

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Subject: HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL NATIONAL EVENT 2016**  
**Meeting: EXECUTIVE**  
**Date: 20 OCTOBER 2015**  
**Author: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE AND HOUSING SERVICES**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report asks Members to support the hosting of the National Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD), which will take place on 27 January 2016. This will complement the local event which has been running successfully for a number of years. The national event would comprise of a civic reception hosted by the Provost followed by an evening event in the Town Hall. This proposal follows an invitation to the Provost from the Holocaust Memorial Trust to host this event.
- 1.2 The report will provide background information on the event as well as what specifically is planned for 2016. The report will also outline the resources we would need to make available to support the organisation and hosting of the event.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The 27<sup>th</sup> January marks the commemoration of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and has been identified as an annual remembrance of the millions of people killed in the holocaust and subsequent genocides such as Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.
- 2.2 Over the past 5 years Falkirk Council has commemorated Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) locally. The event has gradually grown through the involvement of local communities and schools, to become recognised and acknowledged as a poignant and moving event.
- 2.3 This involvement has been significant and has helped to inform and educate people about the effect of the holocaust on different groups within society then and today. As well as Jewish people whose lives were lost, thousands of people from the gypsy, lesbian, gay and disabled communities also lost their lives and families.
- 2.4 The Council has consciously engaged with representatives from the gypsy and traveller community, the lesbian and gay community, as well as our Muslim community who have helped express the voices of people lost in the holocaust and later genocides. Each year school pupils from our secondary schools are given the chance to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau and share their experience at our local event.
- 2.5 The experience in successfully running our local event has been recognised and has contributed to the invitation to host the national event in January 2016.

The national lead agencies for this include the Holocaust Memorial Trust, Interfaith Scotland and the Scottish Government. They have all expressed their support for Falkirk Council to host the National Holocaust Memorial Event for 2016.

### **3. NATIONAL HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2016**

- 3.1 The theme for the national and local 2016 events is “Don’t Stand By”. This will provide a platform to acknowledge people who have not ignored genocide, and through significant acts of heroism have helped to save the lives of oppressed people. This can also be demonstrated by ‘simple acts of kindness’. This year’s themes will therefore also encompass ‘Don’t Stand By’ at this level. The event will also endeavour to explore and promote understanding as to why people were afraid to speak out or were indifferent to the horror around them.
- 3.2 The national event will take place in the evening of the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2016 where it is anticipated that key speakers and survivors of genocide will contribute to the theme alongside sessions from young people with musical interludes. The keynote speaker for the event will be Professor Mukesh Kapila. Professor Kapila has extensive experience in the policy and practice of international development, humanitarian affairs, human rights and diplomacy, with particular expertise in tackling crimes against humanity, disaster and conflict management, and on global public health. He was influential in bringing the situation in Darfur to worldwide attention.
- 3.3 A synopsis of the 2016 nation event ‘Don’t Stand By’ provided by the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust is attached at Appendix 1. In addition to this, a summary of the 2015 event held in South Ayrshire published by Interfaith Scotland can be provided as a background to this report.
- 3.4 The national event will be complemented during week beginning 25<sup>th</sup> January 2016 by the Council’s successful local event during the day, comprising community and school commemorative sessions; to be followed in the evening with a Civic Reception hosted by the Provost, followed by the National memorial event.

### **4. FUNDING AND RESOURCES**

- 4.1 Funding for HMD national events are supported through a combination of the HMD Trust and Scottish Government. In addition, Interfaith Scotland, which is commissioned by the Scottish Government to organise the annual national event, will provide resources to support the Council, to ensure that the event is a success.
- 4.2 We anticipate working with community representatives to plan and deliver both the 2016 local and national events. This will specifically include supporting local events in the week of 25<sup>th</sup> January 2015 to 29<sup>th</sup> January 2015.
- 4.3 If Members agree to support the hosting of the national event, the resources required to support this from the Council will be minimal. This will mostly comprise hosting the Provost’s Civic reception. The staff resource required to support the event would mainly involve communications, administration and liaison with the national organisers.

4.4 A significant level of staff support for the event has been offered from national organisations including:

- The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust;
- Interfaith Scotland; and
- The Scottish Government.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS

5.1 This is a significant first for Falkirk Council and will do much to recognise the contribution of the local community and schools in remembering and learning from the impact of the holocaust and other genocides. The invitation to host the national event builds on the success of our own local event in recent years. The resource contribution necessary to support the event is modest when compared to the scale and reputational enhancement this will provide for the local area and the Council itself.

## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

**It is recommended that the Executive**

- 6.1 **Agrees to support the hosting of the National Holocaust Memorial Day and the accompanying civic reception on 27 January 2016; and**
- 6.2 **Notes the local events taking place to mark Holocaust Memorial Day.**

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**DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & HOUSING SERVICES**

Date: 22<sup>ND</sup> September 2015  
Ref: ABB0915CS – National HMD 2016  
Contact Name: Linda Gilliland

## LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Holocaust Memorial Day 2015 - *‘Keeping the Memory Alive’*

# HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2016: DON'T STAND BY



HOLOCAUST  
MEMORIAL  
DAY TRUST

## THEME VISION

*Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor,  
never the tormented.*

Elie Wiesel

Acceptance speech – The Nobel Peace Prize 1986

### Legacy of HMD 2015 for HMD 2016

Our previous theme for HMD 2015 was reflective, looking back over the 70 years since the liberation of Auschwitz, and the 20 years since the Genocide in Srebrenica. To build on the legacy of HMD 2015, our theme this year will be forward-looking with a clear call to action in the present: focusing on the contemporary relevance of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides, and considering our individual responsibilities not to be bystanders to hate crime and prejudice, nor to international threats of genocide. We must ensure that the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and subsequent genocides are not forgotten, trivialised or denied.

Survivors, victims and refugees will remain at the centre of HMD; for many survivors, influencing behaviour today and relationships with others in our communities are crucial reasons for their commitment to speaking about their experiences.

