

Focus on: International Women's Day 08.03.08



March 8th sees many individuals, groups and communities across the world celebrating International Women's Day. Designated as an annual commemoration in 1975 by the United Nations, thousands of events are held throughout the world to inspire women and celebrate their achievements. While there are many large-scale initiatives, a rich and diverse fabric of local activity connects women from all around the world ranging from political rallies, business conferences, Government activities and networking events through to local women's craft markets, theatrical performances, fashion parades and more.

The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust supports International Women's Day and asks everyone across the UK to take the time on International Women's Day to remember the millions of women who were killed during the Holocaust and in subsequent genocides and to learn about those women who chose to save others despite potential danger to themselves.

On the HMD website, you can read testimonies of women who survived the Holocaust (<http://www.hmd.org.uk/resources/item/120/>, the Genocide in Rwanda (<http://www.hmd.org.uk/resources/item/93/>) and the Genocide in Cambodia (<http://www.hmd.org.uk/resources/item/150/>)

You can also find out about some of the women who chose to stand up and make a difference to those who were persecuted. Helen Bamber (<http://www.hmd.org.uk/resources/item/44/>) volunteered to work in Bergen-Belsen concentration camp after liberation, helping to rehabilitate survivors, Sula Karuhimbi (<http://www.hmd.org.uk/resources/item/39/>) hid over 20 Tutsi's from the Interahamwe during the Rwandan genocide, Nellie Delaney (<http://www.hmd.org.uk/resources/item/170/>) chose to speak out about the death of her brother, Johnny, who was kicked to death in Liverpool in 2003 for being a Gypsy.

Many of the Films
(<http://www.hmd.org.uk/resources/cat/20/>) Books
(<http://www.hmd.org.uk/resources/cat/22/>) and Poetry
(<http://www.hmd.org.uk/resources/cat/18/>) on the HMD website explore the role and actions of women when faced with great atrocity both in the past and today.



Sula Karuhimbi who sheltered Rwandan Tutsi's in her home during the genocide. © Aegis Trust

More information on International Women's Day can be found at
<http://www.internationalwomensday.com/default.asp>