



## DEBATE PACK

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# General debate on Holocaust Memorial Day 2020

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## Summary

This debate pack has been compiled ahead of the general debate on Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) to be held in the Commons Chamber on Thursday 23 January 2020. The debate will be on the motion: That this House has considered Holocaust Memorial Day 2020.

HMD has taken place in the UK on 27 January since 2001. HMD 2020 marks 75 years since the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Each year, the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust chooses a different theme to enable audiences on Holocaust Memorial Day to learn something new about the past. Every theme is relevant to the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and to each subsequent genocide.

This year's theme is Stand Together. It explores how genocidal regimes throughout history have deliberately fractured societies by marginalising certain groups, and how these tactics can be challenged by individuals standing together with their neighbours and speaking out against oppression.

The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

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# 1. Press and media articles

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## [Chelsea claim world first in club's campaign against anti-Semitism](#)

Matt Law, The Telegraph

16 January 2020

Chelsea have become the first sports club in the world to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of anti-Semitism

## [Commemorative mural unveiled at Stamford Bridge](#)

Chelsea Football Club

16 January 2020

The mural by street artist Solomon Souza of the players who were all sent to Nazi camps during World War Two, has been painted on a wall on the outside of the West Stand to mark Holocaust Remembrance Day on 27 January, which will mark the 75th anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz.

## ['Avoid tokenism and empty gestures' on Holocaust Memorial Day, MPs told](#)

Mathilde Frot, Jewish News

14 January 2020

The Holocaust Educational Trust has urged MPs to avoid "tokenism and empty gestures" on Holocaust Memorial Day as it warned against the "expanding poison of antisemitism" in the UK.

## [The gates of hell: Auschwitz 75 years on](#)

Harriet Sherwood, The Guardian

12 January 2020

The Nazi death camp where more than one million people perished was liberated on 27 January 1945. As one survivor, now aged 90, prepares to commemorate the date, she explains why the Holocaust must never be forgotten ... especially in an age of rising antisemitism and nationalism

## [170 peers and MPs back the Westminster Holocaust memorial plan](#)

Lee Harpin, The Jewish Chronicle

29 October 2020

Letter signed by the parliamentarians says monument will “stand as a testimony” to fighting hatred.

**[Westminster Holocaust memorial backed by 174 MPs and peers after opposition from Royal Parks](#)**

Chris Baynes, The Independent

20 February 2020

The Royal Parks Foundation, which manages the gardens, has objected to the proposal “given the impact it will have on a popular public amenity space in an area of the capital with few public parks”.

**[Ignorance of the Holocaust is different to wilful disbelief](#)**

Paul Chadwick, The Guardian

10 February 2020

With antisemitism at record levels, it is doubly important to grow and maintain awareness of the Holocaust.

**[New Year’s Honours: Holocaust survivors awarded MBE want to ‘educate young people to appreciate other’s beliefs’](#)**

Sabrina Barr, The Independent

28 December 2019

Ninety-year-old Mindu Hornick and 82-year-old John Paul Hajdu have been awarded MBEs for their work on Holocaust education and commemoration.

**[Michael Rosen: 'Stories hung in the air about great-aunts and uncles who'd gone'; Searching for the missing pieces in his family brought poet and author Michael Rosen closer to the horror of war](#)**

Donna Ferguson, The Guardian

28 December 2019

The result is his latest book, *The Missing*, which will be published next week. A mixture of poetry and prose, it retraces Rosen's journey as he searches for information about his European relatives who went “missing” before his birth in 1946.

**[David Baddiel to investigate 'insidious' Holocaust denial in new BBC documentary](#)**

Jessica Carpani, The Telegraph

7 July 2019

David Baddiel has warned of “more insidious” Holocaust denial ahead of a new documentary he hopes will keep the memory of survivors alive.

## 2. Parliamentary material

### 2.1 Oral questions

#### Prime Ministers Questions

##### [HC Deb 15 Jan 2020 c1003](#)

**Andrew Percy (Brigg and Goole) (Con):** At the end of this month, on the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, the nation will come together once again to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. The theme for this year is “Stand Together”. Does my right hon. Friend agree with the Holocaust Educational Trust, which says that, welcome though they are, signatures in books are not as valuable as action? Will he commit to more action to stamp out antisemitism and all intolerance in this country?