For some, the focus needs to be on individual acts of kindness that signify we will not turn a blind eye when those around us face prejudice or victimisation:

*We need to take into account the lives of other people who live around us. We need  
to look after each other.*

Kemal Pervanić

For others, the focus is on more recent genocides:

*Unfortunately, genocide is happening again. People haven't learnt. That won't stop  
me pleading for tolerance.*

Otto Deutsch

The central vision of Holocaust Memorial Day is to learn from the past in order to create a safer, better future. HMD 2016 will enable people to learn about the ways in

which bystanders created cultures in which genocides were able to take place, and about the rescuers and resisters who challenged this. HMD 2016 will encourage people today to consider the ways in which they can choose not to be bystanders.

## Introduction to the theme for HMD 2016: Don't stand by

The Holocaust and subsequent genocides took place because the local populations allowed insidious persecution to take root. Whilst some actively supported or facilitated state policies of persecution, the vast majority stood by silently – at best, afraid to speak out; at worst, indifferent. Bystanders enabled the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and subsequent genocides. They tolerated cultures where increasingly punitive and oppressive discrimination and hostile policies could separate populations and ultimately lead to ethnic cleansing, destruction and attempted annihilation of communities.

Those who did not 'stand by' whilst persecution took place were not only bravely acting as resisters and rescuers of individuals, they were also taking action against prevailing views and beliefs that saw some people's lives as worth less than others'.

People who did not 'stand by' in the Holocaust and in subsequent genocides were able to assist in many ways. Some brave people saved lives, giving a home or shelter to individuals and families who tried to escape. Others organised rescue efforts, arranged safe passages or accompanied children to safety.

Elie Wiesel has written powerfully about the impact of bystanders:

*I swore never to be silent whenever and wherever human beings endure suffering and humiliation. We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.*

## Bystanders

*The world is a dangerous place not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing.*

Attributed to Albert Einstein

The term 'bystanders' covers a wide range of behaviours. Examples include people who: stood by and watched as Jews were forced to clean pavements during the Holocaust; benefitted from selling stolen Jewish property during the Holocaust; accepted oppressive and discriminatory policies without question; enjoyed radio

programmes which included commentary calling Tutsis ‘cockroaches’; allowed neighbours to be deported to Omarska and other concentration camps.

Life stories:

[Hasan Hasanović](#) (Bosnia) – in Srebrenica, Dutch soldiers, stationed to secure the safe haven, stood by as the Bosnian Serb army committed genocide

## Rescuers

Rescuers saved lives in so many ways: hiding people, facilitating escape, restoring health, or giving new homes. They did so with immense bravery, putting not only themselves at risk of deportation or death, but also risking the lives of their family members too. Non-Jews who saved Jewish lives in the Holocaust have, where sufficient information is known, been honoured as *Righteous Among the Nations*.

There are also people who performed acts of rescue whilst not themselves being in danger. Such people often made sacrifices, (eg in terms of family life or financially), and rescued refugees in many ways, for example, by giving them a home.

Life stories:

[Ivor Perl](#) (Holocaust)

Disabled victim of Nazi Persecution (released later in 2015)

Vera Schaufeld and Nicholas Winton (child refugee from Holocaust) (released later in 2015)

Susanne Kenton; Sidney and Golda Bourne (Kindertransport)

Carl Wilkens (Rwanda)

## Resistance and challenge

Resisters challenged the prejudice that was insidiously being cultivated around them and fought against the regimes of persecution.

Resistance took many forms. Examples include forging documents, giving money, keeping property safe throughout the war and offering bonds. There are many examples of people fighting against the prevailing ideology. Some, often at great personal risk, documented and archived what was happening, to bear witness and record testimony and experiences. Others have challenged prevailing narratives through journalism or other writings.

Some resisters were those being persecuted – for example those who participated in and supported the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. There were partisans and members of resistance groups who engaged in physical acts of resistance to destroy infrastructure that facilitated deportations or weaponry.

Zahava Kohn (Holocaust)

Sonderkommando (Holocaust) (released later in 2015)

Oneg Shabbat (Holocaust)

Roma victim of Nazi Persecution (released later in 2015)

Samantha Power (Bosnia) (released later in 2015)

Rithy Panhur (Cambodia) (released later in 2015)

Mukesh Kapila (Darfur) (released later in 2015)

## Did Britain stand by?

The recent Report of the Prime Minister's Holocaust Commission outlined the British Government response to Nazi Persecution and the Holocaust in a nuanced and considered way.

As the report stated, our usual view of the British response to the Holocaust is positive – British acceptance of *Kindertransport* refugees, individual rescuers such as Sir Nicholas Winton, the liberation of Bergen-Belsen, and the fact that thousands of survivors of the Holocaust were able to rebuild their lives in the UK.

However this disguises some less appealing aspects of this history – the appeasement of Nazi Germany in the mid-1930s, British flirtations with fascism, the UK's refusal to accept significant levels of Jewish immigration, either in Britain or Palestine, and the seeming failure to make any special effort to disrupt the extermination, such as by bombing the death camps – despite what was known at the time about the atrocities.

Ultimately Britain and France were the only countries prepared to stand up to Nazi Germany in 1939, but assisting the Jews of Europe was never a particular or explicit motivation for doing so. In fact, the British Government ordered that Jewish suffering should not be highlighted in the media and in propaganda, for fear of stoking antisemitism and domestic fascism.

The levels of collaboration seen in the Channel Islands, the only place where British people faced the reality of Nazi occupation, are not reassuring.

## Are we standing by today?

Despite the warning from history which is the Holocaust, since 1945 genocide has taken place again and again.

Former US President Bill Clinton has stated that one of the biggest regrets of his presidency is the failure of the international community to intervene to prevent the Genocide of around a million Tutsis (and moderate Hutus) in Rwanda in 1994.

Last year a court in the Netherlands ruled that the Dutch Government should compensate the families of the victims of the Srebrenica Genocide, because Dutch UN troops failed to stop the Bosnian Serb Army from taking Muslim men and boys away to be slaughtered. The entire Dutch Government resigned in 2002 after a report criticised this failure.

