

UK Online Commemoration for  
**HOLOCAUST  
MEMORIAL  
DAY 2023**

Broadcast online  
Thursday 26 January 2023



**HOLOCAUST  
MEMORIAL  
DAY TRUST**

*Learning from genocide -  
for a better future*

# Tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

The death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in September brought an end to an era in the life of our nation. Her Majesty came to the throne only seven years after the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and throughout her life of service she helped to ensure that the legacy of the Holocaust was not forgotten. Her Majesty's visible support was, for many survivors, a powerful symbol of their place in the country they came to call home. In 2005 she became the inaugural patron of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust and her firm support was invaluable in embedding the event into the fabric of the nation.



Holocaust survivor Gabriel Klein shows Queen Elizabeth II his Star of David arm patch during a reception at St James's Palace marking Holocaust Memorial Day in 2005. Image: PA



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

I would like to offer a heartfelt welcome to the 2023 Holocaust Memorial Day National Commemoration.

This annual commemoration is a truly profound occasion in which the United Kingdom comes together to remember those who were murdered, to honour those who survived, and to resolve to work to ensure that the horrors of the past never happen again. The theme for this year's Holocaust Memorial Day – Ordinary People – reminds us how it was ordinary people who were the perpetrators, bystanders, rescuers, and witnesses to the Holocaust, and its victims. Ultimately, we are all ordinary people, each of us with a role to play and a responsibility to use our gifts for the benefit – not destruction – of our world and humankind.

Over many years, I have been deeply touched to have met so many Holocaust survivors, all of them extraordinary people who faced unimaginable horror. Their strength and determination to share their testimonies is an inspiration to us all. These are people who, despite having suffered so much, have gone on to live the most incredible, flourishing lives in the United Kingdom, and made a remarkable contribution to British society and public life.

This year, for the first time, I visited Rwanda and the Kigali Genocide Memorial. I was moved beyond words by the resilience and grace of the Rwandan people. I will never forget my meeting with survivors and perpetrators who, despite their appalling experiences, now live side by side in a reconciliation village.

As the country gathers to mark Holocaust Memorial Day 2023, we should all renew our commitment to work for a world free from identity-based persecution and violence. Prejudice is always seeking out new victims to demonise, to denounce and, ultimately, to destroy. We must make sure that it never succeeds.

There is no stronger antidote to division than an appreciation of diversity. That is why I am so proud to see the rich diversity of the United Kingdom displayed in the range of groups taking part in Holocaust Memorial Day. The invaluable work of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust ensures the testimony and experiences of survivors are shared with millions of people. In learning from the horrors of the Holocaust and the genocides which followed, we can all recommit to the vital principles of freedom of conscience, generosity of spirit, and care for others that are the surest defences of hope.

# Welcome



I'm proud of how Holocaust Memorial Day has grown and evolved into such a broad based part of our national life. We, the survivors, have tried to show how, through intolerance, our ordinary lives were disrupted and destroyed in the Holocaust so that people around the country can learn from our experiences.

I know that, forced by the pandemic to create a National Online Commemoration, Holocaust Memorial Day Trust has reached millions more people through the filmed broadcast. I am reassured that so many people want to learn about genocide and create a better future, and have confidence that Ordinary People can be inspired to do extraordinary things to challenge prejudice.

## Sir Ben Helfgott MBE

Honorary President,  
Holocaust Memorial Day Trust

Cover image: A portrait of Denise Uwimana, who survived the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, created by Eviemae Thompson (age 16), one of the winners of our [Extra]Ordinary Portraits competition

# Parliamentary Silence

On 15 December 2022, the Speaker of the House of Commons led a moment of silence in the House of Commons to mark 80 years since the British Government first recognised that the Holocaust was taking place in Nazi-occupied Europe.

Seven survivors of the Holocaust were welcomed to the state rooms of Speaker's House before taking prestigious seats in the Speaker's Gallery to watch as MPs marked the anniversary.



# Welcome from the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust

Welcome to the Holocaust Memorial Day 2023 UK Online Commemoration. Since the first virtual commemoration, forced on us by the pandemic in 2021, we have grown to cherish this event which brings people together even if we are far apart. By participating simultaneously in this Commemoration with our friends, families and those we have never met, we are embodying this year's theme - Ordinary People.

We hope that the Commemoration will encourage us all to reflect on the Holocaust, the Nazi persecution of other groups and more recent genocides. Just as importantly we hope it will inspire each of us to act to support people who face persecution for who they are, even today.



