80 Candles for 80 Years

HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY TRUST

*Learning from genocide -
for a better future*

A nationwide arts and education project to mark the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau

In this project, you will be working together with the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT) to mark the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi concentration camp.

80 Candles for 80 Years gives you and your community or organisation the chance to come together to create something meaningful and memorable to mark Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) 2025.
In this resources, you will find everything you need to get plan and create your designs.

Project Check List

- ○ Choose and research a life story

- ○ Design your candleholder

- ○ Create your candleholder

- ○ Post your images to social media and tag us
    X: HMD_UK
    Facebook: HMD.UK
    Instagram: holocaustmemorialdaytrust
    Youtube: HMD_UK
    LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/hmd-uk

Choose your life story

80 Candles for 80 Years has been designed to have a lasting impact. Please design your candleholder to commemorate the life story of an individual or community that was persecuted and/ or murdered by the Nazis.

Below, you will find a range of life stories of individuals and communities which convey experiences of life before, during and in some cases, after the Holocaust and Nazi persecution.

These life stories enable us all to learn more about the impact of the Holocaust and Nazi persecution on individuals and their families, and on whole communities. We can be inspired by what we learn to carry forward the legacy of survivors and those who were murdered, and challenge those who distort or deny the past, or who discriminate against or persecute others today.

The first step for creating your candleholder is to choose a life story from the list below, or research and choose your own, to learn more about the Holocaust and recent genocides, and to inspire your design.

After reading your chosen life story, consider:
- What are the important moments, places, objects or people?
- What do you want to show about this person's identity, personality and experiences?
- Are there any words or phrases from the life story that you would like to include in your design?
- What part of the life story impacted you the most?
- How could you reveal the extraordinary experiences of this person through your design?

Community life stories	Where to find details
Bohemia and Moravia Jewish Communities	encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/the-holocaustin-bohemia-and-moravia
Danish Jewish Community	iwm.org.uk/history/rescue-of-the-danish-jews
Hungarian Jewish Community	yadvashem.org/holocaust/about/fate-of-jews/hungary.html#narrative_info
Kiev Jewish Community - Babi Yar massacre	hmd.org.uk/resource/the-babi-yar-massacre/
Nazi persecution of Black People	hmd.org.uk/learn-about-the-holocaust-and-genocides/nazipersecution/black-people/
Nazi persecution of Disabled People	hmd.org.uk/learn-about-the-holocaust-and-genocides/nazipersecution/disabled-people/
Nazi persecution of Gay People	hmd.org.uk/learn-about-the-holocaust-and-genocides/nazipersecution/gay-people/
Roma Genocide	hmd.org.uk/learn-about-the-holocaust-and-genocides/nazipersecution/the-roma-genocide/

Life stories

On our website we have many life stories that could inspire your project. Visit our HMDT resource hub for further information.

If you would like to do your own research, we recommend that you use libraries and reputable websites, for example, Ordinary Objects, Extraordinary Journeys, Association of Jewish Refugees, Holocaust Educational Trust, Wiener Holocaust Library, Yad Vashem, Imperial War Museum, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Centre for Holocaust Education, HMD Memorial Pages and National Holocaust Centre and Museum.

Design and create your candleholder

Once you have researched your chosen life story, spend time considering how you can use images, graphics, colours and materials to create your candleholder. Remember that your chosen life story must be central to your design!

The candleholder will be central to your HMD activity and the act of lighting a candle will be a poignant moment of commemoration.

After planning your design, it is time to sketch out your ideas and then make your candleholder.

Things to think about

1 How will you represent your chosen life story?

There are many ways to do this, and you might have your own ideas.

You could:
- Feature significant objects that they talk about
- Create a backdrop or use images featuring location(s) from their journey
- Add words around/within the candleholder

Avoid using images or graphics that might be upsetting or dehumanising e.g. graphic images from concentration camps.

2 What materials will you use?

Your design and the materials available will impact whether you choose a wax or LED candle. If you have selected a wax candle, ensure you use inflammable materials and that your candleholder is strong enough to hold its weight.

Carefully consider the use of materials which might be upsetting e.g. barbed wire.

3 How will you use colour?

Colours can be used in art to **convey meaning.** They help you to show what something looks like, and add light, shade and depth.

Colours can **influence the emotions** of people looking at your candleholder, and the combination of colours can change how someone experiences your design.

Colour might **highlight certain areas** or make sure they are looked at first. Choosing to work only in black and white is also a colour choice.

4 How will you create your candleholder?

Think about how you involve different members of your community/ organisation. Roles could include research, ideas development, design development, constructing/ painting/ creating can your candleholder. You may want to draw a to-scale diagram of your candleholder before you begin making it to help you visualise your creation.

Find out more...