The Sudanese Government has been supporting Genocide in Darfur for over a decade. The International Criminal Court has indicted Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir for the crime of genocide, yet his persecution of Black African people in Sudan continues.

There are no easy answers to the question of how we should prevent genocide. Intervention carries its own risks. It's not for the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust to advocate or challenge particular foreign policy approaches. But Holocaust Memorial Day should present us all with the opportunity to learn more about the steps that lead to genocide.

We should be aware of ongoing conflicts in the world which risk descending into genocide, or in which genocide is being, or may already have been, committed; with Syria and Iraq at the forefront of our minds.

Holocaust Memorial Day should challenge us to consider whether we; individually, nationally, and internationally; through our governments and through NGOs; are doing enough to prevent and combat genocide. We always need to challenge ourselves to ensure we aren't simply standing by.

## Don't stand by

Antisemitism, racism and hate crime have not gone away. And every one of us can make a difference in our own communities. We can all challenge prejudice and discrimination if we hear and see it in our schools, workplaces or civic spaces. We can support campaigns run by other organisations that combat hate crime; for example, CST's work to protect the Jewish community from antisemitic attacks,



Stonewall's campaigns against homophobia, Mencap's work to combat hate crime against people with learning difficulties, Tell Mama's work to provide support to victims of anti-Muslim attacks, and One Billion Rising's campaign against violence against women.

Genocide is still ongoing in Darfur. There is more we can do to learn about, and raise awareness of, the steps that lead to genocide.

Survivors speak out because they want us to learn from their experiences, and do what we can to combat prejudice, encourage mutual respect and give hope for the future.

Holocaust Memorial Day is itself an example of not standing by. Established as an international day of remembrance by the governments of 46 countries, it enables us all to lead the way in resolving not to be bystanders. In the UK, with over 3,600 local activities taking place to mark HMD, hundreds of thousands of people are able to come together with neighbours and consider their responsibilities to learn from the past in order to create a better future. We can all take action today for HMD 2016: **Don't stand by.**

## Further questions

Can my activity ask people not to stand by when hate crime is being committed today?

- Yes, this year's theme encourages us all to consider whether we are doing enough to combat antisemitism, racism and hate crime. Every one of us can make a difference in our own communities. We can all challenge prejudice and discrimination if we hear or witness it in our schools, workplaces or civic spaces. We can support campaigns run by other organisations that combat hate crime; for example, CST's work to protect the Jewish community from antisemitic attacks, Stonewall's campaigns against homophobia, Mencap's work to combat hate crime against people with learning difficulties, Tell Mama's work to provide support to victims of anti-Muslim attacks, and One Billion Rising's campaign against violence against women.

Can my activity refer to the Genocide in Darfur?

- Yes, the Genocide in Darfur is one of the genocides since the Holocaust which is commemorated on Holocaust Memorial Day

Can my activity encourage people to campaign against genocide taking place today?

- Yes. We ask that all Holocaust Memorial Day activities commemorate the Holocaust, all forms of Nazi Persecution, and the subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. This year's theme encourages us to consider whether we are doing enough to stand up to genocide.

Why doesn't HMDT campaign for particular policies to combat genocide?

- HMDT's job is to encourage commemoration of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides. Commemoration raises awareness of genocide and should encourage us all to think carefully about our individual, national, and international responsibilities to help combat genocide. However, we do not have the policy expertise, nor is it our role to advise on foreign policy. Other, campaigning organisations are best placed to do this.

Can my HMD activity raise awareness of ISIL's persecution of religious minorities in Syria and Iraq?

- Yes, but international criminal courts have not yet had the opportunity to judge whether ISIL has committed the crime of genocide, so it is too early for us to officially commemorate these atrocities on HMD. However, this year's theme encourages us to be aware of ongoing conflicts in the world which risk descending into genocide, or in which genocide is being, or may already have been, committed; with Syria and Iraq at the forefront of our minds.

Can my HMD activity raise awareness of the Syrian regime's persecution of Sunni Muslim civilians in Syria?

- Yes, but international criminal courts have not yet had the opportunity to judge whether the Syrian regime has committed the crime of genocide, so it is too early for us to officially commemorate these atrocities on HMD. However, this year's theme encourages us to be aware of ongoing conflicts in the world which risk descending into genocide, or in which genocide is being, or may already have been, committed; with Syria at the forefront of our minds.

Can my HMD activity make reference to the Israel/ Palestine conflict?

- No, it is wholly inappropriate to draw parallels between the Holocaust and the current situation in Israel and the Palestinian territories. Whilst there has been significant suffering on both sides of the conflict in the Middle East, genocide has not been committed.

Can my activity make reference to other conflicts taking place in the world?

- Holocaust Memorial Day commemorates the Holocaust and reflects on genocide which has taken place since then. It's important that HMD activities preserve this central focus on genocide. If you are unsure about whether a conflict or atrocity is appropriate to refer to, please contact us to ask.

## Further resources

These are not exhaustive lists. Please look at our website for further links.