Olivia Marks-Woldman OBE  
Chief Executive



Laura Marks OBE  
Chair of Trustees

## Running Order

### Welcome:

Olivia Marks-Woldman OBE, Chief Executive of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust

### Opening:

Kirsty Wark, Narrator

### Archive Film:

*The Holocaust*, narrated by Sir David Suchet

### Reading:

*The Krakow Diary of Julius Feldman*,  
Political and faith leaders

### Archive Film:

*Genocide in Darfur*,  
narrated by Sir David Suchet

### Testimonies:

Dr Martin Stern MBE talks to HMP  
Magilligan, Amouna Adam talks to  
the Royal Drawing School

### Music:

The Fourth Choir perform *There's a place  
for us* from *West Side Story*

### Speaker:

The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP,  
Secretary of State for the Department for  
Levelling Up, Housing & Communities

### RADA graduates read *Irmina*:

A sequence from *Irmina* by Barbara Yelin with  
RADA graduates, introduced and narrated by  
Adrian Lester CBE

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### Music:

*Inanga*, performed by Olivier Nzaramba

### Address:

Chief Rabbi Sir Ephraim Mirvis of the  
United Hebrew Congregations  
of the Commonwealth

### Prayer:

*El Male Rachamim*,  
recited by Manfred Goldberg BEM

### Lighting of candles:

Survivors of the Holocaust and genocides,  
with The Fourth Choir performing *Unter  
Dayne Vayse Shtern* by Avrom Brudno

### Closing:

Laura Marks OBE,  
Chair of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust

### Light the Darkness:

People across the UK,  
with The Fourth Choir performing  
*Lean on Me* by Bill Withers

# Contributors

## Amouna Adam

Amouna Adam is a survivor of the genocide in Darfur who escaped to the UK in 2009. She is now an activist, sharing her story and campaigning for justice.

## Fourth Choir

The Fourth Choir is an LGBT+ chamber choir for classically-trained singers. It was formed in September 2013 with the aim of representing the LGBT+ community on London's classical music scene. The Choir has performed at many of London's iconic cultural venues, including the British Museum, the V&A, Heaven, the Royal Vauxhall Tavern and the Chapel Royal at Hampton Court Palace. It performs regularly at Shakespeare's Globe (both in productions and solo concerts) and was featured in the 2022 Festival of Remembrance on BBC1. Overseas, it has performed in Amsterdam, Antwerp and Rome.

## Manfred Goldberg BEM

Manfred Goldberg and his family lived in Germany. His father, in August 1939, to avoid being sent to a concentration camp, accepted an opportunity to flee to the UK. Manfred, his mother and brother were due to follow, but were trapped in Germany by the outbreak of war. Manfred's brother, as well as all his extended family, were murdered.

## Adrian Lester CBE

Award-winning actor and director Adrian Lester CBE started his career with a string of successful West End productions including *Sweeney Todd* and *Company*, for which he received an Olivier Award for Best Actor. He played *Hamlet* directed by Peter Brook and starred as Henry V and Othello at the National Theatre. He made his Broadway debut in 2021 in *The Lehman Trilogy*, for which he received a Tony nomination for Best Actor.

Movie roles include the lead role in the political drama, *Primary Colours*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, *As You Like It* and the Oscar-nominated *Mary Queen of Scots*. Adrian is also well known for his TV roles including *Hustle*, *Undercover*, *Life* for BBC1, *Trauma*, *Trigger Point* for ITV, *The Undeclared War* for Channel 4 and the forthcoming *Renegade Nell* for Disney+.

## Chief Rabbi Sir Ephraim Mirvis

Chief Rabbi Sir Ephraim Mirvis is the Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth. Now in his tenth year in office, he is well known as a principled spiritual leader, who has strengthened Jewish community life and broken new ground in the areas of education, tolerance, interfaith and social responsibility.

## Olivier Nzaramba

Olivier Nzaramba, survived and witnessed the Rwanda genocide in 1994. He lost his big brother Damascene and his aunty Marie. Olivier now lives in the UK. He is a gospel singer and song writer.

## Royal Academy of Dramatic Art

The Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA) offers world-leading training in acting and theatre production, inspiring students to experience the transformative possibilities of stage and screen. As award-winners and leaders in their fields in acting, directing, writing, producing, lighting and sound design, costume, stage and production management, props, and scenic art, their diverse student and graduate body make a significant contribution to the creative industries globally.

