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## About Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) aims to commemorate, educate and prompt action in the UK. The Day commemorates the lives lost in the Holocaust and as a result of Nazi racial and social policies, victims of more recent genocides and those affected by present day discrimination. HMD educates about the Holocaust and its lessons for today. It encourages action in the UK highlighting the continuing dangers of racism, anti-semitism and all forms of discrimination.

HMD is commemorated on 27th January each year. This is the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp in 1945.

The atrocities of Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda and Darfur and ongoing hate crimes show that the international community, and each of us as citizens, has not truly understood or learnt the lessons of the Holocaust.

Ultimately the aim of HMD is to motivate people – individually and collectively – to ensure that the horrendous crimes, racism and victimisations of the Holocaust and more recent genocides are neither forgotten nor repeated, whether in Europe or elsewhere in the world.

## HMD08

The theme for HMD08 is “**Imagine...Remember, Reflect, React**”. This theme encourages everyone who participates in HMD to remember the victims of the Holocaust, of all Nazi racial and social persecution, more recent genocides, and of discrimination and hate crimes in Britain today.

This year we are asking you to think about the lives of those who have experienced the most extreme situations. While we will never be able to fully appreciate these experiences we can remember the lives of people subjected to the violence of genocide and the experiences of those affected by extremism and exclusion.

The theme invites us to:

**Remember** the past

**Reflect** on the present

**React** to create a better future

HMD08 encourages us to creatively commemorate the individuals and communities who were damaged by the Holocaust, later genocides, discrimination and alienation. HMD08 also recognises that genocide is never merely an act of killing – it is also an attempt to destroy the cultural identity of those targeted.

## About Holocaust Memorial Day Trust

The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT) is a national charity formed in 2005. Our vision is that the Holocaust and subsequent genocides are recognised; that victims are commemorated and lessons learnt are translated into contemporary action in the UK. HMDT is responsible for the annual national commemoration of Holocaust Memorial Day. In addition we promote and support HMD events and projects in local communities, schools and educational institutions.

HMDT provides free resources centred around a theme for HMD which can be used by everyone organising community or education events. The HMDT website contains a wealth of resources including images, poetry, survivor testimony and artwork and provides further information for those wishing to find out more.

Members of the HMDT team are happy to help with your event organisation in any way possible from advising on lesson plans for schools, to offering suggested reading materials and helping to point you towards other organisations which can help with your planning.

We are also happy to come to meet you to discuss how you can best commemorate HMD. Please call any member of our team on 0845 838 1883 or email [enquiries@hmd.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@hmd.org.uk)

You can also access information from our website [www.hmd.org.uk](http://www.hmd.org.uk) and sign up for an account pointing you towards the most suitable resources for your needs.