### Existing HMDT life stories relevant to this theme

#### *People who were hidden*

- [Appolinaire Kageruka](#)
- [Eric Murangwa](#)
- [Janine Webber](#)
- [Simon Winston](#)

#### *People who hid others*

- [Gino Bartali](#)
- [Jef van Bebber](#)
- [Miep Gies](#)
- [Nods family](#)
- [Vali Racz](#)

#### *People who testified / spoke out*

- [Iby Knill](#)
- [Chum Mey](#)
- [Pierre Seel](#)
- [Brian Steidle](#)

#### *People who resisted*

- [Gino Bartali](#)
- [Gad Beck](#)
- [Anita Lasker-Wallfisch](#)
- [White Rose](#)

***People who comforted and protected***

- [Janusz Korczak](#)

***People who escaped***

- [Bettine le Beau](#)
- [Blanche Benedick](#)
- [Liesel Carter](#)
- [Eve Kugler](#)
- [Margaret](#)
- [Joan Salter](#)

***Kindertransportees***

- [Martha Blend](#)
- [Wolf Blomfield](#)
- [Milena Grenfell-Baines](#)
- [Ann Kirk](#)
- [Bob Kirk](#)
- [Berndt Koschland](#)

***People who helped others escape***

- [Feng Shan Ho](#)
- [Frank Foley](#)
- [Paul Grüninger](#)
- [Irena Senderowa](#)
- [Ali Sheqer Pashkaj](#)
- [SS St Louis](#)

***People who have experienced contemporary hate crime / discrimination***

- [Ali](#)
- [Vicky Botton](#)
- [Michel Haddi](#)
- [The Hate Game](#) – films from HMD 2009

## The Holocaust and Nazi Persecution

- [United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](#)  
The USHMM is one of the largest and most respected Holocaust memorial museums in the world.
  - USHMM's [Some were neighbours](#) online exhibition examines issues of complicity and collaboration during the Holocaust
- [Yad Vashem](#)  
Based in Jerusalem, Yad Vashem is the Jewish people's living memorial to the Holocaust and the world centre for documentation, research, education and commemoration of the Holocaust.
  - Yad Vashem's [Holocaust Resource Centre's section on bystanders](#)
- [Anne Frank Trust](#)  
The Anne Frank Trust works with young people in Britain today to help build a society based on acceptance, mutual respect, compassion and responsibility. It does this through touring exhibitions about Anne Frank and educational work in schools. Opened in October 2010, The Anne Frank Library is the newest lending and reference specialising in books and resources about Anne Frank, the Holocaust and the wider topics of prejudice and discrimination, social responsibility, conflict and behaviour, and all the moral issues surrounding these topics.
- [Centre for Holocaust Education, Institute of Education](#)  
The IOE's Centre for Holocaust Education is leading world-class research on Holocaust education, delivering free professional development for teachers across England, and providing high-quality and effective teaching and learning resources.
- [Holocaust Educational Trust](#)  
HET works to promote knowledge of the Holocaust and its relevance for today and provides an outreach programme including educator-led workshops and survivor speakers. The *Lessons from Auschwitz* course for teachers and post-16 students incorporate a visit to the former Nazi camp and pre and post-visit seminars.
- The LJCC run the [The Holocaust Explained](#) website, to help students with their school work, both in school and at home and is designed to support the school curriculum. The site has images (pictures, maps, videos, diagrams) to help explain concepts and events. There is text to describe the historical events and 'reflective learning activities' to enhance students' understanding of the issues and concepts. Suitable for KS3 / KS4 / KS5

- [The Holocaust Survivors' Friendship Association](#)  
The HSFA is a Leeds-based charity set up in 1996. Their primary aim is to preserve the memory of the Holocaust and use its lessons to work towards a more tolerant society in which difference and diversity are celebrated. HSFA members regularly visit schools to give living witness accounts of their personal experiences as refugees, hidden children and survivors of Nazi concentration camps.
- [Imperial War Museum London \(The Holocaust Exhibition\)](#)  
The Holocaust Exhibition at the Imperial War Museum receives around 700 visitors daily, and features archival material and testimony to describe the Nazi persecution of the Jews and other groups. Surrounding galleries tell the wider story of conflict since 1914.
- [International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance \(IHRA\)](#)  
IHRA is an intergovernmental body whose purpose is to place political and social leaders' support behind the need for Holocaust education, remembrance and research both nationally and internationally. IHRA was formerly called the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, or ITF.
- [National Holocaust Centre](#)  
The National Holocaust Centre was Britain's first dedicated Holocaust Memorial and Education centre and supports anyone needing resource and ideas for commemoration. Resources designed for commemoration are available. The National Holocaust Centre is also open for individual and group visits.
- [USC Shoah Foundation Institute](#)  
Established in 1994 by Steven Spielberg to collect and preserve the testimonies of survivors and other witnesses of the Holocaust, the USC Shoah Foundation Institute maintains one of the largest video digital libraries in the world. The Institute is part of the College of Letters, Arts & Sciences at the University of Southern California; its mission is to overcome prejudice, intolerance, and bigotry — and the suffering they cause — through the educational use of the Institute's visual history testimonies.
- [Wiener Library](#)  
The Wiener Library for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide is the world's oldest Holocaust memorial institution, tracing its history back to 1933. It collects material related to the Holocaust, its causes and legacies.

## Genocide since the Holocaust

- [Aegis Trust](#)  
The Aegis Trust campaigns to prevent genocide worldwide. Aegis's activities include: research, policy, education, remembrance, awareness of genocide issues in the media and humanitarian support for victims of genocide.
- [Genocide Watch](#)  
Genocide Watch exists to predict, prevent, stop, and punish genocide and other forms of mass murder. It seeks to raise awareness and influence public policy concerning potential and actual genocide. Its purpose is to build an international movement to prevent and stop genocide.
- [Hope Survivors Foundation](#)  
Hope Survivors Foundation is an UK-based organisation, founded by survivors of the Rwandan genocide, with their supporters and friends. Formerly operating as IBUKA (UK), Hope Survivors Foundation is continuing with the same mission and objectives as before – to support survivors of the genocide in Rwanda and to raise awareness of the genocide and contribute to a world free from genocide and crimes against humanity.
- [Minority Rights Group](#)  
MRG is the leading international human rights organization working to secure rights for ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and indigenous people around the world.
- [Survivors Fund \(SURF\)](#)  
SURF was established in 1997 to assist survivors of the Rwandan genocide, and works through survivor-led partner organisations in Rwanda to address the complex needs of survivors. SURF's vision is a world where the rights and dignity of survivors are respected, its mission is to rebuild a sense of self and trust in humanity amongst survivors. Survivors Fund has free resources on the Rwanda genocide available to download on its website.
- [Waging Peace](#)  
Waging Peace works to inform governments and citizens about the prevention of genocide and mass atrocities. It investigates and exposes systematic and grave violations of human rights, making recommendations to decision-makers, the media and the public.
- [Wiener Library](#)  
The Wiener Library for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide is the world's oldest Holocaust memorial institution, tracing its history back to 1933. It collects material related to the Holocaust, its causes and legacies.