## Dr Martin Stern MBE

Martin Stern is a retired hospital doctor born in the Netherlands in 1938 to a non-Jewish German mother and a Jewish father. Aged five, he and his baby sister were sent to the Dutch camp Westerbork and the Theresienstadt 'Ghetto'. In retirement he teaches about the Holocaust and genocides.

## Sir David Suchet

Sir David Suchet is an associate artist of the Royal Shakespeare Company and a member of the Fight Directors Association of Great Britain. He was created a Knight Bachelor in the Queen's 2020 Birthday Honours List, for services to Drama and Charity. He is of course best known for his portrayal of Agatha Christie's iconic character 'Hercule Poirot', who he played across 70 episodes and 24 years.

## Kirsty Wark

Kirsty Wark has presented the BBC's flagship current affairs show *Newsnight* for 26 years. Her presenting credits also include *The Royal Academy Summer Exhibition programme* and *The Review Show* (BBC2), BBC Radio 4's *The Reunion* and *Start the Week*.

Aside from News and Arts presenting, Kirsty founded the critically acclaimed BBC 2 documentary *Blurred Lines: The New Battle of the Sexes* and her documentary *The Insider's Guide to the Menopause* which aired on BBC Scotland. She also reached the final in *Celebrity Masterchef*.

Kirsty has won several major awards for her work including BAFTA Awards for Outstanding Contribution to Broadcasting, Journalist of the Year and Best Television Presenter.

# Light the darkness

We created the Light the Darkness national moment during the pandemic as an act of remembrance that everyone can take part in. It now takes place each year on Holocaust Memorial Day.

By placing lit candles in windows and lighting up landmarks in purple across the UK, we are remembering those who were murdered for who they were and standing against prejudice and hatred today.

Light the darkness is an opportunity for people around the country to take ordinary actions that together become extraordinary.



Find out more:  
[hmd.org.uk/lightthedarkness](https://hmd.org.uk/lightthedarkness)



# Ordinary People

The theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2023 is Ordinary People.

Genocide is facilitated by Ordinary People. Ordinary people turn a blind eye, believe propaganda, join murderous regimes. And those who are persecuted and murdered during genocide aren't persecuted because of crimes they've committed – they are persecuted simply because they are Ordinary People who belong to a particular group.



This year we have worked closely with Barbara Yelin, whose award-winning graphic novel, *Irmina*, tells the story of a young German woman during World War Two. It perfectly portrays how Ordinary People can become bystanders during genocide if they don't make the conscious decision to stand up against prejudice and persecution.

We are all Ordinary People, who can choose not to be bystanders, who are choosing to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day, and who can choose to take action for a better future.



Pages from *Irmina*, the graphic novel by Barbara Yelin

Discover actions you can take for a better future:  
[hmd.org.uk/takeaction](https://hmd.org.uk/takeaction)

# Holocaust Memorial Day

## across the UK

Every year across the UK thousands of different activities, involving hundreds of thousands of people, take place to mark Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD). Individuals, families and communities come together to remember people affected by the Holocaust, Nazi persecution of other groups, and more recent genocides. By remembering, we also commit to challenging and standing against identity-based persecution today. Below are some of the HMD 2023 activities happening throughout the country, people coming together to learn from genocide for a better future.



Poetry NI +, Northern Ireland

Poetry NI + asked people in Northern Ireland to submit poems in memorial, in protest, that inspire, reflect or look forwards, and tie in with the theme Ordinary People. All accepted poems were published in a free downloadable e-pamphlet, released on HMD 2023.



welsh Muslim Cultural Foundation, Wales

The Welsh Muslim Cultural Foundation organised a film screening of *Free Men (Les Hommes Libres)*. The film is based on the true, but largely unknown, story of the role that Algerian and other Muslims from the Maghreb in Paris played in the French Resistance, and in rescuing Jews during the German occupation of France.

Keele University, West Midlands

Keele University hosted a performance by the Piatti Quartet, who are famed for their diverse programming and passionate interpretations across the spectrum of quartet writing. They will be playing quartets by two of the Terezín composers who perished in Auschwitz in 1944.



Skimstone Arts, Newcastle

Skimstone Arts hosted a week-long series of activities around the theme of 'Where do you sit?'. A photographic exhibition, an in person talk and a radio broadcast all gave the public an opportunity to see and hear the experiences of Ordinary People, both local and international, surviving genocide or interrogation, being terrified of the unknown, making critical decisions and receiving sanctuary.