**The Prime Minister:** I will be commemorating Holocaust Memorial Day along with my hon. Friend and others. As he knows, this Government and this House—people across the House—want to do absolutely everything we can to stamp out the resurgence of antisemitism. As someone who is now 55 years old, I find it absolutely incredible that antisemitism is rising again in this country in the 21st century. It is a disgrace, and we must stamp it out.

#### Topical Questions

##### [HC Deb 13 Jan 2020 c746-7](#)

**Robert Jenrick | Housing, Communities and Local Government:** On 23 January, I will accompany His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to the holocaust forum at Yad Vashem, Jerusalem, to mark the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the concentration camps, which brought an end to the murder of 6 million Jewish men, women and children, but as we know, did not bring an end to the cancer of antisemitism. The Government have provided an additional £2.2 million for schools to teach lessons from Auschwitz and £1.7 million for visits to Bergen-Belsen, the camp liberated by British troops. I will continue to champion the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism, including requiring all councils to adopt it forthwith.

**Bob Blackman (Harrow East) (Con):** As my right hon. Friend has mentioned, this is the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz and other concentration camps. Will he join me in commending the work of the Holocaust Educational Trust, which does such brilliant work to enable survivors to inform young people about the horrors of antisemitism and where it ultimately leads? Will he also join me and others in signing the book of commitment in the House of Commons so that we can eradicate racism and antisemitism wherever they rear their ugly head?

**Robert Jenrick:** My hon. Friend, who has campaigned on this issue for many years, speaks for the whole House. I will of course be signing the

book. I am informed by the Leader of the House that there will be a debate in the House on or around Holocaust Memorial Day in the usual way. We must all continue to fight the cancer of antisemitism, in all its forms, on every occasion, and this Government will always do that.

## 2.2 Written questions

### **National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service: Planning Permission**

[07 Jan 2020 | PQ HL46](#)

**Lord Hylton:** To ask Her Majesty's Government, following their decision to call in the planning application for a UK Holocaust Memorial, whether all the evidence submitted to Westminster City Council will be fully considered.

**Viscount Younger of Leckie | Department: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government:** Following the decision to call in the planning application for the UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre, the case will now proceed to a public inquiry overseen by an independent planning Inspector. The inquiry will consider evidence including that submitted to Westminster City Council, and is currently scheduled to begin on 27 May 2020.

### **National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service**

[05 Nov 2019 | PQ 6200](#)

**Sir Edward Leigh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, with reference to the Answer of 14 March 2019 to Question 229098, what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation (a) spending to date, (b) by the end of 2019 and (c) by the time construction of the memorial commences.

**Jake Berry | Department: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government:** The UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation is an independent advisory body on which there is no spend from the public purse other than in staff costs for civil servant support which are not disaggregated.

### **National Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre**

[23 Oct 2019 | PQ 424](#)

**Sir Edward Leigh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, when he expects construction on the proposed Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre to start; and how much has been allocated from the public purse before construction

starts and (a) in total (b) for each of (i) Big Ideas, (ii) Dp9, (iii) Four Communications and (iv) Newgate Communications.

**Jake Berry | Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local**

**Government:** I refer my Rt Hon Friend to the answer to Question UIN 293452 of 8 October for Big ideas and Four Communications. He is reminded that neither DP9 nor Newgate Communications receive public money for their services to the project. We expect construction of the Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre to begin in 2020, subject to planning permission.

## 2.3 Debates

### Holocaust Memorial Day

[HC Deb 24 Jan 2019 cc378-421](#)

Ian Austin (Dudley North) (Lab): That this House has considered Holocaust Memorial Day 2019.

## 2.4 Early Day Motions

[Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre](#)

**EDM 7, 2019-20**

**19 December 2019**

That this House supports the proposal and specification issued in September 2015 for the national holocaust memorial and learning centre; regrets that subsequent proposals and methods of propagation fail to meet the specifications; regrets that the management of the proposals fails to meet expected standards of openness, process and environmental requirements; and calls on ministers to meet leading objectors to find a sensible appropriate way forward, considering appropriate designs and locations.