## Contemporary hate crime

- [Anne Frank Trust](#)  
The Anne Frank Trust works with young people in Britain today to help build a society based on acceptance, mutual respect, compassion and responsibility. It does this through touring exhibitions about Anne Frank and educational work in schools.
- [CST](#)  
CST is Community Security Trust, a charity that protects British Jews from antisemitism and related threats. CST provides security advice and training for Jewish communal organisations, schools and synagogues. CST secures over 600 Jewish communal buildings and approximately 1,000 communal events every year.
- [Equality and Human Rights Commission](#)  
The Equality and Human Rights Commission champions equality and human rights for all. The Equality and Human Rights Commission was established on 1 October 2007 and carries on the work of the Commission for Racial Equality, the Disability Rights Commission and the Equal Opportunities Commission which have now been abolished.
- [Hate Crime Network](#)  
The Hate Crime Network is a consortium of organisations which focus on the needs of victims affected by hate crime. It brings these organisations together in a structured and supportive network, to share information and facilitate stronger partnership working, acting as a united voice to improve services to victims.
- [HOPE not hate](#)  
HOPE not hate exists to provide a positive antidote to the politics of hate. It combines research with community organising & grassroots actions to defeat hate groups at elections and to build community resilience against extremism.
- [Mencap](#)  
Mencap works with people with a learning disability to change laws, challenge prejudice and support them to live their lives as they choose.
- [One Billion Rising](#)  
One Billion Rising is the biggest mass action to end violence against women in human history. The campaign, launched on Valentine's Day 2012, began as a call to action based on the staggering statistic that one in three women on the planet will be beaten or raped during her lifetime. With the world



population at seven billion, this adds up to more than one billion women and girls.

- [Parliamentary Committee Against Antisemitism Foundation](#)  
The Foundation supports the All-Party Parliamentary Group Against Antisemitism. It aims to make antisemitism a societal concern and, in doing so, help create a more tolerant and unprejudiced society. This will be carried out through raising awareness, education, dialogue, inter-faith co-operation, research and monitoring of antisemitism in the UK.
- [The Refugee Council](#)  
The Refugee Council is the largest organisation in the UK working with asylum seekers and refugees. The Refugee Council not only gives help and support, but also works with asylum seekers and refugees to ensure their needs and concerns are addressed.
- [Show Racism the Red Card](#)  
Show Racism the Red Card is an anti-racism charity, which was established in January 1996. The aim of the organisation is to produce anti-racist educational resources, which harness the high profile of professional footballers to combat racism.
- [Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust](#)  
Established in 1998, the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust invests in young people whose aspirations and life chances are constrained by economic, cultural and social hardship, broadens access to the architectural, planning and associated professions and promotes equality, diversity and social cohesion.
- [Stonewall](#)  
Stonewall works to achieve equality and justice for lesbians, gay men and bisexual people.
  - Stonewall's [No Bystanders](#) campaign asks people to pledge to stand up to bullying and teasing language
- [Tell Mama](#)  
Measuring Anti-Muslim Attacks (MAMA) is a secure and reliable service that allows people from across England to report any form of Anti-Muslim abuse.

**Recommended books and films**

*A Sunday at the pool in Kigali*, Gil Courtemanche

*The Years of Extermination*, Saul Friedlander

*Perpetrators, Victims, Bystanders: The Jewish Catastrophe 1933-1945*, Raul Hilberg

*Shoah*, Claude Lanzmann

*If this is a Man*, Primo Levi

*Hitler's Furies*, Wendy Lower

*Night*, Elie Wiesel



# Holocaust Memorial Day 2015

## *'Keeping the Memory Alive'*



## Introduction and Background

2015 is a significant year for Holocaust remembrance as it is the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Berkeinau and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bosnian genocide at Srebrenica. Interfaith Scotland was honoured to be commissioned again by the Scottish Government and The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust to host appropriate national level events in Scotland to befittingly remember the Holocaust and subsequent genocides. Interfaith Scotland brought to Scotland two survivors, Ela Weisberger a Jewish survivor of the Terezin Concentration Camp and Hasan Hasanovic a survivor of the Srebrenica genocide and identified other presenters and speakers for the main event held on 27<sup>th</sup> January and the parliamentary reception on the 29<sup>th</sup> January.

Interfaith Scotland selected South Ayrshire as the host community for the national commemorative event. Approval for South Ayrshire was sought from the Provost, Helen Moonie and a steering committee was duly formed consisting of staff from Interfaith Scotland, staff from South Ayrshire Council, a representative of the Scottish Government, a Jewish Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) expert and educational representatives from South Ayrshire, Education Scotland and Glasgow City Council. This steering committee worked tirelessly to ensure that the national events (and additional events) were successful, well attended and widely covered by the Scottish media.

As it was such a significant year for remembering the Holocaust and subsequent genocides, Interfaith Scotland also hosted a second national level event in the Scottish Parliament on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2015. In addition, the steering committee members collectively or individually helped to facilitate the following events and talks during the week beginning 25<sup>th</sup> January and ending on 30<sup>th</sup> January.

