

## CAERPHELLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

**REPORT TO:** CAERPHELLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**DATE:** 23RD OCTOBER 2019

**SUBJECT:** HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2020

### **A PURPOSE**

To note the date and theme of Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) 2020.

### **B BACKGROUND**

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) takes place on 27 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.

Holocaust Memorial Day is a time to learn the lessons of the past and recognise that genocide does not just take place on its own - it's a steady process which can begin if discrimination, racism and hatred are not checked and prevented.

The aims of HMD is a demonstration of how the lessons of the past can inform our lives today and ensure that everyone works together to create a safer, better future. Each year thousands of activities take place for HMD, bringing people from all backgrounds together to learn lessons from the past in creative, reflective and inspiring ways. From schools to libraries, workplaces to local authorities, HMD activities offer a real opportunity to honour the experiences of people affected by the Holocaust and genocide, and challenge ourselves to work for a safer, better future.

The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust produces materials specific to the theme of Holocaust Memorial Day. The theme for 2020 is "**Stand Together**" and 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.

HMD 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, which is a significant milestone and is made particularly poignant by the dwindling number of survivors who are able to share their testimony. It also marks the 25th anniversary of the Genocide in Bosnia.

Further information about the theme and free educational resources containing material suitable for primary to post-16 students is available online at <http://hmd.org.uk/content/for-educators>. Resources include lesson plans, film clips, case studies, collective worship/ assembly material and worksheets. Holocaust Education Trust also offers resources and information on the Holocaust theme and is available online at [www.het.org.uk](http://www.het.org.uk).

### **C RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. For SACRE to receive and consider the date and theme of Holocaust Memorial Day 2020.
2. To consider SACRE involvement in local HMD commemorations.