

A large, stylized white flame-like shape, resembling a torch or a flame, is positioned on the left side of the image. It has a pointed top and a curved bottom, with a black shadow or outline following its shape. The background is solid black.

Holocaust Memorial Day

SAMM

HMD – 27 January

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) is a day for everyone. On 27 January each year, we pause to remember the millions of people who have been murdered or whose lives have been changed beyond recognition during the Holocaust, under Nazi persecution and in the subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda and Darfur. We honour the survivors of those regimes of hatred and we use HMD as an opportunity to reflect on the ways in which we live our lives today. HMD offers us all the chance to learn the lessons of the past to create a safer, better future.

HMD has been commemorated in the UK since 2001, and in 2005 the United Nations declared 27 January as an International day for remembrance and contemporary action. There are many ways in which you can commemorate HMD from attending an event in your community to reading a survivor story or watching the HMD film. By joining together with millions of people all over the world on HMD, we will build communities which are free from the dangers of discrimination and persecution and in doing so, ensure that the horrendous crimes of the past are neither forgotten nor repeated.

What does HMD mean for me?

Genocide doesn't just happen. It begins when the differences between us stop being celebrated and respected. Genocide is an act of extreme exclusion, when a State-sponsored regime of hatred is allowed to proceed unchecked. Our communities in the UK are not facing the dangers of Pol Pot's Cambodia, or that of Nazi Occupied Europe but the evils of prejudice, discrimination and exclusion are present around us today. By looking at how the building blocks of genocide are laid, you are given a choice – you can choose to stand by and do nothing or you can make the choice to speak out against anyone who bullies, stereotypes, persecutes or attacks those who are different to them. In making this choice and making the values of inclusion and respect part of everyday life and behaviour, you honour those whose lives were destroyed during the Holocaust, under Nazi persecution and in subsequent genocides.

How does genocide happen?

Stage 8 Denial	The perpetrators or later generations deny the existence of any crime.
Stage 7 Extermination	The hate group murders their identified victims in a deliberate and systematic campaign of violence. Millions of lives have been destroyed or changed beyond recognition through genocide.
Stage 6 Preparation	Victims are identified based on their differences. At the beginning of the Cambodian genocide, the Khmer Rouge separated out those who lived in cities and did not work in the fields. Jews in Nazi Europe were forced to live in ghettos.
Stage 5 Polarisation	Propaganda begins to be spread by hate groups. The Nazis used the newspaper <i>Der Stürmer</i> to spread and incite messages of hate about Jewish people.
Stage 4 Organisation	Genocides are always planned. Regimes of hatred often train those who are to carry out the destruction of a people.
Stage 3 Dehumanisation	Those who are perceived as 'different' are treated with no form of human right or personal dignity. During the Rwandan genocide, Tutsis were referred to as 'cockroaches'; the Nazis referred to Jews as 'vermin'.
Stage 2 Symbolisation	This is a visual manifestation of hatred. Jews in Nazi occupied Europe were forced to wear yellow stars to show that they were 'different'.
Stage 1 Classification	The differences between people are not respected. There's a division of 'us' and 'them'. This can be carried out through the use of stereotypes, or excluding people who are perceived to be different.

Based on Gregory H. Stanton's '8 stages of genocide'. www.genocidewatch.org

What Do I Do Now?

You can find out about the hundreds of activities which take place each year across the UK on our website

www.hmd.org.uk/events/find and HMDT can provide you with the advice and free resources to hold your own event. Teachers of all curriculum areas and age groups will find our free educational materials vital in the planning of HMD commemoration – these can all be downloaded at <http://education.hmd.org.uk>

If you are unable to attend or organise an event for HMD, you will find ways to participate in HMD on our website. You could watch our short films or read a survivor testimony. Each year on HMD we ask you to show your support for HMD by lighting our virtual candle on www.hmd.org.uk. By doing this, you are making a commitment to remember the victims of the Holocaust, Nazi persecution and subsequent genocides, to honour the survivors, and you are pledging to play your part in creating a safer, better future.

