



Holocaust Memorial Day 2008 : Football Programmes.

In the 1930's and 40's, one of the greatest acts of cruelty the World has ever seen took place in Europe where 6 million Jewish people were murdered in the Holocaust. 5 million others were also victims of persecution, brutality and atrocity by the Nazi regime in a systematic way that is so staggering it defies belief.

In the trials and inquiries that followed the end of WW2 the cry was "Never Again" – such a crime must never be repeated. And yet, since then, acts of genocide have continued throughout the world and the newspapers and news bulletins have been full of atrocities in Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda, East Timor, the Congo, and currently in Darfur in the Sudan.

How do we make the words "**Never Again**" come true?

The City of Liverpool is honoured to be hosting a diverse and extensive programme of events for Holocaust Memorial Day 2008 in its European Capital of Culture Year. The Lord Mayor of Liverpool Councillor Paul Clark said "We, and the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, are delighted that so many people and organisations from across Merseyside, nationally and internationally have wanted to demonstrate their support for our **key messages of RESPECT and HOPE** which underpin what has developed into an impressive programme".

It is a fine tradition to hold a minutes silence for those who have been lost. If we had a minutes silence for each of the victims of the Holocaust, the silence would last 7638 days - nearly 21 years. But silence is not the answer - the only way to challenge the forces of evil is to stand up and take action and to support the principles of tolerance and justice. Football is a place where an individual is measure by what they can do and not who they are.

How can you help? Simply having, showing and insisting upon RESPECT for all others and for their differences can make a crucial difference. Dehumanisation on a major scale is a feature of genocide and such acts cannot flourish in a society which values tolerance and respect.

The author, philosopher and politician **Edmund Burke** said, '***The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing,***'

You are invited to be part of the events that make up the Holocaust Memorial Day programme for 2008 by participating in debates, attending a performance or by accessing our website to leave a message on the Wall of Commitment as by doing so you will have taken a step forward towards making the challenge of Never Again a reality. The Lord Mayor wishes to thank all who have donated their used spectacles to the unique **RESPECTacles** exhibition at Liverpool Town Hall (open to the public 21st to 26th January 2008) which is attracting world-wide publicity.

Liverpool has a programme of activities throughout January to commemorate the holocaust and subsequent genocides culminating in the main commemorative event at the Philharmonic Hall on Sunday 27 January 2008. For further information visit **www.liverpool.gov.uk/holocaust08**