaust, under Nazi persecution of other groups and during more recent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

This resource has been created by the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust Youth Forum. The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT) is the charity established by the UK Government to promote and support HMD in the UK. The HMDT Youth Forum contributes advice and ideas to HMDT about engaging with young people as well as directly supporting HMD events and activities created by young people across the UK.

Young people are at the heart of HMD, leading activities in our schools, colleges, universities, and beyond. HMDT Youth Forum members run film screenings, create artworks, and share the testimonies of survivors to ensure that those persecuted and murdered during the Holocaust and more recent genocides are remembered – millions of whom were children and young people.



What you can do

HMD is for everyone. You don't have to be part of a history society or Jewish society to mark HMD. In the past, HMD has been marked by societies across campuses, including knitting, law, and STEM societies. In this resource, the HMDT Youth Forum have collated their tips and suggestions to help and inspire you to run your own event or activity for HMD.

You can also use HMDT's theme vision to help plan your activity. The **Theme Vision** includes ideas about the different ways you can interpret and incorporate the HMD theme each year.

Along with the tips and suggestions below, you can use HMDT's **Get Involved Guide for Colleges and Universities** together with so many other free resources available on the HMDT website.

We would encourage anyone marking HMD to be part of the UK's **Light the Darkness national moment** at 8pm on 27 January. People across the country will be lighting candles and putting them safely in their windows to:

- remember those who were murdered for who they were
- stand against prejudice and hatred today

Iconic buildings and landmarks will light up in purple during this powerful national moment of commemoration and solidarity.



Place a candle safely in your window at 8pm on 27 January and become part of the conversation about Light the Darkness online by sharing a photo of your candle and tagging us on **Twitter, Facebook** or **Instagram**. Use the hashtags **#HolocaustMemorialDay** and **#LightTheDarkness**.

After you've held your HMD event or activity, we invite you to join the HMDT Youth Forum in making pledges in support of working together towards a safer future. See the end of the guide for some suggestions of how to do this.

The guide

The guide has been created to provide you with ideas about how your university society, club or group can engage with HMD. We hope this guide will help you to find a way to mark HMD and look forward to hearing about your event or activity! You can **submit it to our online activity map**, and share it on social media using the hashtag #HMDOnCampus.

If you need some help in planning your activity, you can get in touch with youth@hmd.org.uk.

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University societies, groups and clubs A-Z

Animals, veterinary and zoology

To mark HMD, you could learn more about the Warsaw Zoo during the Holocaust. The Director Dr Jan Zabinski, and his wife Antonina helped Jewish friends by hiding them in their villa within the zoo.

yadvashem.org/righteous/stories/zabinski.html

Archaeology

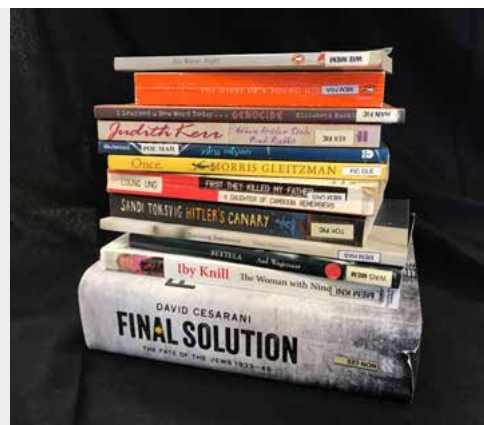
Read the work of Dr Gilly Carr, a Senior Lecturer and Academic Director in Archaeology at the University of Cambridge, on the Holocaust and conflict archaeology. This article discusses the 80th anniversary of the German occupation of the Channel Islands.

hmd.org.uk/channelislands

Book clubs and reading

Books can be useful for finding out more about, and discussing the impact of, genocide. Book clubs and societies can use our extensive list of fiction and non-fiction books about the Holocaust and more recent genocides. You could combine your book discussion with a minute of silence or a candle lighting as an act of remembrance.

hmd.org.uk/bookclub



Top Tip from the Youth Forum!



