

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGION,
VALUES AND ETHICS

DATE: 5TH DECEMBER 2022

SUBJECT: HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2023

A. PURPOSE

For SAC to note the date and theme of Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) 2023, the actions taken to inform schools of the resources available to commemorate this occasion, and for SAC to consider the local HMD commemorations available.

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 is 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 2023 is “**Ordinary People**” and there are many ways to interpret this theme, some of which are outlined in the Theme Vision on the HMD website: [Holocaust Memorial Day Trust | HMD 2023 Theme](#).

Further information about the theme and free educational resources containing material suitable for primary to post-16 students is available online at [Holocaust Memorial Day Trust | Schools \(hmd.org.uk\)](#). 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 through the [Holocaust Education Trust website](#).

Caerphilly SAC have previously agreed that on an annual basis, and once the theme for Holocaust Memorial Day is confirmed, the Clerk to Caerphilly SAC will then write to all schools across the borough to provide an advance reminder of Holocaust Memorial Day and of the resources available to encourage schools to mark the occasion in some way. This action was completed in September 2022 and a copy of the correspondence was sent to all SAC Members for information.

C. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. For SAC to receive and consider the date and theme of Holocaust Memorial Day 2023 and the actions taken to inform schools of the resources available to commemorate this occasion.
2. To consider SAC involvement in local HMD commemorations.