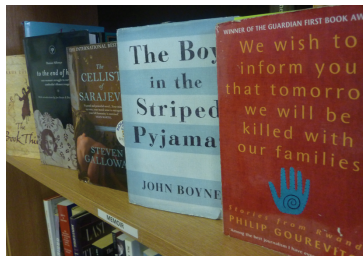


Advice for Libraries commemorating HMD



What is Holocaust Memorial Day?

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 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. Anyone can organise an event to mark HMD, and many hundreds of events already take place. HMDT will provide you with all the free resources and advice you will need to hold an event. Any member of the HMDT team can help – call us on **0845 838 1883** or email us – enquiries@hmd.org.uk

Why is HMD relevant?

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 and ensure that their lives were not wasted.

Why should Libraries hold a HMD event?

Thousands of books have been written about or which draw inspiration from the Holocaust, Nazi persecution and genocide. The reference books, novels and survivor testimonies available to us all provide a unique way to approach learning about the atrocities in our past and indeed, those continuing today. Libraries are able to provide their library members with the opportunity to learn the lessons of the past in a creative way so that they can use these messages to create a safer, better future.

'I was very fortunate to call Cantor Ernest Levy a good friend. Ernest was a survivor of the Holocaust who urged us to look to our own lives and our communities today. Libraries in Edinburgh traditionally welcome all into safe learning environments and we believe HMD is an opportunity for all the diverse strands of our communities to come together. It's also an opportunity for groups or organisations to remember the past and commit to creating a better future.'

Liz McGettigan BA
MCILIP MBILD ACMI,
Libraries and
Information Services
Manager

By holding HMD events in your Library, you can encourage all people from your community to visit the Library. If you decide that your event will look specifically at Refugees, this could be a good way to engage your local refugee communities. You could work with Primary and Secondary schools, or with other youth organisations. Who you choose to attend your events is up to you. Here at HMDT, we're always happy to provide advice and guidance on how to do so.

What kind of event will work for us?

There's no such thing as a right or wrong HMD event. Whatever the content of your event, it is vital that it is fitting for your chosen audience. When deciding this take into account **practical concerns**. Don't worry if you don't have budget set aside for a HMD event – we provide all of our resources **free of charge**.

In the past 5 years, Libraries across the UK have held all sorts of events. You can take a look at previous **HMD events** for inspiration in your planning. We have some suggestions for events in Libraries:

- display the posters from the **free HMD Campaign Pack** in your Library alongside a display of the books we recommend in our **bibliography for Libraries**.
- hold a storytelling event for young people – you'll find suggested discussion points for specific books in **reading activities for young people**.
- ask your library members to reflect on HMD 2011 by filling out cards telling their Untold Story and display these in your library.
- request our free handout material and make sure that everyone who borrows books in January 2011 takes one home with them. Call us on 0845 838 1883 to order these in quantities of 50.

We also have ideas for **Book Group Activities** and extensive HMD **event advice**.



Dorchester Library displays messages from their library members for HMD06 © Dorchester Library

What's next?

First things first – order your **free Campaign Pack** – this contains advice, posters, a film and sample hand out material to assist you in your planning.

We hold a series of workshops around the UK for existing and new HMD event organisers in September and October. These are free to attend and they provide advice on commemorating HMD, using the theme and to give you an opportunity to hear from a survivor and to network with other event organisers. Book your free place on your closest **workshop**.

Take a look through our **HMD event advice** and **bibliography for Libraries**.

Talk to us

We're here to help. We can provide you with ideas and guidance through our advice service, as well as sending you our free resources. We're always happy to hear from you.

t – **0845 838 1883**

e – enquiries@hmd.org.uk

www.hmd.org.uk