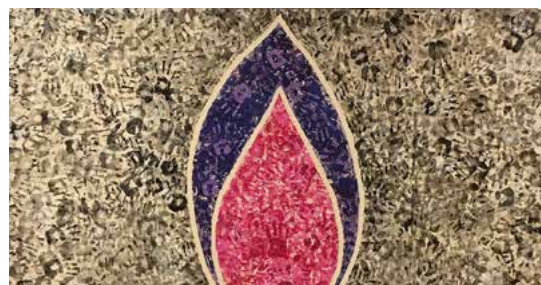
'Work together! Organising an HMD activity, whether it is your first or tenth event, can be a lot of pressure and stress, but when you work with other people you can share tasks and responsibilities which will help your event run smoother. If you are organising an HMD activity by yourself at your university, reach out to your student union representatives for help and support. If you are organising an activity as part of a society reach out to another society with like-minded values and collaborate on an activity. This will help relieve some of the stress of organising and the more people you involve in organising an HMD activity the more people will turn out to support it!'

Lucy Jeffrey

Crafting

You could create a group project where each element represents a person affected by genocide to mark HMD. Share a photo of your project on social media and tag HMDT.

hmd.org.uk/memorialflamedisplay



Dance

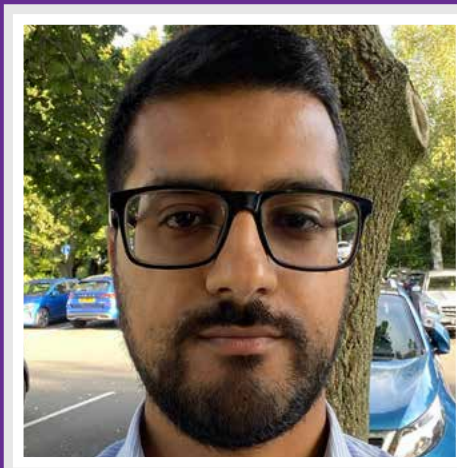
Learn about the cultures of the countries and communities affected by genocide. Use this video tutorial with any age group to learn a traditional dance and celebrate Rwandan culture.

hmd.org.uk/rwandandance

Diplomatic

By examining the responses to events of the 1930/1940s, it raises questions about the responsibility to intervene in the face of knowledge of persecution or genocide. Read about Dr Feng Shan Ho, a Chinese diplomat posted to Vienna, Austria, who issued thousands of visas to Austrian Jews, enabling them to escape Nazi persecution.

hmd.org.uk/fengshan



Top Tip from the Youth Forum!

'Running an activity is amazing and a great achievement but can sometimes feel overwhelming! I found, when I ran my activity, the best place to start was to plan the goal/aim of the event and who the target audience is. From this you can create an activity where the engagement is large but the task/activity for the participant to complete is simple and easy to do. To help you with planning and running an activity, HMDT have created resources free to use which are very helpful. Also available on the HMDT website are useful links to use when developing an activity.'

Sohaib Hussain

Europe, and European nations

Learn about how the Holocaust impacted your country and consider how it was different from the experiences of people in other parts of Europe.

Taking a broader approach, you could learn about the Stolpersteine memories that have been placed across Europe.

hmd.org.uk/stolpersteine

Bulgarian:	hmd.org.uk/news/hmdt-blog-bulgaria-and-holocaust
Czech and Slovak:	hmd.org.uk/philipp
French:	blog.ehri-project.eu/2021/07/29/they-became-my-children-too
Greek:	hmd.org.uk/news/ooej-launches
Hungarian:	hmd.org.uk/john
Italian:	hmd.org.uk/gino
Polish:	hmd.org.uk/polesandslavic
Romanian:	hmd.org.uk/elie
Spanish:	hmd.org.uk/joan
Swiss:	hmd.org.uk/paul-gruninger

If your country isn't listed, search the HMDT website for more information! hmd.org.uk



Top Tip from the Youth Forum!

'Don't overcomplicate anything! Sometimes the best and most effective ideas are the simplest. Maybe it's inviting a survivor or second generation speaker to share testimony or showing a film on your campus. I like putting up a display in my university's library as I know lots of people pass by it.'

Eloise Bishop

Faith and interfaith

Faith and interfaith organisations play a crucial role in fostering understanding and good relationships between different faith groups in the UK. Marking HMD is an opportunity for different faiths and the non-religious to come together to celebrate diversity in their communities, challenge prejudice and intolerance, and create a safer, better future. Read our *Get Involved Guide for faith and interfaith groups* for more ideas.

hmd.org.uk/faithgig

Feminist

Read the stories of female survivors of genocide. HMD can be an opportunity to celebrate the courage of women who have lived through the Holocaust and genocide, many of whom share their experiences with us today.