Discover local activities: [hmd.org.uk/activities](https://hmd.org.uk/activities)

Simon's Story Time YouTube Channel, Scotland



The Simon's Story Time YouTube Channel hosted a reading from the book *Anne Frank*, written by Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara. The book and the reading of it were created to help young children aged 4-7 years

old begin to acquaint themselves with the life of Anne Frank and what happened during the Holocaust. The reading also explored the different emotions children might feel when discussing the Holocaust and those who died in it.

# [Extra]Ordinary Portraits

This year we teamed up with the Royal Drawing School to launch [Extra]Ordinary Portraits.

The competition invited young people across the UK to learn about someone affected by the Holocaust, genocide or identity-based persecution and create a portrait of them which revealed the 'extraordinary elements of seemingly ordinary people'.



Nisad 'Sisko' Jakupovic, who survived the genocide in Bosnia, by Jacob Venit (age 17)



A comfortable place, Hannah Brennan's (age 24) portrait of her grandfather who was a Holocaust survivor

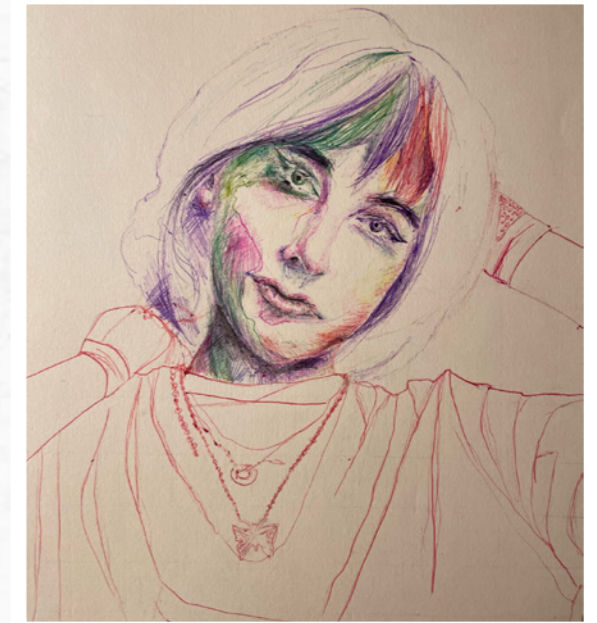
A high profile judging panel curated a selection of the best entries to be exhibited on our website and as part of the HMD 2023 UK Online Commemoration.

See the winning portraits: [hmd.org.uk/exhibition](https://hmd.org.uk/exhibition)

Generously supported by:



Amouna Adam, who survived the genocide in Darfur, by Maja Cowie (age 13)



Nika Shakarami, who was murdered during the Iranian protests in 2022 because she was a woman, by Ivy Weeks-Pearson (age 14)



Rudolf Brazda, who survived Nazi persecution of gay people, by Freya Rowson (age 22)



Sophari Ashley, who survived the genocide in Cambodia, by Lucy Anderson (age 13)



# Leaders' messages *of support*



**The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP**  
Prime Minister

Last month, I joined colleagues from across the House of Commons to mark the 80th anniversary of the moment when the truth of the Holocaust was spoken in Parliament for the first time. It was a profoundly moving experience. In the presence of Holocaust survivors, we stood together to honour that truth and renew our promise to remember.

As Prime Minister, I feel the magnitude of that promise very deeply and I am grateful to the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust for their tireless work supporting thousands of commemorative events across the UK.

It is fitting that this year's theme should be ordinary people. Not just because the victims of the Holocaust were ordinary people – men, women and children persecuted simply because of their race. But also, because the Holocaust began when ordinary people failed to speak out against prejudice and hatred.

Today it falls to all of us to show we have learned from the darkest moments of humanity – including from the genocides that have followed. And to fight antisemitism and all forms of hatred, wherever they are found.

That is also the greatest tribute we can pay to Britain's Holocaust survivors who week in, week out, display such breath-taking courage sharing their testimony in schools and communities across the country.

Our message to each of them is simple: thank you, we have heard you and we will never forget.



**The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP**  
Secretary of State for the Department  
for Levelling up, Housing & Communities

Holocaust Memorial Day is firmly established as the day when the nation comes together to remember the Holocaust and to commit to creating a world without genocide.

Last year tens of thousands of people watched the UK Ceremony and many more participated in over 4,200 commemorations that took place across all parts of the United Kingdom. For the first time a quarter of secondary schools marked Holocaust Memorial Day.

Over 200 iconic landmarks across the country - including the Houses of Parliament, the London Eye, Gateshead Millennium Bridge, Titanic Belfast, the offices of the Welsh Government, and Edinburgh Castle - were lit in purple as part of the 'Light the Darkness' national moment.

