

# HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

## ISAIAH 32: 18

But once more God will send us his spirit. The wasteland will become fertile, and fields will produce rich crops. Everywhere in the land righteousness and justice will be done. Because everyone will do what is right, there will be peace and security forever. God's people will be free from worries, and their homes peaceful and safe.

### PRAYER FOR TODAY

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.

“  
Genocide: the deliberate killing of a large number of people from a particular nation or ethnic group with the aim of destroying that nation or group.

### WHAT IS HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY?

The theme of this year's Holocaust Memorial Day is One Day. Holocaust Memorial Day is One Day – 27 January – that we put aside to come together to remember, to learn about the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and the genocides that followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur, in the hope that there may be One Day in the future with no genocide. We learn more about the past, we empathise with others today, and we take action for a better future. Survivors of the Holocaust and of genocides often talk about the One Day when everything changed, sometimes for the worse and sometimes better.



# WHAT IF IT WERE ME? BY NAOMH HANNON

Read this poem.

How does it make you feel?  
Have there been times when  
you have walked on by when  
you should have said  
something?

When you see something  
happening to someone that  
isn't right have you asked  
yourself that question;  
what if it were me?  
This week your challenge is to  
ask this question more often  
and do what you think you  
would like someone else to  
do for you, if you were in their  
position.

I was walking through the park one day,  
Pottering about in my usual way,  
When I saw two surly youths staring at me,  
Two surly youths, with a boy, pinned to a tree.  
The youth called out, 'You got something to say?'  
I bent my head low and went on my way.  
But something stopped me, a sound, helpless and weak.  
It got louder and turned into a shriek.  
I stopped in my tracks, 'Who would help me?  
What hope would I have were I pinned to a tree?'  
I could now hear their taunts and jeers,  
With words so foul that they burned my ears.  
I turned on my heels and strode back to the tree.  
Where the two boys stood, staring at me.  
'It's wrong and disgraceful, what you have done here.  
It's behaviour like this that spreads violence and fear.  
Everyone's different; no two are the same,  
To judge someone 'inferior' is cause for shame.  
This isn't a game to share with a friend,  
It's up to everyone to make racism end.'  
The youths sulked off and I noted with glee,  
That the boy was smiling, smiling, from under the tree.



## SOMETHING TO WATCH

The theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2022 is 'One Day'.  
Survivors of the Holocaust and of genocides often talk about  
the ONE DAY when everything changed, sometimes for the  
worse and sometimes for the better.

Take time this morning to listen to Henry Wuga's story.

[CLICK HERE](#) (Watch up to 03:33)

(YouTube: One Day: Henry Wuga - Holocaust Memorial Day 27th Jan  
2022).

As you listen to Henry's story put yourselves in his shoes.

Imagine how Henry and his family must have felt.

What words come to mind when you listen to his story?

## ONE DAY IN THE FUTURE

Those who were targeted and persecuted held out for the one day in the future when all their  
suffering would be over, hoping they would 'all see the day of liberation'  
said Elie Wiesel, a Holocaust survivor.

On Holocaust Memorial Day we learn from genocide for a purpose – to build a better future.  
When we look ahead to 'one day with no genocide', what do we need to do today to achieve  
this? We can use this theme to motivate us to speak out when we see injustices, prejudices  
and identity-based violence.

On Holocaust Memorial Day 2022, we come together to learn from the Holocaust  
and genocides – for a better future.

Why is it important to know about the Holocaust and subsequent genocides?

What difference does knowledge of these events make to the future?

What injustices do you see in school, in our community that you have stayed quiet about?

Has there been a time when you have spoken out?



**HOLOCAUST  
MEMORIAL  
DAY TRUST**