Renee Salt BEM, Holocaust survivor

hmd.org.uk/reneesalt

Var Ashe Houston BEM, survivor of the genocide in Cambodia

hmd.org.uk/varvideo

Immaculée Hedden, survivor of the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda

hmd.org.uk/immaculee

Hatidža Mehmedović, whose husband and sons were murdered during the genocide in Bosnia

hmd.org.uk/hatizda

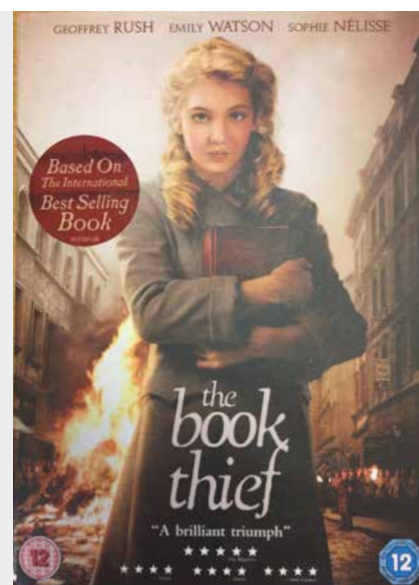
Jeddah Zakaria, survivor of the genocide in Darfur

hmd.org.uk/jeddah

Film

A film screening and discussion is an engaging way to mark HMD with your group, suitable for a wide range of ages and interests. You could combine this with a minute of silence or a candle lighting as an act of remembrance.

hmd.org.uk/filmscreening



Case Study from the Youth Forum!



'When I was an undergraduate at the University of Exeter, I organised a conference for University and school students to hear from a Holocaust survivor and academics. I worked with the University to apply for funding from my department and with local schools to engage their students. On the day, we welcomed 300 young people to the University. After hearing the testimony of Holocaust survivor Mala Tribich MBE, they took part in small seminars with academics. At the end of the conference, they wrote pledges to survivors, reflecting on what they had learned.'

Barnabas Balint

Food (baking, cooking etc)

Cooking together is an engaging way of learning about cultures and celebrating the lives of people who were murdered during genocide. Your society can learn, cook and eat together to mark HMD using our recipes.

hmd.org.uk/cookalong

History

The history of genocide is wide and expansive, which can make the individual suffering of these tragic, historical events hard to understand. We recommend focusing on the individual experiences of those who have been affected by genocide rather than focusing on large, incomprehensible numbers. Take the time to listen to a genocide survivor tell their testimony or learn about the history of how a genocide began. Consider how we can use testimony, photographs and documents to ensure the future of genocide remembrance.

Zahava Kohn, Holocaust survivor

hmd.org.uk/zahava

Chanrithy Him, survivor of the genocide in Cambodia

hmd.org.uk/chanrithy

The genocide in Srebrenica

hmd.org.uk/srebrenica

Appolinaire Kageruka, a survivor of the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda

hmd.org.uk/appolinaire

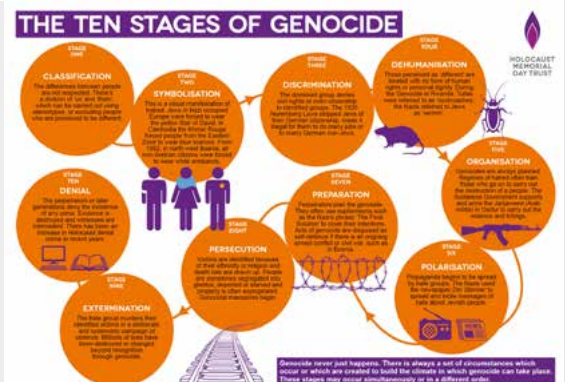
Sharif Barko, who was murdered during the genocide in Darfur

hmd.org.uk/sharif

Human rights and contemporary issues

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. To mark HMD, you could read about the 10 stages of genocide, developed by GH Stanton, which details the different stages that lead to genocide.

hmd.org.uk/tenstages





Top Tip from the Youth Forum!