'Light the Darkness' has now become a key part of remembering the six million Jewish men, women and children murdered during the Holocaust and all other victims of Nazi persecution and subsequent genocides.

I am sure that this year's Holocaust Memorial Day will be just as successful and I am proud to support The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust in their work.



**Sir Keir Starmer MP**  
Leader of the Opposition

This Holocaust Memorial Day, it is our duty to pause and reflect on the horrors that Jewish people suffered during the Second World War, and the genocides since. Millions murdered or persecuted for who they are. A devastation that echoed through the ages. We all have a responsibility to ensure its lessons do too.

The right for people to exist freely without fear of persecution is a fundamental human right – one to be nurtured, treasured, and protected. The unthinkable events of the world’s darkest days must never be forgotten, so that they never happen again. We are bound by what we owe to those lost, the communities devastated and the families scarred for generations. By continuing to come together to mark Holocaust Memorial Day, we will secure a peaceful, just, and hopeful future.

Prejudice and division is never a small act. It breeds, spreads and is a danger to all that we value. Never Again. This was not just a promise that one generation made to the other – it is a commitment we must all live up to. Let us pledge again as we light our candles, that we are all part of the beacon of light in the face of darkness.



**The Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon MSP**  
First Minister of Scotland

We join together this Holocaust Memorial Day to commemorate the lives lost during the Nazi persecutions as well as those that perished as a consequence of the genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

This year’s theme provides a poignant reminder that everyone impacted by these tragic events were simply ‘Ordinary People’.

It is vital that we never forget the devastation that prejudicial attitudes can cause if left unchecked and that we remain alert to present day prejudice and actively challenge it wherever possible.

We must all work together to build a brighter future where everyone can be free from hatred and prejudice.



**The Rt Hon Mark Drakeford MS**  
First Minister of Wales

This Holocaust Memorial Day we remember those who lost their lives during the Holocaust, and subsequent genocides. This year’s theme, ‘Ordinary People’, is a powerful and timely reminder of how we all have a responsibility to challenge hate and prejudice.

Genocide is the devastating consequence of the main-streaming and acceptance of bigotry and divisive rhetoric. Each Holocaust Memorial Day, we remember these warnings from history, and we acknowledge that we all have a choice to work together and refuse to accept hatred as a way of life.



**Dr Denis McMahon**  
Permanent Secretary, The Executive Office,  
Northern Ireland

Ensuring that the terrible events of the Holocaust are remembered is critical to learning the lessons of history. Past atrocities must continue to serve as a check against bigotry, intolerance, discrimination and hate. Remembrance and commemoration serve to remind us all, how inaction in the face of injustice, can lead to terrible consequences.

The theme this year is ‘Ordinary People’. We all have a responsibility to stand up to hate and discrimination in our society. No-one should underestimate their potential to positively impact change; or ever forget that inaction and complacency fosters the perpetuation of hate. Ordinary people can achieve extra-ordinary things.

# Ordinary Objects, Extraordinary Journeys

Together with the National Holocaust Centre and Museum and supported by the Jewish Museum of Greece, we have launched Ordinary Objects, Extraordinary Journeys. This immersive website provides a unique and interactive experience, following the paths of four individuals affected by the Holocaust, through the journeys they took and the objects belonging to them. Their ordinary objects were inanimate witnesses that took on new meanings, becoming evidence of genocide, and symbols of an experience.

The project could not have been realised without support from our funders – The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, Leon Greenman Charitable Trust, Arts Council England and Cecil Rosen Foundation.

Explore the website: [ooej.org](http://ooej.org)



Julie Weiss fled to the UK to escape the Holocaust, taking with her this chess set and other seemingly ordinary objects that reveal details of her extraordinary life.

