



Holocaust Memorial

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- Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) takes place on 27 January each year and is a time to remember the millions of people murdered during the Holocaust, under Nazi Persecution and in the genocides which followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.



PERSECUTION

- Holocaust Memorial Day is a time when we seek to learn the lessons of the past and recognise that genocide does not just take place on its own - it's a steady process which can begin if discrimination, racism and hatred are not checked and prevented. We're fortunate here in the UK; we are not at immediate risk of genocide. However, discrimination has not ended, nor has the use of the language of hatred or exclusion.





GENOCIDE

- Each year thousands of activities take place for HMD, bringing people from all backgrounds together to learn lessons from the past . Schools to libraries, workplaces to local authorities, HMD activities offer a real opportunity to honour the experiences of people affected by the Holocaust and genocide, and challenge ourselves to work for a safer, better future.

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TORN FROM HOME

Torn from home is the theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2019.

- **Torn from home** encourages audiences to reflect on how the enforced loss of a safe place to call 'home' is part of the trauma faced by anyone experiencing persecution and genocide.
- 'Home' usually means a place of safety, comfort and security. On HMD 2019 we will reflect on what happens when individuals, families and communities are driven out of, or wrenched from their homes, because of persecution or the threat of genocide, alongside the continuing difficulties survivors face as they try to find and build new homes when the genocide is over.

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TORN FROM HOME

- The word 'home' is familiar to us all. It relates to a place in time and space but it also relates to the people and possessions we find within. Although not always the case, home usually has associations with safety, security, privacy, dignity and peace. In the lead up to the Holocaust, Nazis undermined the notion of 'secure home' by imposing curfews on Jews, and seizing certain possessions such as radios and cameras, before then forcing them to leave their homes.





TORN FROM HOME

- During the first years of Nazi rule some Jewish families, as well as others who were experiencing increasing persecution, left their homes and fled Germany. Some fled to neighbouring countries in Europe, whilst others left for countries further away like the USA, Canada and China. Not only did this mean leaving all that was familiar, but it meant trying to make a new home, often somewhere with a different culture and language, and, in some cases, an unwelcoming new society.

TORN FROM HOME

- A few months before World War Two broke out, Jewish people in Nazi Germany were told that it was now legal for their homes to be taken from them at any time. As the war developed, and Nazi control spread across Europe, Jewish people were forced from their homes into ghettos in cities across Europe. Families had to live in overcrowded, dirty and unsanitary conditions; disease and starvation were rife. Many still attempted to make their cramped accommodation in the ghetto into a semblance of home, by continuing to celebrate Jewish festivals and the sabbath.



TORN FROM HOME

- When the Holocaust ended with the end of World War Two, millions of people across Europe were displaced, often hundreds of miles from home. Some tried to return home – often a difficult and complex journey. Those who were able to return to their neighbourhoods often faced continuing prejudice, and sometimes violence from the communities to which they now returned.



TORN FROM HOME

- Many of those who tried to return from concentration camps across Europe after the Holocaust found their houses had been looted, sold, given away or physically destroyed, and the local communities unwilling or unable to help them reclaim their homes.



TORN FROM HOME

- After persecution, 'home' can become a country offering a place of safety and belonging. The continuing refugee crisis highlights that there are millions of people across the world who are still seeking a safe place to call home. The ongoing Genocide in Darfur highlights that acts of persecution, violence and genocide continue to force millions of people from their homes today.





TORN FROM HOME

- **Think about the following questions if you were torn from your home and familiar surroundings;**
- **The meaning of home before genocide**
 - a) What makes a home?
 - b) Your feelings about fleeing from home?
- **Torn from home during genocide**
 - a) How would you feel about being forced from home?
 - b) How would you find an alternative home?
 - c) Would others help you or persecute you?
- **A home after genocide**
 - a) What would you find when returning home?
 - b) What if there was no home to return to?
 - c) Finding an empty home or no home