HMD does not ask us simply to remember on a specific day each year. It's about what we do once we have learnt the lessons of the past. When you commemorate HMD – in whatever way that is – the challenge to each of us is to let those lessons inform our behaviour, our language and the way in which we treat those who are different to us. HMD asks us to make a difference to the way in which we live our lives now and in the future.

The Holocaust and Nazi persecution 1933 – 1945



Auschwitz-Birkenau © Wiener Library

The Nazis murdered approximately 6 million Jews in a systematic state-sponsored campaign which attempted to wipe out European Jewry. By May 1945 close to two out of every three Jews in Europe had been murdered.

The Nazis used historical anti-semitism which had existed since ancient times to justify the removal of human rights from Jewish people. The Nazis began to restrict the lives of Jews immediately, introducing laws which forbade Jews from running businesses, children attending school, banning Jews from marrying non-Jews and other measures which excluded Jews from civic life. Whether practicing or not, all Jews had to wear yellow stars to identify them. By 1940, Jews all over Nazi-occupied Europe were forced to live in ghettos where families were crammed together in single rooms and food was scarce. Many died through starvation, cold and overcrowding.

Deportations to specially constructed concentration, extermination and prison camps began. Hundreds of people were crowded together in cattle trucks and sent to camps for work, imprisonment or mass murder. Life in the camps was incredibly hard, and if not murdered on arrival, the life expectancy of a prisoner was 1 – 3 months.

Hundreds of camps were established in Europe with the aim of systematically destroying millions of men, women and children. Throughout late 1944 and 1945, these camps were liberated by Allied troops. The liberation of the camps exposed the full extent of the Nazi's 'Final Solution' to the rest of the world.

Many survivors of the Holocaust live in the UK today, they have rebuilt their lives, brought up families, and today they share their stories with us in order that we learn what happens when discrimination, anti-semitism and prejudice is left unchecked.

To find out more about the Holocaust visit:

www.hmd.org.uk/genocides/the-holocaust

Victims of Nazi Persecution

The Nazis hated anyone who did not fit their narrow idea of who or what was 'normal'. Millions of lives were destroyed or changed beyond recognition due to the things that made them different.

The Porrajmos

The Nazis murdered Roma and Sinti (Gypsy) men, women and children in their campaign to 'combat the gypsy nuisance' of Europe. Targeted for eradication, the Roma and Sinti had their

citizenship rights removed and they too were forced to live in ghettos and were deported to the camps in Europe where they were imprisoned, forced to endure heavy manual labour or were sent to the gas chambers.

Those deemed *untersmenschen* – sub-human, unworthy of life, included those who did not agree with Nazi views so Jehovah's Witnesses, Political opponents such as Communists and Socialists, Trade Unionists and Freemasons were persecuted and incarcerated. Those who did not conform to the Aryan ideal were also targeted. Black Germans, Gay men and Lesbians, and mentally or physically disabled people were identified within this group and their lives were destroyed or irrevocably damaged.

Millions of lives were lost or changed beyond recognition during the Nazi regime of hatred. Families, communities, cultures and towns were completely wiped out. On HMD it is our duty to ensure that the memory of these people is never ignored or forgotten.

To find out more about the Holocaust and victims of Nazi persecution, visit: <http://www.hmd.org.uk/genocides/the-holocaust/>

Genocide in Cambodia 1975-1979

S-21 prison in Phnom Penh, where Cambodian prisoners were tortured by the Khmer Rouge © Tui Sling Museum of Genocide

The fate of Cambodia shocked the world when the radical communist Khmer Rouge, under their leader Pol Pot, seized power in 1975 after years of guerrilla warfare. The Khmer Rouge ruthlessly imposed an extremist programme to reconstruct Cambodia (now under its Khmer name *Kampuchea*) on the communist model of Mao's China – creating 'year zero'. The population was made to work as labourers in one huge federation of collective farms. The inhabitants of towns and cities were forced to leave. The ill, disabled, old and very young were driven out, regardless of their physical condition. No-one was spared the exodus. People who refused to leave were killed, so were those who did not leave fast enough and those who would not obey orders.