'Don't be afraid to reach out and get different people involved, if that's the Jewish Society, History Society or even ones less directly related to the Holocaust. When I ran an activity the Geography Society really wanted to get involved and so they helped bring lots of their members. Your Student Union might be able to help too - ours provided us with some funding. Oh - and start early, these activities can often be incredibly difficult to plan at the last minute.'

Eli Sassoon

Individual sports (running, walking, weightlifting, gymnastics, etc)

Share the stories of athletes such as the late Sir Ben Helfgott and Adrien Niyonshuti who both competed in individual sports at Olympic level and are survivors of genocide. You could also organise a sponsored activity to raise awareness for HMD.

Sir Ben Helfgott: hmd.org.uk/ben

Adrien Niyonshuti: hmd.org.uk/adrien



The late Sir Ben Helfgott, Holocaust survivor and Olympic champion

Journalism

To mark HMD, you could read the life story of journalist Christiane Amanpour who reported from the front line, witnessing the violence of a bloody civil war and the genocide which unfolded in Srebrenica. Her experiences raise challenging questions about the role of journalists and media organisations during situations of conflict and genocide. You could also write an article for a local newspaper or magazine about the importance of HMD and about activities happening on campus.

hmd.org.uk/christiane

Languages

Consider the impact of language in genocide. Think about how hateful speech can contribute to the prejudice, discrimination and persecution of people. Read this blog post from Laura Marks OBE, to start a discussion around this area. It's also an idea to look at films, books and other medias which explore the Holocaust and more recent genocides in foreign languages, such as *La Vita E Bella* or *Quo Vadis, Aida?*

hmd.org.uk/news/hmdt-blog-language-prejudice



Top Tip from the Youth Forum!

'Network with local community groups, societies and organisations in your area. They'll help promote your event as well as open the door for working together in the future.'

Anna Cardy

Law

Holocaust survivor Raphael Lemkin coined the word 'genocide' and helped establish the term in international law. Shocked and saddened by massacres throughout history, as well as the murder of his family by the Nazis, he longed for accountability for deplorable acts committed by countries within their own borders, campaigning tirelessly to reach his goal. Read his life story to mark HMD.

hmd.org.uk/raphael

LGBTQ+

The pink triangle has become an important symbol for the LGBTQ+ community. Originally used by the Nazis as a concentration camp symbol to identify those imprisoned for their sexuality it has since been reclaimed as a symbol of pride. You could learn more about Nazi persecution of LGBTQ+ people and share the testimony of those impacted.

hmd.org.uk/gay-people

Rudolf Brazda: hmd.org.uk/rudolfbrazda

Albrecht Becker: hmd.org.uk/albrecht

Pierre Seel: hmd.org.uk/pierre

Medicine and healthcare

Consider the impact of the advancements in medicine which came from medical experiments carried out during genocide. Consider the ethics and impact of using these advancements after genocide and in our modern day society. As a starting point you can look at the Nazi medical experiments and the impact those have had on the medical profession and promoting ethical medical research.

USHMM Holocaust Encyclopaedia 'Deadly Medicine':

encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/the-doctors-trial-the-medical-case-of-the-subsequent-nuremberg-proceedings

Eduard Pernkopf: The Nazi book of anatomy still used by surgeons:

bbc.co.uk/news/health-49294861

Music (vocal and instrumental)

Our song sheets explore music from groups targeted during the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution of other groups and more recent genocides. You could learn the songs and perform them at an HMD activity or post them on social media.

Rwanda	hmd.org.uk/rwandasongsheet
Holocaust	hmd.org.uk/holocaustsongsheet
Darfur	hmd.org.uk/darfursongsheet
Cambodia	hmd.org.uk/cambodiasongsheet
Nazi persecution of other groups	hmd.org.uk/nazipersecutionsongsheet

Philosophy

Consider why ordinary people took part in the Holocaust as bystanders and perpetrators. If you're struggling with where to start, you could read *Man's Search for Meaning* by Viktor Frankl, chronicling his experiences as a prisoner in Nazi concentration camps during World War II.

