



Speak Up, Speak Out

Secondary Assembly – Direct Delivery – Suitable for Key Stage 3 and 4

Resources:

- [speak up poster](#) with HMD 2012 Symbol
also available in the free [Campaign Pack](#) or call **0845 838 1883**. [Brian Steidle case study](#) or the [film link](#)
- [copy of the poem by Pastor Martin Niemoller, 'First they came...'](#)

Please ensure all lesson plans and case study materials are suitable for your students prior to the lesson commencing. The content of some case studies may upset some pupils.

Script :

Holocaust Memorial Day provides an opportunity for everyone to learn lessons from the Holocaust, Nazi persecution and genocides that have happened since.

On Holocaust Memorial Day we share the memory of the millions who have been murdered in the Holocaust and subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

But why do we do this? The Holocaust happened over 60 years ago and we learn about it in school as part of history - so why should we have a day as well?

Well, millions of people were killed deliberately during these genocides, not by accident but by planned actions. All ages of people were targeted including the elderly, children, babies and even young people of your age. And despite people saying that the Holocaust should never happen again there have been genocides since. HMD is a day to reflect and remember these events.

The Nazis and their supporters developed racist laws that excluded different groups from German society including Jewish people, Gypsies and Black people. These people were slowly and systematically stripped of their rights, their dignity, their freedom, and for many of them, their lives. People who belonged to different political groups were also imprisoned along with many others who did not follow the lifestyle that the Nazis wanted, including Gay



men. Their treatment from this imprisonment often resulted in death. People with disabilities and hereditary illnesses were also locked away and killed.

The Holocaust and the victimisation of so many other groups targeted in genocides did not happen overnight. The restrictive laws and exclusion of Jews from German society happened gradually, starting before World War Two. The gradual removal of people's human rights and their presence from within communities was watched by other people around them who did nothing. Some of the laws were even published in foreign newspapers including those in Britain. Jews were banned from owning radios in Nazi Germany in the 1930s.

We can see the removal of human rights replicated in later genocides, such as in Cambodia in the 1970s, when people were also banned from owning radios. In Rwanda in the 1990s, compulsory identity cards stating a person's race and religion were used to segregate people.

In each of these countries some people did speak out against what was happening, but they were usually arrested. What would have happened if more people had spoken out against the laws taking away Human Rights?

In 1943, the Rosenstraße protests took place when 1,600 German Jewish men were arrested simply because they were Jewish, and held in a prison in Rose Street, in Berlin. The men's German wives spoke up and demonstrated, resulting in their release by the authorities.

In the 2000s, Brian Steidle worked in Sudan and witnessed the genocide in Darfur. Although he was unable to stop it while he was there, he campaigned for actions to stop it as soon as he back in the United States. He met with politicians, wrote articles and appeared on television to help get the killings stopped.

Read the full case study or show the film if there is time

Knowing about these terrible events allows us to consider what we would do if we witnessed something bad happening in our own communities. Would we speak out and report things that are unfair? Would we be brave enough to speak out for people when we are not the group being attacked or treated badly? Or would we turn a blind eye?

It is difficult to know what we would do, but what we do know is that if a person's human rights are taken away, it is often done gradually, and by waiting until it affects you, you may be leaving it too late.

This year's theme for Holocaust Memorial Day is **Speak Up, Speak Out**. We can learn about genocides that have taken place in the past but we can also be vigilant, to watch out for signs that could lead to the mistreatment of others. If we are scared by what might happen to us, we can work with other people to stop people being treated unfairly. We can support

anti-bullying groups in school or we can join organisations that try to stop things happening across the world.

By having a day where we learn about the Holocaust and other subsequent genocides, we have an opportunity to remember people who were murdered because of hatred and discrimination. We can also think about what we can do to stop individuals and groups from being picked on, isolated, discriminated against and killed. How could you **Speak Up, Speak Out** to create a safer, better future?

Moment of Reflection:

Today we remember all those people who have been killed just for being who they are. We can take this opportunity to reflect on what we might do to help those whose lives are attacked by others and hope that we will have a voice to speak out when others have their voice taken away.

Poem

By Pastor Martin Niemoller

First they came for the Communists

And I did not speak out

Because I was not a Communist

Then they came for the Trade Unionists

And I did not speak out

Because I was not a trade Unionist

Then they came for the Jews

And I did not speak out

Because I was not a Jew

Then they came for me

And there was no one left to speak out for me.