



Patron, HM The Queen

29 June 2006

## **LIVERPOOL WINS BID TO HOST HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2008**

*Holocaust Memorial Day to play major role in 2008  
European City of Culture*

The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust today announced that Liverpool has been chosen as UK host city for Holocaust Memorial Day 2008. Several strong bids to host the 2008 commemorations were received by the Trust, but the joint proposals by Liverpool City Council and Liverpool Culture Company were particularly outstanding. A combination of a creative approach, an appreciation of the spirit of Holocaust Memorial Day and the link into Liverpool's activities around European Capital of Culture in 2008, was the deciding factor.

Stephen Smith, Chair of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust said:

"The Trust was very impressed by the bid put forward by Liverpool and by the team's professionalism, enthusiasm and understanding of the importance of learning the lessons of the Holocaust and applying them to life in the UK today. Throughout the process, they demonstrated true commitment to Holocaust Memorial Day and to the objectives of the HMD Trust. Whilst January 2008 seems a long way away, considerable planning goes into each Holocaust Memorial Day and we're confident that Liverpool City will deliver a memorable, moving occasion."

Councillor Warren Bradley, Leader of Liverpool City Council, said: "Holocaust Memorial Day has played an integral role in Liverpool's civic calendar for many years.

"We recognise the global importance of this day and I'm honoured that the national commemoration is going to be held in a year when the eyes of the world are on Liverpool."

Louise Ellman, MP for Liverpool Riverside and Trustee of the HMD Trust said:  
"As MP for Liverpool Riverside, and a passionate supporter of Holocaust Memorial Day, I am delighted and proud that HMD will be hosted by my home city in 2008. I believe there is intrinsic value for all communities in Liverpool to work together each year to mark Holocaust Memorial Day and make it as meaningful as possible."

Holocaust Memorial Day falls on the 27<sup>th</sup> January each year and has been declared an international day of remembrance by the United Nations. Holocaust Memorial Day is an opportunity to commemorate all those who were victims of the Holocaust and Nazi persecution, as well as the victims of genocides like those in Bosnia and Rwanda. Preparations are currently underway in Newcastle for the 2007 national event. There will also be local events in all regions of the UK, and in many schools, communities and places of worship. The theme for 2007 is the Dignity of Difference. The theme for 2008 is yet to be announced.

*Please note, the selection panel that chose the host city for 2008 was made up of Nick Joseph, Acting CEO of the HMD Trust, and Trustees Professor David Cesarani, Jack Gilbert and David Russell.*

ENDS

**For more information please contact**

On behalf of the HMD Trust: Aideen Lee or Clare Haines at Luther Pendragon on 020 7618 9100 or email [\*\*hmd@luther.co.uk\*\*](mailto:hmd@luther.co.uk)

On behalf of Liverpool City Council and the Liverpool Culture Company: Sarah Langworthy on 0151 225 5582 or email [\*\*sarah.langworthy@liverpool.gov.uk\*\*](mailto:sarah.langworthy@liverpool.gov.uk)

**About Holocaust Memorial Day**

Holocaust Memorial Day has been an annual event in the UK since 2001. In November 2005, the U.N. General Assembly passed a resolution designating 27<sup>th</sup>

January as the annual Holocaust Memorial Day internationally. The date was chosen to coincide with the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

The purpose of Holocaust Memorial Day is to remember and learn from the lessons of the past. It provides a way into discussing difficult issues such as racism, xenophobia, discrimination and bigotry across different faiths and diverse communities. Holocaust Memorial Day provides an opportunity to commemorate all those who were victims of the Holocaust and Nazi persecution, as well as the victims of racism and discrimination in other genocides, and to show that the events of the Holocaust remain relevant to everyone in the UK today. Victims of the Holocaust include the Jews, the Sinti and Roma communities, Poles, gay people, Jehovah's Witnesses and people with disabilities.

Holocaust Memorial Day 2007 will be hosted by Newcastle. The theme for HMD 2007 is, "The Dignity of Difference".

### **About The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust**

The Home Office has handed day-to-day responsibility for Holocaust Memorial Day to the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust. HM the Queen is patron of the Trust, which is an independent charitable organisation responsible for taking forward the delivery of Holocaust Memorial Day from 2006 onwards. The Trustees are Dr Stephen Smith, Professor David Cesarani, Jane Clements, Paula Cowan, Louise Ellman MP, Jack Gilbert, Henry Grunwald QC, Agnes Grunwald-Spier, Judith Hassan, Ben Helfgott, Fahmia Huda, Rabbi Barry Marcus, Karen Pollock, and David Russell. The day to day activity of the Trust is managed by Chief Executive, Nick Joseph.

[www.hmd.org.uk](http://www.hmd.org.uk)