



History of Holocaust Memorial Day Trust

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT) is the charity established by the UK Government to promote and support Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) in the UK.

Holocaust Memorial Day was established as an international day of commemoration in 2000, when 46 governments signed the [Stockholm Declaration](#). It has been marked in the UK since 2001, with a national Commemorative Ceremony taking place on 27 January each year. This significant date also marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi concentration camp.

Since its establishment, the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust has played a leading role in deepening understanding and remembrance of the Holocaust. Over the years, the charity has inspired thousands of local activities across the UK each year, bringing communities together to mark Holocaust Memorial Day and educating future generations about the horrors of prejudice and persecution. It ensures Holocaust Memorial Day has an impact beyond the day in January, making a difference through the year in local communities, schools, prisons, workplaces, NHS settings and many more, about the Holocaust and where persecution led in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

HMDT is privileged that His Majesty The King has been Patron of the Holocaust Memorial Trust since 2015, demonstrating his long-standing commitment to Holocaust commemoration and education.

Sir Sajid Javid, Chair of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, said, “Holocaust Memorial Day brings communities across the United Kingdom together in shared remembrance and shared responsibility. As we honour the memory of those murdered in the Holocaust, we must also respond to the resurgence of antisemitism in our world today with compassion, courage and unity. By learning the lessons of the Holocaust, we protect the values that hold our country together. Our commitment must be clear and unwavering: we remember, and we will always stand against hatred and division.”

Recent milestone moments

HMD 2025 - The National Ceremony marked the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. The high-profile guest list included Their Royal Highnesses, The Prince and Princess of Wales, and the Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer MP.

HMDT was delighted to attend Buckingham Palace, where it showcased its [80 Candles For 80 Years](#), exhibition at an event hosted by HM The King. The exhibition, marking the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, comprised artworks created by communities and schools across the UK; participants designed and created 80 unique candleholders to honour people who had been targets of Nazi persecution. This moving collection was turned into a powerful exhibition, which has travelled to community spaces across the UK.

HMD 2024 - Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer MP, met Holocaust survivors Vera Schaufeld MBE (who sadly passed away in November 2025) and John Hajdu MBE, and Bosnian persecution survivor Safet Vukalić BEM. HMDT also partnered with the charity Waging Peace to welcome His Majesty The King to a special event where he met members of the Sudanese community living in the UK. The event marked 20 years since the commencement of the persecution in Darfur.

HMD 2023 – Their Majesties King Charles and Queen Camilla met Darfur persecution survivor Amouna Adam, and Holocaust survivor, Dr Martin Stern MBE. Dr Stern was also joined by Dame Joanna Lumley and other survivors in Piccadilly Circus, London where they handed out memorial candles.

HMD 2021 - [Light the Darkness](#) launched. This is a powerful national moment of commemoration and solidarity held at 8pm on 27 January, in which iconic buildings and landmarks are illuminated in purple, and people across the nation light candles in their windows.

Facing the facts

- [CST](#) documented 1,521 antisemitic incidents in the UK between January and June 2025, marking the second-highest total ever recorded for the first half of a year. Only the first six months of 2024, with 2,019 incidents, saw a higher number of anti-Jewish hate incidents.
- From 2012 to 2024, [Tell MAMA](#) has seen a 2,253% rise in reported cases of street-based anti-Muslim hate.
- Between 1941 and 1945, six million Jewish men, women and children were murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators. Their attempt to murder all the Jews in Europe shook the foundations of civilisation (The Stockholm Declaration).
- It is estimated that up to 500,000 Sinti and Roma were murdered in many parts of the Nazi empire, chiefly through mass shootings, although several thousand were sent to extermination camps (Holocaust Memorial Day Trust).
- In Germany, Austria and some parts of western Poland, approximately 250,000 people with disabilities were gassed, starved or murdered through lethal injection. (Holocaust Memorial Day Trust).

Remember the past. Protect the future.

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