25<sup>th</sup> January: Interfaith Scotland Dialogue event based on the theme of 'Keeping the memory alive'

26<sup>th</sup> January: Two school visits, Shawlands Academy, Glasgow and St. Ninians High School, East Renfrewshire

27<sup>th</sup> January: Two school visits, Kyle Academy in Ayr and Isabel Mair school, East Renfrewshire

27<sup>th</sup> January: South Ayrshire schools HMD art exhibition. Open to the public for one week

**27<sup>th</sup> January: National Holocaust Memorial Event in Ayr Town Hall**

28<sup>th</sup> January: Glasgow Schools' HMD event in the City Chambers

28<sup>th</sup> January: Edinburgh Interfaith Schools' HMD event in Boroughmuir High School

**29<sup>th</sup> January: Parliamentary event to mark Holocaust Memorial Day**

30<sup>th</sup> January: Visit to Bellahouston Academy, Glasgow and a further Glasgow Schools event at St Mungo Museum including a public film showing of 'As seen through these eyes'

30<sup>th</sup> January: Friday Sabbath dinner and talks at Giffnock Synagogue

This report aims to showcase the great work that has been done to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day throughout Scotland. We have been able to engage with thousands of people and school children across the length and breadth of Scotland and on behalf of Interfaith Scotland and this year's committee, we are proud to have 'kept the memory alive' thanks to the generous funding of the Scottish Government, The HMD Trust and Glasgow City Council.

*Dr Maureen Sier, (Director, Interfaith Scotland)*

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January**  
**Interfaith Scotland Dialogue Event 'Keeping the Memory Alive'**



Members of Interfaith Scotland from across the country gathered at the Carlton George Hotel in Glasgow for a special afternoon tea and dialogue. This event was an opportunity for our members to meet with the two international speakers, Ela Weissberger and Hasan Hasanovic to hear their stories and explore together how to 'Keep the Memory Alive', the official theme of this year's commemorations, set by the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust.

After brief presentations members discussed a series of questions on the theme and feedback was excellent. Comments regarding how to keep the memory of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides alive included;

*Though my greatest fear is speaking to an audience, I vow to continue to retell the stories of Terezin and the Holocaust*

*I will pray but I will also act to raise awareness and enlighten people to the benefits of diversity*

*I will focus on education and will continue to embrace and respect diversity –I will also bring myself to account regularly*

*Continue to engage in inter-religious dialogue and educate others to its importance in our world*

*I will identify a survivor or victim each year and will acquaint myself with their story*

*I will talk to others so it is not forgotten and will challenge bigotry wherever I find it*

The afternoon ended with a beautiful rendition of a Robbie Burns song 'A Man's a Man for A that' sung by Maureen Hunter from Edinburgh.

## Monday 26th January School Events



**Shawlands Academy, Glasgow:** Ela and Hasan visited Shawlands Academy in the morning to share their stories with the pupils. Shawlands academy is a large and very diverse school in the south of the city and pupils come from many different cultural backgrounds. Ela and Hasan spent an hour each with separate classes of S2 pupils studying Modern Studies and each session included an input from the guest and a question and answer session.

**St Ninians, East Renfrewshire:** Ela and Hasan received a warm welcome from senior pupils and staff at St Ninian's High School in East Renfrewshire. The survivors met the winners of a creative writing competition based around the Holocaust before each giving a talk to senior pupils and staff in the school forum.



**South Ayrshire schools exhibition:** In 2014, five artists visited sixteen schools across South Ayrshire to help pupils produce art work in aid of Holocaust Memorial Day 2015 in keeping with the theme 'Keeping the Memory Alive'. The schools produced work in a variety of mediums including; willow sculptures, heat transfer printing, glass making, copper etching and animation filmmaking. The works were exhibited within the County Buildings from the 27/01/2015-05/02/2015. Furthermore, Grammar Primary and Queen Margaret Academy visited the exhibition with a discussion session held afterwards to share what they enjoyed and learned about the art projects supporting Holocaust Memorial Day. Ela and Hasan attended a preview of the exhibition on the afternoon of the 26<sup>th</sup> of January, admiring the diverse and moving art work pupils of South Ayrshire had created.

## Tuesday 27th January Holocaust Memorial Day



**Kyle Academy, Ayr:** Kyle Academy hosted a moving event for pupils to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day. The event was broadcast live to schools across Scotland via GLOW and the audience included pupils from other schools across South Ayrshire. Kyle Academy pupils Blaire Stobie, Kimberly Duffy, Stephanie Curry and Emma Browne MC'd the assembly introducing talks by Ela and Hasan. Both shared many stories of the horrors they had endured whilst persecuted and addressed the importance of remembrance.

The Pupils of Kyle Academy then screened a short documentary film they had made about their own personal journeys of visiting Auschwitz concentration camp, sharing their experiences with their peers. The South Ayrshire Senior Choir sang segments of Brundibar children's Opera, accompanied by Ela who had performed the opera in Terezin camp as a child. Sean Morrison, a violinist and pupil from Queen Margaret Academy, then moved the entire audience with an emotional performance from Schindler's list. The afternoon concluded with a candle lighting ceremony as Ela lit the first of the Sir Anish Kapoor specially commissioned Holocaust Memorial Day candles in Scotland, after which the audience departed to the playing of the schools string quartet.

**Isabel Mair, East Renfrewshire:** Isabel Mair School in Newton Mearns is East Renfrewshire's only Additional Support Needs School. The school was chosen as one of the locations for the lighting of one of the 70 candles to be lit around the UK to commemorate 70 years since the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. The school held a special service to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. The senior choir sang a piece from Ghetto, there were readings and presentations and the senior and primary Reels on Wheels groups provided displays of their wheelchair Scottish country dancing.

The highlight of the service was the lighting of the specially designed 70th anniversary candle by 6 year old Xander Lovat, the school's sole Jewish pupil. Isabel Mair School have marked several Holocaust Memorial Days and pledge to continue to remember the victims of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides.



## Holocaust Memorial National Commemorative Event, Ayr Town Hall



The event commenced at 5.30pm with a civic reception for invited guests that included Scottish Jewish Refugees and others important guests. The reception included a viewing of the 'Gathering the Voices' exhibition. This exhibition consists of a collection of stories and photographs of Jewish Refugees who settled in Scotland. The remainder of the guests arrived and by 6.30 pm the hall and balcony were full, with over 600 guests in attendance.