All political and civil rights were abolished. Children were taken from their parents and placed in separate forced labour camps. Factories, schools, universities and hospitals were shut down. Lawyers, doctors, teachers, engineers, scientists and professional people in any field were murdered, together with their extended families. Religion was banned as were radio sets and music. It was possible for people to be shot simply for knowing a foreign language, wearing glasses, laughing, or crying. One Khmer slogan ran 'To spare you is no profit; to

destroy you is no loss.' Approximately 2 million men, women and children were murdered in the Cambodian genocide and on HMD we must ensure that those lives were not wasted by standing up to hatred, discrimination and prejudice when we see it happening.

To find out more about the genocide in Cambodia visit:
www.hmd.org.uk/genocides/cambodia

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Genocide in Bosnia 1992-1995

Srebrenica Survivors © Photo Arts



In 1980, the population of Bosnia consisted of Serbs, Bosniaks (Sunni Muslim) and Croats. In the turmoil following the disintegration of Yugoslavia, Bosnia declared independence in 1992. This was resisted by the Bosnian Serb population who saw their future as part of 'Greater Serbia'. Bosnia became the victim of the Serbs' determined wish for political domination, which it was prepared to achieve by isolating ethnic groups and, if necessary, exterminating them.

In July 1995 Serb troops and paramilitaries descended on Srebrenica. Women and children were forced onto trucks and buses, men and boys remained. The deportation of Srebrenica's population took four days.

The first killing of unarmed Muslim men began on 13 July 1995 in warehouses. At least 8,000 were murdered. Others were trapped in warehouses, football fields, school playgrounds and farms and shot, in their thousands. Their bodies were buried in mass graves. Some have been recovered and reburied, but identification has proved extremely difficult.

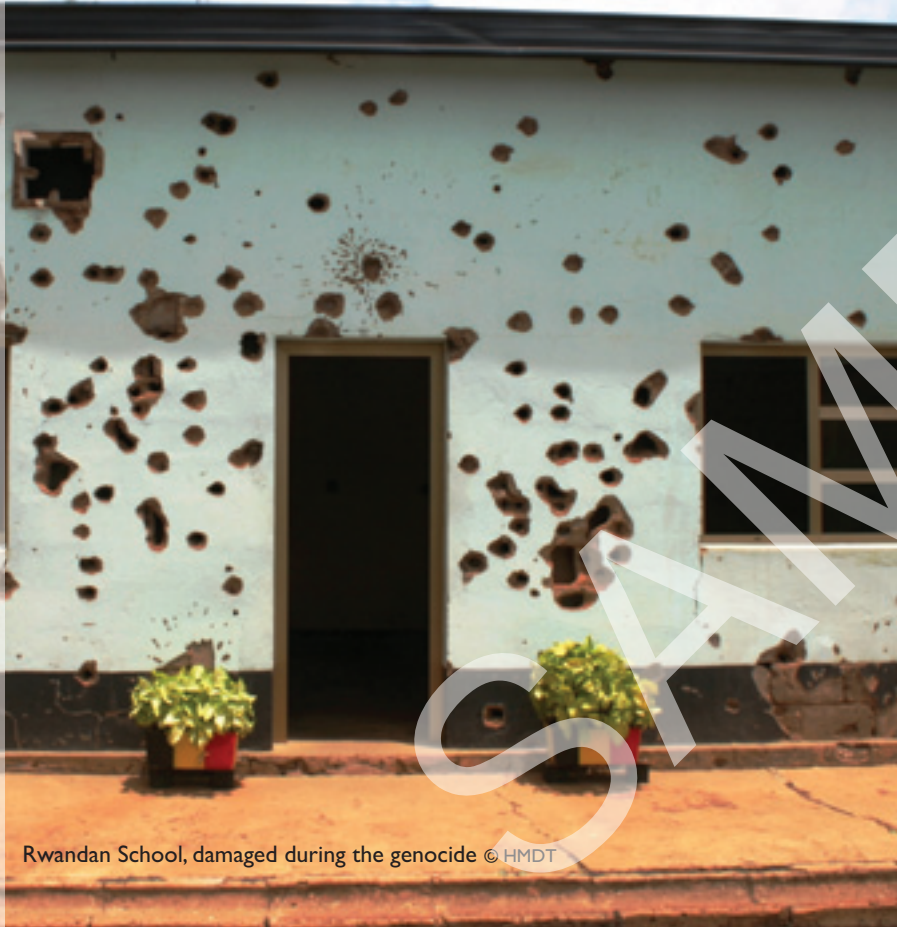
In the Bosnian municipality of Prijedor, non-Serbs were forced to wear white armbands. Serbian newspapers, radio and television stations began to publish and broadcast propaganda against the non-Serbs in the city.

