

Get Involved Guide

for faith and interfaith groups



HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY TRUST

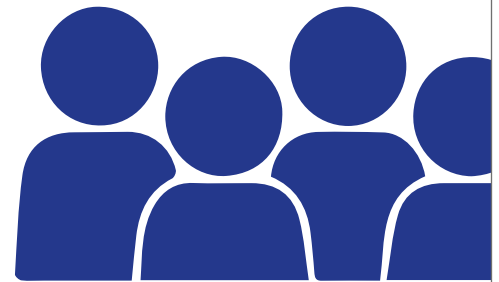
Learning from genocide -
for a better future

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) is held on 27 January each year and thousands of events and activities take place around the country on or around this date. What will your faith or interfaith group do?

Your faith or interfaith group and Holocaust Memorial Day

Faith and interfaith organisations play a crucial role in fostering understanding and good relationships between different faith groups in the UK. Marking Holocaust Memorial Day 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.

Each faith has their own experiences and histories of identity-based discrimination and persecution, past and present, whether as victims, rescuers, by-standers, persecutors or a combination of these. HMD is a time to reflect on how we can come together to overcome identity-based persecution, racism and hatred and to remember those who have been victims of the Holocaust, Nazi persecution, and genocides that followed.



Example activities

EAGA Gospel Choir

The EAGA gospel choir in Leicester learnt The Partisan Song from our song sheet to perform as part of their HMD commemorations.

Catford and Bromley Synagogue

Catford and Bromley Synagogue held a multi-faith event which included contributions from Jewish, Christian, Islamic and Sikh faiths. The Deputy Young Mayor of Lewisham, Titanya Murdock, participated and afterwards commented that *'it was really great being invited to and doing the reading at the multi-faith Holocaust Memorial Event in Lewisham this year. It was a privilege to be part of a genuine community and multi-faith gathering representing the range of faiths in our community from Buddhists to Sikhs as well as Muslims and Christians. Really inspiring.'*





Eden Girls' School, Waltham Forest

Eden Girls' School, Waltham Forest is an Islamic faith-based school. They invited Smajo Bešo, a survivor of the genocide in Bosnia, to speak to students about his experiences and what it was like to be a child refugee in the UK. Following the talk, the students donated items from their homes to make hampers and distributed them to local refugee charities.

Ideas and resources

- Invite representatives from local faith groups to your HMD ceremony to light candles, read a prayer or take part in another commemorative activity.
- Bring your community together through song and music. We have a number of song sheets providing lyrics and music for songs created during, or in response to, the Holocaust or another genocide. To download them for free visit: hmd.org.uk/resources.
- Invite different faith groups to contribute to a collective, commemorative piece of art that could be exhibited at different places of worship. For example, different faith groups could each reproduce one section of a larger image which are then displayed together, or each faith group could produce an image of how memories are passed from generation to generation which are all displayed together.
- Each year the Council of Christians and Jews (CCJ) and Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) jointly create a resource pack for churches to use in their service for HMD. To view this and other faith resources, including prayers visit: hmd.org.uk/faith.
- Display posters from our free HMD Poster Pack: hmd.org.uk/posters.
- It is not always possible to invite a survivor to speak at your HMD activity, but you can still include their experiences by reading a life story: hmd.org.uk/lifestories, playing a podcast: hmd.org.uk/podcast or showing a film of a survivor speaking: hmd.org.uk/films. For more information on inviting survivor speakers visit: hmd.org.uk/speakers.
- Order our free 'About HMD' booklets – these handout booklets provide a simple way for individuals to find out more about the Holocaust, genocide and the importance of HMD: hmd.org.uk/handouts.
- Light up your building in purple to 'light the darkness' on 27 January: hmd.org.uk/lightthedarkness
- Work with your local MP to organise an event or raise the profile of your event by inviting your local MP. Download our template letter here: hmd.org.uk/mpletter

Tell us about your activity and become part of the bigger picture of HMD across the UK: hmd.org.uk/letusknow.

Organising an online or hybrid event

Online and hybrid events can provide an opportunity to include a wider range of speakers and to reach people who might not normally attend your event. Things to think about if you are running an online event:

- Download a virtual event platform which has all the features you will need and make sure speakers are familiar with it.
- If your event is hybrid, make sure you have all necessary equipment so online attendees can hear and see speakers clearly.
- Consider audience participation tools, such as Q&A, poll and chat functions and assign a moderator to oversee this.
- For more ideas, look through our **virtual resources** (hmd.org.uk/virtualresource) and read our detailed guide to running an **online HMD event**.



Sensitivity guidance

Events and activities exploring the Holocaust and other genocides can be complex and daunting and may cause distress unless handled sensitively. Please remember the following guidelines:

- Do ensure your content is age and audience appropriate.
- Do not use graphic images to shock audiences.
- Do not ask audiences to imagine themselves in the shoes of victims or perpetrators.
- Put relevant personal testimonies at the heart of your activities.

For more information go to hmd.org.uk/sensitive-content and hmd.org.uk/educationguidelines.



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