**The Programme:** Provost Helen Moonie welcomed everyone to the evening and introduced the importance of the event. This was followed by a heartfelt speech from Scotland's First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon. International guest speaker and concentration camp survivor, Ela Weissberger, then spoke about her time in Terezin and the importance of the arts for keeping spirits alive during such a difficult period. Ela herself sang (55 times) in the children's opera, Brundibar, during her 3 year incarceration in Terezin. This opera was performed in front of the Nazis and the Red Cross and was part of a Nazi propaganda programme to convince the outside world that the Jews were not suffering under their regime.



After Ela's moving talk, The Ayrshire School Children's Choir, sung excerpts from Brundibar's Opera and Ela joined in with them – this was an incredibly moving part of the programme. After the school choir performance, school pupils from Kyle Academy who had visited Auschwitz shared their experience of the visiting the camp.



Ben Freeman, from the organisation From Yesterday for Tomorrow then showed a specially commissioned video of the Nazi persecution of Gay men. After the video Hasan Hasanovic shared his harrowing story of escaping from Srebrenica on what has become known as 'the death march'. Sadly Hasan's twin brother and father were killed during the escape.



At the national event in Ayr, Scotland was privileged to have one of the specially commissioned memorial candles, only 70 had been distributed throughout the UK. This candle had been designed by award winning artist Sir Anish Kapoor. This special memorial candle was placed with another five candles and after a beautiful rendition of Ingemisco from Verde's Requiem Mass all six candles were lit, one by one, in memory of those who died including; the 6 million Jews, the killing of people with disabilities, the killing of Roma, gay men, those killed in subsequent genocides, and finally for those still suffering in violent conflicts today. The audience sat in silence for a minute before Rabbi Rubin chanted a Jewish prayer for the dead.

*'The purpose of Holocaust memorial Day- and the reason it is essential to keep the memory alive- is that if we understand the very worst consequences of intolerance and prejudice, we are less likely to accept them in today's society'* Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister of Scotland

*'Thank you very much for inviting us to show the Gathering the Voices mobile exhibition at the Scottish National Holocaust Memorial Event in Ayr on 27th January. The organization was excellent and everything ran like clockwork. We all felt that the event in Ayr was especially powerful and moving. All the pupils who were involved were impressive young people who spoke and performed with great assurance. They certainly are a credit to their schools and their families. The two main speakers gave unforgettable accounts of their personal histories and the chemistry between the elderly Jewish survivor of Theresienstadt concentration camp and the much younger survivor of the Srebrenica massacre was a pleasure to see'* Steven Anson, 'Gathering the Voices'

**Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> January**

**Glasgow City Chambers:** 380 pupils from schools across Glasgow came together in Glasgow City Chambers to mark HMD. The event was hosted by pupils from Whitehill Secondary and attended by Humza Yousef MSP, Minister for Europe and International Development, Cllr Stephen Curran, Executive member for Education and several Glasgow City Council Councillors. The two key note speakers for the event were Ela and Hasan who both shared their very personal stories with the pupils. Pupils from schools across the city shared their learning including: Holyrood Secondary School's drama excerpt from 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas, St Thomas' and Haghill Primary schools joint work on genocides across the world, Govan High sharing their learning from their trip to Auschwitz – Birkenau and poetry was recited by Bankhead Primary. Music throughout the morning was provided by the Glasgow Schools String Ensemble. A Sir Anish Kapoor commemorative candle was lit by Humza Yousef, alongside Ela and Hasan who lit other candles to remember victims of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides. Each pupil left the event with a crocheted or knitted flower with a luggage label attached and went back to school to visit the Yad Vashem website and identify a victim of the Holocaust to remember and write a message on their flower label.



**Boroughmuir High School, Edinburgh:** Edinburgh Interfaith Association curated an event to commemorate 100 years since the Armenian genocide, 70 years since the Jewish liberation from Auschwitz , 20 years since the Bosnian genocide and remember those massacred in the Rwandan Genocide. To mark these momentous events Edinburgh Interfaith Association (EIFA) welcomed survivors' stories from all four tragedies. We were honoured to receive Irina Winfield (Armenia) and Patrick Ndanga (Rwanda) as well as Ela and Hasan. The capacity crowd were moved to tears by the similarly tragic and harrowing story each speaker had to tell. They were also left with the hope that the younger generation has the ability to stop such atrocities reoccurring. The event was also very memorable for two other reasons. Firstly, the presentation by the S5 pupil Clara Warshaw who had researched her family's history to learn the story of her relatives' escape from the concentration camps, which she put down to three acts of kindness. The other was the moving performance by the Rwandan survivor and musician Patrik Ndanga who sang his song for peace for Rwanda, 'Field of Dreams.'

*'As the privileged witnesses of the survivors' stories here today we are all charged with the extra responsibility of sharing the accounts we have heard in order to help prevent such atrocities from reoccurring. EIFA would like to thank Interfaith Scotland for its invaluable contribution in bringing Ela and Hasan to Edinburgh, and to the Scottish Government and Edinburgh Council for its continuing support with such important events'* Iain Stewart, Edinburgh Interfaith Association

## Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January Parliamentary reception



Interfaith Scotland held a lunchtime reception at the Scottish Parliament which was kindly sponsored by Bob Doris MSP. This event was held solely for the Scottish Holocaust survivors and their families as well as members of the Scottish Parliament. The event was full to capacity (100) and as many as 25 MSP's attended from across Scotland, including George Adam, Stuart McMillan, Jackson Carlaw, Margaret Mitchell, Cameron Buchanan, Cara Hilton, Siobhan McMahon to name but a few.

Dr Maureen Sier, chaired the event and the first speaker was Olivia Marks- Woldman, Chief Executive of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust who had flown up from London that morning. After a heartfelt speech, Bob Doris officially welcomed everyone, followed by the Minister for External Affairs and International Development, Humza Yousaf. Hasan and Ela then spoke to the audience about the importance of keeping the memory alive, both telling their stories of survival, from two genocides, both on European soil. Finally, Henry Wuga who arrived in Scotland in the Kinder Transport told his emotional story and ended the commemorations by lighting one of the specially commissioned candles, one of only 70, designed by Turner prize winner Sir Anish Kapoor, to mark the 70 years since the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau on 27 January 1945. After a minutes silence, everyone was invited to have lunch, share stories and meet Ela and Hasan.

