

# HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

## Word of the Week

### ISAIAH 32: 18

My people will live in peaceful places. They will have safe homes. They will live in calm places of rest.

### PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

God of all human experience, when one life is lost, it is as if the whole world is destroyed. Help us to be alert to the injustices of history and of our present.

Where life is abused, unwelcome, excluded or destroyed, equip us to challenge and bring change.

Amen.

### WHAT IS HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY?

Holocaust Memorial Day takes place on the 27th 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.

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. Each year thousands of activities take place for HMD, bringing people from all backgrounds together to learn lessons from the past.





## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT



"First they came for the Communists and I did not speak out- because I was not a Communist.  
Then they came for the Socialists and I did not speak out- because I was not a Socialist.  
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."  
(Martin Niemoller)

How much responsibility do you feel for what takes place around you: in your family, in school, in your city, in your country, and in the world?

Have there been times in your life when you haven't spoken up for someone because you didn't think it affected you? Or that you didn't have anything in common with that person? Or because that person wasn't in your friendship group?

## SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT



This year's theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2019 is 'Torn from Home'.

This theme encourages us 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.

Watch the video found in the shared drive:  
Torn from Home

Staff Read: Collective Worship: 2018-2019:  
Weekly Resources: Holocaust Memorial Day

Talk to the person next to you-  
How does this video make you feel?  
What do you appreciate about the home you live in?

## SOMETHING TO DO

Looking back at the words of Martin Niemoller, having read and reflected on them, I invite you to write a version of this quote for yourself.

Think about the people that are persecuted in life around you.  
Maybe there is someone who is bullied because of a hobby they have or because they have a certain interest.  
Think about the people you may not have stood up for, or seen been laughed at, for a certain reason.



**HOLOCAUST  
MEMORIAL  
DAY TRUST**