This activity will explore ways that you can use one or more of the Moving Portraits that the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust has produced for Holocaust Memorial Day 2015. Each photo shows a survivor or survivors of genocide holding on to a belonging that is dear to them. These moments in time have been brought to life in an extraordinary way, turning them from still images into Moving Portraits. These portraits can inspire your audience, serve as a backdrop to an event or provoke discussion.

For Holocaust Memorial Day 2015 we are asking you to Keep the memory alive.

27 January is a day for everyone to remember the millions murdered in the Holocaust, under Nazi Persecution and in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur. On HMD we honour the survivors of these atrocities and learn the lessons of their experiences to challenge hatred and discrimination in the UK today. HMD 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and the 20th anniversary of the Genocide in Srebrenica, Bosnia.

On HMD 2015 we encourage you to learn from the powerful stories of survivors whilst they are still with us and consider your own responsibilities to Keep the memory alive for future generations. Take part by sharing the memories of those affected by genocide, considering questions about how the past is memorialised, and creating a legacy for the future.

Please use the accompanying PowerPoint Presentation to display one or more of the Moving Portraits, and for detailed information about the survivors who are the subjects of the portraits. You will need a projector and a screen, or blank wall.

Choose one or more of the Moving Portraits to share with your audience. Discuss the image in detail before revealing the full details (on the following slide) of the survivor and their chosen item. The following activities can be done in small groups or one larger group – just please make sure everyone can see the Moving Portraits.

Question and discussion
Display one of the Moving Portraits and then ask your audience some or all of the following questions:

- What does the photograph tell/show us? Who is in the photograph?
- Why does a part of the photograph move? Why does that particular element move?
- What does the moving part make you think about, and how does it make you feel?
- What is the person in the photograph holding? Why did they choose that object?
- Why have we called them ‘Moving Portraits’?

Now share with your audience the slide in the PowerPoint presentation after the image so that they know more about the survivor, their story and why they chose the object they are holding.

Compare
- Which portrait do you think is the most powerful and why do you think that is?
Create
Allow your audience to compose their own Moving Portrait. Who would feature in it, what would they hold, and what would be the moving element? You can simply create and save your own portraits using smartphone apps such as Cinemagram. Or if you have access to a video camera you could practice how long you can hold still and try and film a portrait in which there is movement in the background, but the subject is still.

Keep the memory alive
Ask your audience why they think it is important to Keep the memory alive, then share with them one or more of these quotations:

‘It’s very important to keep the memory alive for generations to come, so that it is not repeated. If they learn something from our stories, then I think that our families didn’t die entirely in vain. But also for us – you cannot forget. Forgive yes, but forget, it’s a different story.’ Avram Schaufeld

'It’s very important to share memories, both good and bad, not to get angry, but to avoid these things happening again. I want to keep the memory of my parents alive.' Sokphal Din

‘It’s always important to remember and to commemorate people who have gone, but it’s equally important to think positively and look forward. That's what football does for me.’ Eric Eugene Murangwa

‘It’s important to keep the memory alive, because some people are just not aware of what was happening in Bosnia, it’s a surprise to me. People were dying in concentration camps, torture took place, in Europe, in the ‘90s. Everyone thought that once World War II was over that wouldn’t happen again, but it did.’ Safet Vukalić

Ask your audience for their responses to these quotations. How do they make the audience feel? Are they similar? Do these quotations add to our understanding and interpretation of the individual Moving Portraits? Do they help us understand why we must Keep the memory alive?

WHAT NEXT

- Please encourage your audience to think of other ways to Keep the memory alive. This could be something done collectively, or individually. There are resources on the HMD website that can help with this including activities for creating a memorial, memorial garden, or memory box.

- The Moving Portraits are just one way to Keep the memory alive and are part of our #MemoryMakers creative project, exploring the experiences of those who have survived genocide through the arts. For more information, and to upload your own creative response please see: keepthememoryalive.hmd.org.uk

- Please let us know that you have done this activity with your audience. Email: enquiries@hmd.org.uk or hmd.org.uk/letusknow