*'I would like to thank you on behalf of The Association of Jewish Refugees for giving me the opportunity to bring our 1st and 2nd Generation members from Edinburgh, Glasgow, St Andrews, Montrose and Dundee to this very important event. Among us were survivors of Auschwitz, Theresienstadt, several Kinder transportees and others with individual stories of heroic survival.'*

*'As a 2nd Generation myself I know the importance of keeping the events of this dark period in our history alive so future generations can learn from it and avoid the errors which led to the Holocaust and live in peace'* Agnes Issacs, Scotland and Newcastle Co-ordinator, AJR

*'We felt honoured to be among a number of Scottish survivors of the Holocaust and distinguished members of the Scottish Parliament. Their presence emphasized the fact that, even today, with the liberation of Auschwitz now 70 years ago, the necessity to remember the past and work for a better future is as important in 2015 as it has ever been'* Helen Singerman, Gathering the Voices

## Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> January Further Events



**Bellahouston Academy, Glasgow:** Hasan Hasanovic went to Bellahouston Academy where he spoke to the S3 year group about his experiences escaping persecution in Srebrenica. He spoke for 45 minutes with the aid of a powerful presentation with photographs from the time. Hasan's talk was followed by questions from the pupils. Hasan was also delighted to again meet the First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, during his visit to the school.

**St Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Art:** St Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Art hosted two HMD Events. In the morning pupils from Glasgow schools involved in art, drama or music participated in a workshop focused on how artists used art to survive the atrocities of the Holocaust. Pupils viewed a short clip of the film 'As seen through these eyes' and participated in discussion groups exploring some of the themes raised in the film. They then heard Ela Weissberger talk about how art and her art teacher played a part in her day to day life in Terezin and her role in the Brundenbar Children's Opera.

In the afternoon there was an open event for members of the public where the film 'As Seen Through These Eyes' was shown and again Ela spoke of her experiences and there was a Q&A session. The work of Marianne Grant was also highlighted and the story of Jane Haining shared. The stained glass window commemorating Jane is in Queens Park Church. This event was attended by over seventy people.

**Jewish Sabbath Dinner:** On Friday evening, Giffnock Synagogue held a Shabbat dinner in honour of Ela, with over 90 people attending from the Glasgow Jewish Community. Both Ela and Hasan spoke to everyone about their experiences, sharing stories and hopes for the futures. We all enjoyed a traditional meal and songs and the Lord Lieutenant of east Renfrewshire and Rabbi Rubin spoke to welcome Ela and Hasan and reiterate the importance of Holocaust memorial and keeping the memory alive.

## **Appendix**

**(i) Budget**

**(ii) Media coverage of HMD in Scotland. Compiled by South Ayrshire Council**

**(i) Budget**

The financial report below reflects the dates that financial claims were submitted to Interfaith Scotland, with the exception of the travel costs. The financial report is final with regard to the payment from the Scottish Government and the 'to be received' payment from the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust. We are still awaiting one or two invoices.

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>HMD</b>	<b>£5,000.00</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>Scottish Government</b>	<b>£8,000.00</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£13,000.00</b>

<b>Hasan Hasanovic</b>	Wage refund	£ 1,000.00	29/01/2015
	Internal travel	£ 100.00	29/01/2015
	International flight	£ 182.14	28/11/2014
	International flight	£ 129.71	28/11/2014
	Visa	£ 83.00	20/12/2014
<b>Ela Weissberger</b>	International flight	£ 518.18	29/01/2015
<b>Tamar Weissberger</b>	International flight	£ 639.73	29/01/2015
	Cars to airport	£ 191.75	29/01/2015
<b>Hotel Costs</b>	Carlton George	£ 2,065.00	01/02/2015
	Ayrshire Hotel	£ 777.10	27/01/2015
<b>National Event 27th</b>	Royal Conservatoire	£ 414.00	02/02/2015
	Bus/s for Survivors	£ 520.00	23/01/2015
	Room Hire	£ 314.50	26/11/2014
	Gathering The Voices	£ 500.00	12/01/2015
	Projector	£ 200.00	01/02/2015
<b>Parliamentary Event 29th</b>	Catering	£ 641.50	22/01/2015
<b>Dialogue Event 25th</b>	Room Hire/Afternoon tea	£ 450.00	25/01/2015
<b>Travel within Scotland</b>	Taxi	£ 7.50	26/01/2015
	Train	£ 15.10	16/01/2015
	Taxi	£ 45.00	24/01/2015
	Taxi	£ 12.50	29/01/2015
	Train	£ 4.60	16/01/2015
	Car park	£ 4.50	24/01/2015
	Car park	£ 3.20	24/01/2015
	Car park	£ 1.00	26/01/2015
	Car park	£ 3.10	30/01/2015
	Car park	£ 5.60	30/01/2015
	Car park	£ 1.20	30/01/2015
	Train	£ 25.20	29/01/2015
	Train	£ 12.60	29/01/2015
	Train	£ 2.30	28/01/2015
	Train	£ 23.00	28/01/2015
	Train	£ 52.30	28/01/2015
	Taxi	£ 8.00	27/01/2015
	Taxi	£ 8.20	29/01/2015
	Train	£ 25.00	28/01/2015
<b>Gifts/Candles</b>	Candles	£ 18.96	23/01/2015
	Tartan Scarves	£ 12.00	20/12/2015
	Burns Poetry Books	£ 47.95	09/01/2015
<b>Meals</b>		£ 26.50	28/01/2015
		£ 23.50	28/01/2015
		£ 5.45	29/01/2015
		£ 143.16	01/02/2015
<b>Synagogue event</b>		£ 150.00	14/01/2015
<b>Events co-ordinator</b>		£ 3,000.00	
	Additional Hours	£ 1,000.00	
<b>Total</b>		£ 13,414.03	