



ARTICLE OF THE WEEK

INTRODUCING HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

Stuart Whiffin, RRSA Professional Adviser, introduces Holocaust Memorial Day



Holocaust Memorial Day takes place on 27 January every year.

27 January marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp. On this day, we remember the six million Jewish people who were killed during the Holocaust, alongside millions of other people who were killed under Nazi persecution and in genocides that followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

Holocaust Memorial Day is for everyone. Each year, across the UK, thousands of people come together to learn more about the past and take action to create a safer future. The theme for 2022 is One Day – that in the future there may be one day with no genocide.

Holocaust Memorial Day is promoted and supported by the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust. Find out more: www.hmd.org.uk



Click [here](#) to watch on YouTube



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LINKED UNCRC ARTICLES



This week's activities link to the following articles:

Article 2 - The Convention applies to every child without discrimination

Article 19 - Protection from violence, abuse and neglect

Article 37 - No child should be tortured, sentenced to death, imprisoned unfairly or treated in a cruel or inhuman way

Article 38 - No child under 15 should join the army and children should be protected in war

EXPLORING HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY



Why do we remember **Holocaust Memorial Day** each year?



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HOW MANY OF THESE DID YOU GET?

- The awful events around the Second World War must be remembered.
- Few survivors are still alive, but the truth of what happened should be kept alive beyond their lifetime.
- If we don't learn lessons from history, we won't be able to make better decisions in the future.
- It helps people to learn and to remember.
- The lessons of the Holocaust helped lead to a world in which human rights are valued.
- If we really learn from the past, there can be hope for the future.
- To honour people who lost their lives in the Holocaust and in genocides.
- To remind ourselves to speak up and act when we see people being treated unfairly.

It is important to remember about other non-Jewish groups of people who were persecuted including other European and non-European nationals, Romani people, people with disabilities, LGBT people, political prisoners and people of other faiths. Other terrible events have happened since, in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur, and these are included in this remembrance.

Did you think of any other reasons?



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PRIMARY ACTIVITIES

You do not need to complete every activity but if you have time you can try to complete more than one.



Play a game of 'stand up/sit down' using criteria such as the following: stand up if you have brown eyes, stand up if you have curly hair, stand up if you have a pet, sit down if you like football, sit down if you like swimming, sit down if you celebrate Christmas etc. You can see from this game that some things about us are different, and some things are the same – **would it be fair to treat people unkindly because of these differences?**



Read or listen to the story '[Benno and the night of broken glass](#)'. Sensitively link this to what happened in the Holocaust - people were killed or badly treated either because they were Jewish or were different in some way to others. (Reassure children that this would not happen in their school because everyone is treated fairly and respected for who they are.)

What makes you different from other people in your family and from your friends? What's good about being different? Draw a picture of yourself with the title **ONLY ONE ME.**

How can you help to make sure everyone feels **welcome and happy** in your class? **Draw a picture** to show everyone feeling happy and welcome.

PRIMARY ACTIVITIES 2

You do not need to complete every activity but if you have time you can try to complete more than one.



Holocaust Memorial Day reminds us to **speak up and do something when we see discrimination and hatred**. Create a piece of art or write a poem, slogan or message to encourage people to speak out. Link with articles 2, 19, 37 or 38.

Have you heard of a Jewish girl called Anne Frank? [Watch this video](#) or [read her story](#). The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child was not agreed until 1989 but if it had existed during Anne's lifetime, which rights were affected by what happened to her? Make a note of these and discuss with your class. **(This video is quite challenging – please check before sharing with your class.)**



Survivors of the Holocaust and of genocide often talk about the **One Day** when everything changed, sometimes for the worse and sometimes for better. Read about [Iby Knill](#) or listen to her story. Try to explain some of her feelings and experiences to your friends.

Look up the word '**discrimination**'. Can you think of **examples of discrimination that happen today**? Talk about this with your teacher or with somebody at home.

REFLECTION



Photo by Pexels

Find somewhere peaceful and quiet. Relax and let your mind be still. Focus for a moment on the sounds of your breath.

Now let's consider...

The theme of this year's Holocaust Memorial Day is 'One Day'.

- Think of your wishes for the future. **"One day, I will..."**
- Think of your wishes for all children around the world. **"One day, all children will..."**
- **What can we do today** to make your wishes for all children come true?

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MORE INFO...

RRSA WEBSITE

For more information or to download previous Article of the Week packs please visit the RRSA website by clicking the link below

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