



HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

27 January 2010



Holocaust Memorial Day is an event that can be included in the school's timetable, as an assembly and in a variety of subjects. It was established "so that horrendous crimes against humanity, during the Nazi persecution and the ethnic cleansing and killing that has taken place in Europe in more recent years, are never forgotten".

(Tony Blair, Prime Minister, 11 June 1999)

27 January was chosen because it is the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

The theme this year is 'The Legacy of Hope'. Part of the theme is explained below:

Since the end of the Holocaust many survivors have felt compelled to use their experience as a clarion call to act today. It is their example that can inspire us to greater action. We need to ask ourselves what we should be doing today to build a safer, stronger society so that the risk of the building blocks of genocide ever being laid is removed.

Rabbi Hugo Gryn has said:

"When I think about the summer of 1945, when through a chance I cannot fathom, I was free and still in life...why, I was sure that never again would there be anti-semitism or race-hatreds of any kind...The sad truth is that tyranny and race-hatred did not end when the Second World War ended, as we then hoped and believed but the vision for peace did not die."

It is our duty to ensure that these hopes of Rabbi Gryn, and others like him, become a part of our lives and our interaction with one another.

As Holocaust survivor Freddie Knoller eloquently states:

"My attitude of hope and optimism helped me to overcome fear and perils and was one of the reasons why I am still alive today." His hope and determination to overcome a hopeless situation contributed to his survival. Freddie's resolve and courage show why we should commit to fighting the kind of racism and prejudice that placed him and millions of others in serious danger.

There is also a new generation of survivors of more recent genocides emerging where the challenge is as difficult to meet as in previous generations. Beatha Uwazaninka who survived the genocide in Rwanda states: "There is a new generation coming now and I hope there will be forgiveness among them. If we can teach them, there is hope."

As humanitarian activist Hugo Slim says of the voices that speak out of tragedy to our shared sense of humanity: "We need to listen, for a change."

Website materials:

<http://www.hmd.org.uk/>

Educational Materials which include Assemblies, Case Studies and Lesson Plans for Holocaust Memorial Day 2009 are now available to download from the Education section of the hmd website. Free hard copies can also be supplied upon request by emailing enquiries@hmd.org.uk

Holocaust Memorial Day Dates for your diaries:

27th January 2010 Bedfordshire schools HMD
Redborne Upper School, Ampthill at 6pm

28th January 2010 Hertfordshire schools HMD
Nobel School, Stevenage at 6pm

For more information about these events, please contact Jane Chipperton email: readviser@stalbans.anglican.org

Useful websites

www.hmd.org.uk (Holocaust Memorial Day)

www1.yadvashem.org/education/lesson_plan.html

www.het.org.uk (Holocaust Educational Trust)

www.AnneFrank.com

www.bethshalom.com

www.jewishmuseum.org.uk

Recommended resources

There are a number of resources that can be borrowed from the Diocesan Resource Centre St. Albans, including videos, books, posters and class boxes for use in primary and secondary schools

Tel. 01727 818158/01727 818170

Email: readviser@stalbans.anglican.org

Other resources:

Video - Wasted Lives

Suitable for secondary schools

The Last Goodbye (Kindertransport)

A primary resource, available from the Jewish Museum, Finchley

I have not seen a butterfly around here?

ISBN 8085608189

Parallel Journeys - E Ayer

ISBN 0 689 83236 2

Memories of the Night - A Meyer Meinback & M Kassenoff

ISBN 0 86734 777 5

Twenty and Ten - C H Bishop

ISBN 0 14 031076 2

Terrible Things - Eve Bunting

ISBN 0 8276 0325 8

Resources and Reviews

1 The Butterfly - Patricia Polacco

ISBN 0 399 23170 6

A beautifully illustrated story about children in France during the Second World War. The 'ghost' at the bottom of Monique's bed turns out to be a young Jewish girl named Sevrine, who has been hiding in the basement. Playing secretly, the two girls become friends, until they are discovered.

Suitable for primary ages and above, a passionate and true tale of friendship from the French Resistance.

2 Passage to Freedom, The Sugihara Story - Ken Mochizuki
ISBN 1 880000 49 0

In 1940, five year old Hiroki Sugihara, the eldest son of the Consul to Lithuania, saw hundreds of Jewish refugees from Poland standing outside the Consulate window. They had come to ask Hiroki's father if he could write visas for them to escape the Nazi threat.

Based on Hiroki's own words, this is the story of one man's remarkable courage and the respect that was built between father and son because the welfare of others was placed so highly.

Suitable for Key stage 2 and above

3 The Lily Cupboard - Shulamith Levey Oppenheim
ISBN 0 06 443393 5

Set in The Netherlands, Miriam is sent away from the city to live with non-Jews in the country. She hides in the lily cupboard ...

A lovely story, suitable for ages 6 to 8

4 Ten Thousand Children - Anne L Fox and Eva Abraham-Podietz
ISBN 0 874 4168 5

True stories told by children who were in Germany and escaped the Holocaust on the kindertransport.

An excellent teacher resource with background information and updates on what

happened to each of the children after the war.

5 Flowers on the Wall - Miriam Nerlove
ISBN 0 689 50614 7

Rachel dreams of becoming an artist in Paris but being Jewish and living in Warsaw, Poland, during the Second World War, she finds the only painting she can do is inside, on the apartment walls. Rachel's dreams vanish when she and her family are sent to Treblinka, a Nazi concentration camp.

This is a moving story, inspired by a photograph taken in 1939 of a child in a flower-painted basement in Warsaw.

6 Rose Blanche - C Gallaz and Roberto Innocenti
ISBN 0 15 200917 5

A beautifully illustrated story for all ages about a girl in Germany who finds a concentration camp in the woods. Unforgettable and full of realism.

7 I am a Holocaust Torah - Rabbi Alex J Goldman
ISBN 965229236 2

The story of the saving of 1,564 Torah scrolls stolen by the Nazis.

An excellent teacher resource, to be used in assemblies and lessons.

8 Shadows of the Holocaust, Plays, Readings and Program Resources -
Harriet Steinhorn
ISBN 0 930 494 494 25 3

A useful resource for secondary students. Published in 1983