

Briefing



To: Branch secretaries

BB 03/19

Holocaust Memorial Day 2019

This briefing informs branches of information relating to Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) 2019

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) is marked each year on 27 January, the anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi extermination and concentration camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1945.

PCS regions and branches work with, amongst others, the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT) Unite against Fascism (UAF) and the Anne Frank Trust, to enable members to take part in or arrange events on or around, the dedicated day of commemoration. This year HMD 2019 marks the 25th anniversary of the Genocide in Rwanda which began in 1994 and the 40th anniversary of the end of the Genocide in Cambodia which ended in 1979.

The theme that the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust has adopted for 2019 is “Torn from Home”.

HMDT THEME 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. HMDT are asking that people 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.

ORGANISING A HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY EVENT

There are many possibilities for organising an event to commemorate HMD. Whether you have ten minutes to put up a display or the time and help available to do something more in-depth, it’s all important.

Branches could hold a simple commemorative activity in the workplace using HMDT ideas – go to <http://hmd.org.uk/page/activity-examples>.

There is a wealth of useful online resources such as films, podcasts, images and tailored factsheets which can be used as part of your activity, including the “Get involved Guide” for trade unions.

The HMDT has produced a free activity pack which you can order or download to help you arrange your activities. The pack comprises ideas for activities on the day, posters, stickers and an example of the “About HMD” booklet.

You can find all this information on the [Holocaust Memorial Day Trust](http://www.hmd.org.uk/) website at <http://www.hmd.org.uk/> and also here: <https://www.hmd.org.uk/resources/>

Another way to raise awareness is by sharing HMDT resources and activities with as many people as possible to commemorate this important day. The hashtag for use on social media platforms is #HMD2019 and you can follow HMDT on twitter at HMDT@HMD_UK or via https://twitter.com/HMD_UK

Ann Frank Trust

Branches can use Anne Frank Trust materials and ideas. The Anne Frank Trust UK is an educational charity established in 1991 that draws on the power of Anne Frank’s diary to teach people, especially the young, about mutual respect and appreciating each other’s differences in order to create a better society for everyone. The Trust promotes positive attitudes towards differences, particularly in ethnicity, religion and culture, and helps empower people to reject all forms of bigotry, prejudice and intolerance in their daily lives.

Branches that have not already organised events are urged to

- Order/download the HMD activity pack to arrange for your own commemorative event or display
- Order further handout material free of charge to distribute as part of your event or display – contact HMDT for details at : **Holocaust Memorial Day Trust – 020 7785 7029 or email enquiries@hmd.org.uk**
- Contact the Anne Frank trust for materials for HMD 2019 on the Anne Frank Trust website at <https://annefrank.org.uk/>

Conclusion

Given the rise in anti-Semitism in society both in the UK and across the world, along with the growth of far right activity, the need for education and awareness has never been greater. PCS is proud to work with all campaigners to highlight these issues and ensure that the lessons from history are not forgotten.

For further information or help on these campaigns please contact Cathy Cross at cathyc@pcs.org.uk

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