

Community Event – 100+ attendees

Duration: 1 week

Notes for organisers

Many event organisers have organised a week long activity to mark Holocaust Memorial Day in their communities. By holding events over the course of a week, the audience you attract to your event changes in size and nature. If you do plan on organising a series of events we recommend that you create a steering committee of those people who will be delivering event. This will ensure that your events are well organised and do not replicate one another.

It will be vital to pre-plan your events and it may be necessary to secure a budget for your events. Each suggested activity may be suitable to hold over a number of days.

Do make sure you've read our guidance for event organisers

<http://www.hmd.org.uk/events/organising-a-local-activity>

Day 1: Library Activity

Request the HMD 2011 Free Campaign Pack <http://www.hmd.org.uk/resources/campaignpack> and display the posters from this in all of your libraries in the lead up to your event. You may be able to create your own display of books from your collections to encourage users to borrow these. You'll find a list of suggested books in our resources for Libraries

<http://www.hmd.org.uk/resources/libraries> If your library has a Reader in Residence, they could hold an event which includes selected readings which are appropriate to your audience.

A local author or story teller would also be suitable. If you are planning an event for a younger audience please make sure that you are using appropriate materials for their age range – you'll find book group activities for younger readers on our website

<http://www.hmd.org.uk/resources/for-young-people>

Day 2: Exhibition

Hold an exhibition in a public space within your community. There are exhibitions available to hire <http://www.hmd.org.uk/resources/artwork/organisations-providing-exhibitions> or you

could create your own by asking local artists to work with schools or youth groups to create a response to the HMD theme. Invite your local dignitaries and community leaders to attend the opening. Think about the legacy this exhibition could leave. Could it become a permanent exhibition or could you photograph this and use that as your display for a future HMD?

Day 3: Candle-lit walk

Ask community members to participate in a candle-lit walk. You could start this at the location of your exhibition and finish at an important local landmark. It will be important to brief all participants in what it is they are taking part in.

Outline the aims of HMD and information on **Untold Stories** - explain that there are millions of stories from genocides that we will never know. But this does not mean that we can forget them. Whilst we know that 11 million people were murdered by the Nazis, including 6 million Jews, these numbers can feel like a statistic. It is when we remember that each of those 11 million murdered was an individual – a mother, a father, a child, a colleague or a friend – that the atrocities of the past become real to us today. HMD 2011 also encourages us to look for the **Untold Stories** in our own communities today. Your audience is gathered together, but do we know the stories of those sitting next to us? Have we asked ourselves what we share and can learn from one another? We each live our own **Untold Stories** every day, and HMD 2011 gives us the opportunity to make these part of our shared and safer future.

During your candle-lit walk, ensure that you adhere to any local health and safety regulations and that you have informed your local police authority of your intentions.

Day 4: Multi Faith Event

Ask your local faith leaders to come together to hold an event for HMD. It may be suitable to share food from different cultures and celebrate the communities we have today. Make sure that you read our advice on providing food at HMD events.

<http://www.hmd.org.uk/events/organising-a-local-activity/practical-advice>

Ask people of different faiths to reflect or read a suitable prayer as part of their event. They may wish to reflect on the experience of those from a variety of religions under genocidal regimes. You could consider the Jewish or Jehovah's Witness experience under the Nazis <http://www.hmd.org.uk/genocides/the-holocaust/victims-of-nazi-hatred> Muslims in Bosnia <http://www.hmd.org.uk/genocides/bosnia> or Buddhists in Cambodia <http://www.hmd.org.uk/genocides/Cambodia> You may wish to invite students from local schools to your event – contact your local SACRE if you would like to include those who study Religious Education.

www.hmd.org.uk

Day 5: Cinema Event

Contact your local cinema and ask them to become involved in your event. You could ask them to play the HMD film available in the Campaign Pack

<http://www.hmd.org.uk/resources/campaignpack> before their films on HMD. They could supplement this by making the HMD handout material available (contact the HMDT team on *0845 838 1883* to obtain free copies of this). There's also a wide variety of films that would be suitable for showing for HMD, you can find recommendations on our website <http://www.hmd.org.uk/resources/films/films-for-hmd-events>

These events are only intended as suggestions. If you do have the commitment and budget to organise a series of activities for HMD, do think beyond these ideas. You may wish to organise art or poetry competitions, hold theatre events or work with Children's Services to create a series of podcasts to be broadcast on your local radio station. Remember – there's no right or wrong way to hold a HMD event, it must always reflect the needs and values of your community.