

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust

Remember the past. Protect the future.

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) is the national day that takes place on 27 January to commemorate the six million Jewish men, women and children murdered during the Holocaust, and the millions more murdered under Nazi persecution. Prejudice still continues today within our communities and across the UK. We also learn and commemorate where persecution led in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT) is the charity established by the UK Government to promote and support HMD in the UK. We help protect the legacy of the Holocaust against denial and distortion, and shape a future built on empathy, understanding and respect.

HMDT brings the nation together to remember persecutions of the past and stand against hatred and prejudice in the present.

Our work in commemoration

HMDT promotes and supports Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January, marking the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp.

The charity hosts the UK [National Ceremony](#) every year, bringing together Holocaust survivors, survivors of persecution in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur, alongside political leaders, faith and civic figures and other notable guests. Central to the ceremony are survivor testimonies, highlighting the importance of lived experience in preserving memory and its enduring lessons.

HMDT also inspires and supports the organisers of thousands of local events across the UK on and around 27 January, in schools, universities, town halls, prisons, workplaces, synagogues, churches and community centres.

[Light the Darkness](#) is a moment for the nation to come together – to remember the darkness of the past and to create light together, standing united against prejudice and hatred today. Taking place at 8pm on Holocaust Memorial Day, 27 January, people across the UK join the HMD commemorations at home by lighting a candle safely and placing it in their window.

In addition, landmark buildings and community spaces light up in purple, standing in solidarity and reminding us of our shared responsibility of remembrance. Many towns and cities illuminate their buildings and monuments, from cathedrals and castles to stadiums and civic buildings. In 2025, over 200 buildings were lit up including the Houses of Parliament, Edinburgh Castle, Cardiff Castle and Parliament Buildings at Stormont in Northern Ireland.



Our work in education

The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust offers a wide range of free educational resources to support teaching and commemoration in schools. Visit the website for materials such as lesson plans, interactive activities, films, poems and life histories, all designed to teach future generations about the Holocaust and where persecution led in Cambodian, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. In 2025, an incredible 45,000 resources were downloaded from the HMDT website.

Resources include '[Ordinary Objects, Extraordinary Journeys](#)' which invites students to trace the stories behind the possessions of individuals affected by the Holocaust, helping to bring history to life through personal experience.

HMDT also provides resources for community outreach in other settings. These include guides for helping museums and galleries use their collections to engage audiences with themes of prejudice and remembrance, as well as for supporting prisons in designing reflective workshops that encourage meaningful discussion among staff and prisoners.

Our creative voice

In the lead-up to HMD 2025, HMDT launched the [80 Candles for 80 Years](#) project to mark the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. This project engaged 80 communities and organisations across the UK in creating unique candleholders, each one inspired by the life story of Jewish people murdered during the Holocaust and other individuals targeted by the Nazi regime.

This moving collection was turned into a powerful exhibition, which has travelled to community spaces across the UK, carrying forward the legacy of survivors and those who were murdered, while encouraging the public to reflect on the dangers of prejudice.

Olivia Marks-Woldman OBE, CEO of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, said, "We support people and communities across the UK to learn, remember and reflect. We honour those who were murdered, hear the powerful testimonies of survivors, and stand together against antisemitism and all forms of hatred and prejudice. Together we commemorate and educate for a better future – one grounded in empathy, understanding and respect."

For further information please visit hmd.org.uk.

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