

Get Involved Guide for prisons



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 prison do?

Your prison and Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day is a time for reflection to work towards a safer and better future. Through education, HMD can bring people together, strengthen team spirit and help overcome prejudice by highlighting the importance of respecting difference. Commemorating the Holocaust and genocides that followed gives people the opportunity to learn lessons from the past and challenge discrimination, intolerance and racism.

Example activities



HMP Parc Prison

A group at HMP Parc and the staff facilitated a football competition in memory of the victims of the Holocaust and genocides that followed. They used the competition to strengthen their team spirit and to stress that every individual is precious and has different abilities.

HMP Wymott

For HMD, members of the Student Council created large feature boards with information on genocide and the learners' own reflections on the theme. Participants held a ceremony including musical performances, poetry and readings of the experience of Holocaust and genocide survivors.



More examples:

- HMP Sudbury created a display in their library which featured books about genocide.
- HMP Usk used our Recipe Cards to prepare a meal which commemorated the culture of one of the countries affected by genocide: hmd.org.uk/recipes
- A group at HMP Buckley Hall discussed the Holocaust and had the chance to learn about Jewish Life. The group completed a piece of art reflecting on the theme of home.
- HMP Kirkham arranged a talk with a survivor of the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda: hmd.org.uk/survivorspeakers

HMP Kirkham

When marking HMD, a group at HMP Kirkham library created a large mosaic to honour the White Rose Movement, a resistance group against the Nazi Regime in Germany. For their artwork they used hundreds of archival historic photographs of Nazi Germany and the members of the White Rose Movement. This artwork was one of 12 community arts commissions displayed at the UK Ceremony.

HMP Usk

To mark HMD, a group at HMP Usk took part in our Postcard Project by learning about the lives of a Holocaust survivor and a survivor of the genocide in Cambodia, and writing messages to them. A remembrance tree was created, enabling the group to share their thoughts and feelings on HMD. During a memorial service, these projects were presented, alongside poems and readings on the theme of genocide.



Ideas and resources

- Use our life story resources to learn more about people targeted during the Holocaust and more recent genocides. You could organise a group discussion to reflect on what you've learnt: hmd.org.uk/resources
- Display posters from our free HMD Poster Pack: hmd.org.uk/posters
- Order our '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
- 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
- Use our song sheet resources and perform music connected to cultures targeted during the Holocaust and genocide: hmd.org.uk/songsheets
- Read and analyse poems written by people affected by the Holocaust or genocides that followed, to learn about their fate. You can also write your own or illustrate poems in response to what you have learned: hmd.org.uk/poems

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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