A Man's Search for Meaning, Viktor Frankl

Photography

Read the testimony of Mussa Uwitonze who became an orphan after being separated from his family during the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. He was raised in an orphanage, and it was there that he was first handed a camera – a moment that fuelled his lifelong passion for photography.

hmd.org.uk/mussa



Mussa Uwitonze

Poetry

Writing, reading and sharing poetry can be a creative way to bring people together. During the Holocaust and more recent genocides, many of those persecuted wrote poetry to express their feelings of loss, suffering and hope. Survivors wrote poetry afterwards as a response to their experiences.

hmd.org.uk/poetryactivity



Science/STEM

Primo Levi was an Italian chemist, partisan, writer, and Holocaust survivor who survived Auschwitz and later wrote many books about his life experiences. You could read his book *The Periodic Table*. Each of the 21 stories in the book bears the name of a chemical element as its title and has a connection to the element in some way.

The Periodic Table, Primo Levi

Team sports (football, rugby etc)

Share the stories of athletes Eric Murangwa Eugène MBE and Béla Guttmann who both played team sports and survived genocides. After the war, Bela became a famous football coach and manager. During the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, Eric's fellow players protected him from the killings. You could also organise a game/match that raises awareness of HMD.

Eric Murangwa Eugène MBE: hmd.org.uk/eric

Béla Guttmann: hmd.org.uk/bela

Theatre

Explore how performance formed a part of Jewish life in Terezín, or put on a performance of a play to raise awareness.

ORT - *Brundibár*:

holocaustmusic.ort.org/places/theresienstadt/brundibar

Kindertransport by Diane Samuels:

ocr.org.uk/images/308117-kindertransport-teacher-guide.pdf

Case Study from the Youth Forum!



'Organising activities for HMDT can sometimes be overwhelming. I've discovered an effective tip to prevent any last-minute panics: develop a clear and achievable project plan. This can be accomplished by creating a task list with corresponding dates, ensuring you stay on track. By gradually checking off these manageable tasks, not only will you maintain motivation, but you will also deliver a highly successful activity. I used this technique when organising a Holocaust Education Conference for school pupils in Bristol. The project plan, which included essential dates, specific goals, task breakdowns, and key contacts helped me maintain a clear overview of the event's progress and ensure its successful execution. However, a simpler checklist can provide an equally effective approach for smaller-scale events. For smaller activities, a concise checklist can be equally effective.'

Edward Crowson

Pledges

Well done - you have planned your HMD activity! We would now like you to take the next step and make a pledge to mark your commitment on HMD.

After planning and running your activity, we would like those who have used our toolkit to pledge their collective support for working towards a safer future by standing up to prejudice and hatred in the world today. There are many ways in which you can pledge your support for HMD. Here are some ideas of possible pledges and ways that you could display them.

If you're stuck for ideas, how about:

- I will mark #HolocaustMemorialDay by...
- To honour survivors of the Holocaust and more recent genocides, I will...
- To remember victims of the Holocaust and more recent genocides, I will...
- Because I attended a #HolocaustMemorialDay event, I will...
- I will reflect on the #HolocaustMemorialDay theme by...
- I commit to marking #HolocaustMemorialDay and remembering the Holocaust and more recent genocides so that one day we may have a world free from genocide.

There are many ways that you can display the pledges from your event or activity! Be as creative as you like and pick a method which suits your event/activity and skills. We would love it if you could take pictures of your pledges, in whatever way you decide to show them and post them to social media using the hashtag #HMDOnCampus.

- Create a post-it note board at your event as a physical display of people's pledges.
- If you want to be more creative, create a tree and cut out leaf shapes for people to write their pledges on.
- Create an online word cloud and have a QR code at the end of your event for people to digitally display their pledges.
- Get people to write their pledges on a piece of paper at your event and take a photo of themselves holding the paper which can be posted to social media.

Get In Touch



HMD_UK



HMD.UK



holocaustmemorialdaytrust

Contact us at youth@hmd.org.uk

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Find out more...

Advice for young people: hmd.org.uk/youth
Discover more resources for your activities:
hmd.org.uk/resources

hmd.org.uk
enquiries@hmd.org.uk
020 7785 7029

[hmd_uk](https://twitter.com/hmd_uk)
 [hmd.uk](https://www.facebook.com/hmd.uk)
 [holocaustmemorialdaytrust](https://www.instagram.com/holocaustmemorialdaytrust)

Learning from genocide - for a better future