

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

'People may think that they have nothing to do with my story. But what happened to me, could happen to them – to people like yourself. It may sound too hard to believe but this doesn't happen to strangers who live far away. I'm just an ordinary person. These terrible things can happen to people like us.'

Kemal Pervanić, survivor, Bosnia



HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY TRUST

WORD OF THE WEEK

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 THE WEEK



Today, help us to remember and recognise the sanctity of each human life, that all people are made in Your image. One day, we pray that genocide and hatred will be no more, and that love will triumph over evil. In our prayers and in our actions, help us to show this love in the world today.

Amen.

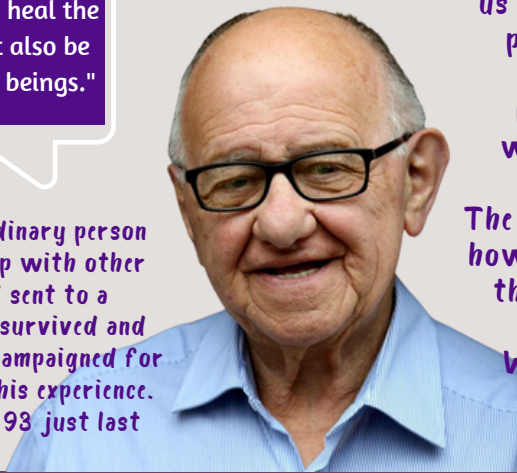


HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY



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. These genocides are examples of when people do not try to understand others and instead of seeing what they have in common see only differences and see them as a threat. Holocaust Memorial Day teaches us how important it is to understand others, their culture, their language and their way of life.

"The world is already so full of hatred that surely we must make more of a conscious effort to do what we can to not only heal the wounds of the past, but also be models of better human beings."



Zigi Shipper was an ordinary person until he was rounded up with other Jewish children and sent to a concentration camp. He survived and throughout his life has campaigned for peace and spoken about his experience. Zigi died at the age of 93 just last week.

The theme for this year's memorial day is **ORDINARY PEOPLE**. And the theme invites us to think about the fact that ordinary people are involved in every aspect of genocide. Ordinary people were perpetrators, bystanders, rescuers, witnesses – and ordinary people were victims.

The theme also challenges us to think about how we, as ordinary people, can make sure that events of the Holocaust and other genocides don't happen again. We can all make decisions to challenge prejudice and stand up to hatred,

WHERE WAS GOD IN THE GHETTOS?

Where was God in the ghettos,
when the creed of hate brought death?
When so many died in the genocide?
When they drew their final breath?

Where was God in the death camps,
when a broken people wept?
When, consumed by fear,
they were murdered here,
and the voice of conscience slept?

Where is God in the evil
that pollutes our world today?
In the pain and need? In the human greed?
In the wrong that still holds sway?

Where are you? God is asking.
Do you mean the words you say?
If you truly care will you maybe dare
to do more than simply pray?
Will you help? comes the challenge.
Would you save us from our fate?
Then campaign and call for respect for all,
before it's again too late.



SOMETHING TO WATCH AND LISTEN TO

Holocaust Memorial Day - Prayer from "Jewish Life" by Bloch
([LISTEN HERE](#))

Mourner's Kaddish
([LISTEN HERE](#) to this sung version of a traditional Jewish prayer recited in memory of the dead.)

Light the darkness for Holocaust Memorial Day 2023
([CLICK HERE](#)).

What is Holocaust Memorial Day?
([CLICK HERE](#)).