[Victoria Tower Gardens and a Holocaust Memorial](#)

**EDM 99, 2019**

**4 November 2019**

That this House notes that the present proposal for a learning centre and a national holocaust memorial fails to meet most of the criteria listed in September 2015; asks that the Government makes public details of how the search for an appropriate site was quickly narrowed from most of central London to the smallest Royal Park at Victoria Tower Gardens; and calls on the Prime Minister to meet the group Save Victoria Tower Gardens.

## 2.5 Holocaust (Return of Cultural Objects) (Amendment) Act 2019

Private Members' Bill presented by Theresa Villiers, under the Ten Minute Rule procedure.

A Bill to prevent the Holocaust (Return of Cultural Objects) Act 2009 from expiring on 11 November 2019. This bill received Royal Assent on 4 July 2019 and became the [\*Holocaust \(Return of Cultural Objects\) \(Amendment\) Act 2019\*](#), Ch 20

[Read debates on all stages of the Holocaust \(Return of Cultural Objects\) \(Amendment\) Act 2019](#)



## 3. Further information and events

### [Holocaust Memorial Day Trust \(HMDT\)](#)

HMDT is the charity that promotes and supports Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD).

HMD has taken place in the UK since 2001, with a UK event and over 7,700 local activities taking place on or around 27 January each year.

The UK played a leading role in establishing HMD as an international day of commemoration in 2000, when 46 governments signed the Stockholm Declaration.

The UK Government had responsibility for running HMD from 2001-2005, organised through the Home Office.

In May 2005 HMDT was registered as a charity (charity no: 1109348) and the Home Secretary appointed HMDT Trustees for the first time. The professional team started work in October 2005. The Department for Communities and Local Government has funded our work since 2007.

### [The National Holocaust Centre and Museum](#)

The National Holocaust Centre and Museum promotes an understanding of the roots of discrimination and prejudice, and the development of ethical values, leading to a greater understanding within society. The Centre uses the history of genocide as a model of how society can break down and emphasises how current and future generations must carefully examine and learn from these tragedies. The Centre promotes respect for human rights, equal opportunities and good citizenship, which has greater resonance than ever in our culturally diverse society.

### [International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance \(IHRA\)](#)

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (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 (formerly the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, or ITF) was initiated in 1998 by former Swedish Prime Minister Göran Persson. Persson decided to establish an international organization that would expand Holocaust education worldwide. An international forum of governments took place in Stockholm between 27 and 29 January 2000. The Declaration of the Stockholm International Forum on the Holocaust is the foundation of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

IHRA currently has 31 member countries, eleven observer countries and seven Permanent International Partners.

### **UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation**

UKHMF is an advisory non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

The UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation, funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government, was created to implement the recommendations of the Prime Minister's Holocaust Commission report - [Britain's Promise to Remember](#) - in 2015, including the delivery of the new Memorial and Learning Centre and the recording of British Holocaust testimony.

### **Jewish Museum London**

Join us for our annual Holocaust Memorial Day Event on 23 January to remember the millions murdered in the Holocaust. This year we remember the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the camps and our theme is the liberation of memories. Holocaust survivors Eva Schloss and Jackie Young and child of a survivor, Hephzibah Rudofsky will share their testimonies and discuss the impact of the Holocaust on their lives, 75 years on.

### **The Council of Christians and Jews: [Holocaust Memorial Day](#)**

CCJ produces a resource for Christians with the support of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT). You can download the resource [here](#).

### **British Library: [Holocaust Memorial Day: Personal Memories of Difficult Truths](#)**

Mon 27 January 2020, 19:00 - 20:30

Using the diary of Polish-Jewish teenager Renia Spiegel as inspiration, artist and author Edmund de Waal explores the ability of personal stories to tell difficult truths, joined by translators Marta Dziurosz and Anna Blasiak, and chaired by writer Lisa Appignanesi.

### **Local Government Association: [Holocaust Memorial Day](#)**

The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust is offering to support local councils to mark HMD 2020, including publishing a number of free resources to support local organisations, such as a 'Get Involved Guide' for local authorities.

### **City of Westminster: [Holocaust Memorial Day](#)**

Events: Holocaust Memorial Day exhibition; Stalaag XXB; Standing Together: How one Synagogue saved children's lives; UCL Lunch Hour Lecture: Nazi persecution and the quest for justice

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