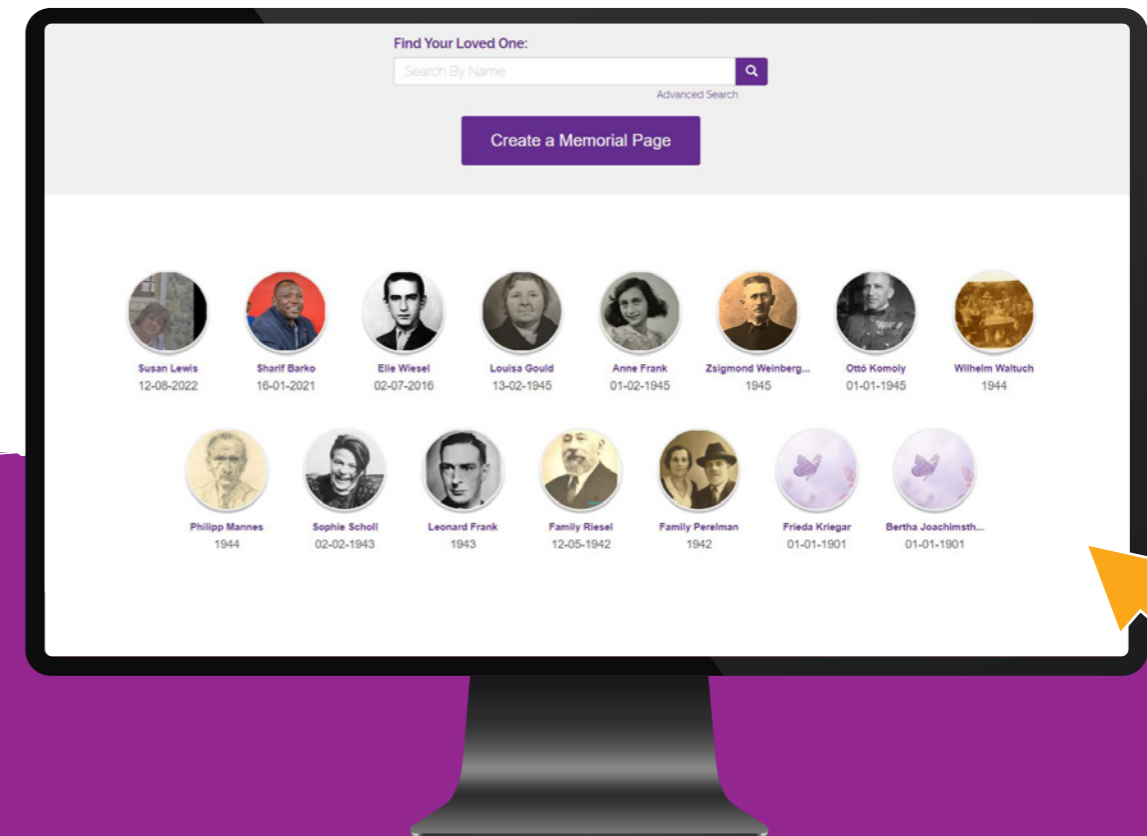
# Memorial Pages

We have launched a unique space online to create lasting personal tributes to honour the memories of Ordinary People who were murdered during the Holocaust, Nazi persecution of other groups and more recent genocides.

Browse the Memorial Pages to see others' tributes or create your own in memory of a loved one or loved ones, or someone whose experiences inspired you. Due to the circumstances of their death they may not have had a funeral or memorial, but you can create one today.

Preserve the memory of the person you are memorialising and invest in a brighter future for everyone by supporting our work. Your donation will help more people from all backgrounds to learn from genocide, remember those murdered, and take action to protect people at risk of persecution today.

Create a Memorial Page: [hmd.org.uk/memorialpages](http://hmd.org.uk/memorialpages)



# Become a Friend of HMDT

## You are invited to join the Friends of HMDT.

All Friends of HMDT receive an HMD pin badge, our regular newsletter, an *HMD in review* booklet detailing the year's highlights, and invitations to special online and in-person events throughout the year.

To become a Friend of HMDT, simply set up a monthly donation to support our work. Your ongoing support will enable us to help more people to mark HMD by providing new resources, engagement work, creative projects and digital campaigns.



Scan this QR code to set up a monthly donation and become a Friend of HMDT



# Thank you

We can only do our work thanks to the support that we receive each year. Thank you to The Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities (previously Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government) which has funded our work since 2007. Thank you also to the many Trusts and Foundations that

have supported our work so generously this year and individuals who made donations or contributed their time and effort to HMD 2023. Your support has enabled us to reach even more people throughout the UK, inspiring them to take action to create a brighter future.

To support our work, visit: [hmd.org.uk/donate](https://hmd.org.uk/donate)

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The Ceremony was written by HMDT, and produced and filmed by Postcard Productions with support from Story Events.


Portrait of John Hajdu MBE,  
a survivor of the Holocaust, taken  
by Rankin to help promote our  
[Extra]Ordinary Portraits competition.  
Rankin is an acclaimed photographer  
and film director, and was on the  
[Extra]Ordinary Portraits judging panel.



**With thanks for national and devolved  
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