After the takeover of power by Serb forces, non-Serb women were taken to Trnopolje Camp where systematic rape took place on a regular basis and camp officers would beat prisoners indiscriminately. It is estimated that around 7,000 people passed through the camp. Around 3,500 people, mainly men, were held in inhumane conditions in the Omarska Camp. The prisoners were given one meal per day and violence from the camp officers was widespread. Living conditions were atrocious, with suffocation caused by overcrowding being a constant threat to the prisoners. On HMD, we must honour the victims and the survivors of the genocide in Bosnia by creating a culture which respects and celebrates the differences between us.

To find out more about the genocide in Bosnia visit:

www.hmd.org.uk/genocides/bosnia

Genocide in Rwanda 1994



Rwandan School, damaged during the genocide © HMDT

In 100 days in 1994 approximately 1 million Tutsis and some moderate Hutus were murdered in the Rwandan genocide. On 6 April 1994 the plane carrying Rwanda's President was shot down. The Tutsis were accused of killing the president and Hutu civilians were told, by radio and word of mouth, that it was their duty to wipe out the Tutsis. Although on a large scale, this genocide was carried out entirely by hand, often using machetes and clubs. The men who'd been trained to massacre were members of civilian death squads – the *Interahamwe*. The State provided supporting organisation – politicians, officials, intellectuals and professional soldiers incited the killers to do their work. Local officials assisted in rounding up victims and making suitable places available for slaughter.

Tutsi men, women, children and babies were killed in thousands in schools and churches. The victims, in their last moments alive, were faced by another appalling fact, their cold-blooded killers were people they knew – neighbours, colleagues, former friends, sometimes even relatives through marriage. On HMD, we can learn the lessons from the genocide in Rwanda to change the attitudes and language we use to others around us.

To find out more about the genocide in Rwanda visit:

www.hmd.org.uk/genocides/rwanda



Darfuri Boys © Global Business Assist

Darfur is a region in the west of Sudan, bordering Chad in North-East Africa. Over 6 million people live there and over half of those are Black Africans. The rest are Arab. In more recent times, the Black Africans have been referred to as *abid* (meaning slave) by some Arabs, who see the Africans as inferior.

Since 2003, a civil war has raged in the region between the sedentary population of farmers, who mainly see themselves as Africans, and the nomadic population who regard themselves as Arab and who have been supported by the Sudanese Government.

This civil war has led to the deaths of between 200,000 and 400,000 civilians. Around 2.7 million people in Darfur are now displaced - they have been forced to flee their homes and now live in makeshift refugee camps. A further 2 million people rely on international assistance, bringing the total number of civilians affected by the conflict close to 5 million people.

The atrocities in Darfur continue. In 2010, the International Criminal Court issued a second warrant for the arrest of Sudan's President on charges of Crimes Against Humanity. On HMD, we can all reflect on what we can do to help end the genocide in Darfur.

To find out more about the genocide in Darfur visit:

www.hmd.org.uk/genocides/darfur



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