



BRING LIGHT TO THE DARKNESS



Holocaust Memorial Day Wednesday 27th January 2021

We begin by making the sign of the cross.

In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen

Opening Prayer

God our creator, in the beginning:

Your light shined in the darkness.

God our companion, we acknowledge your presence in
this your house.

We listen for your word.

God our redeemer, our lives are open to you. **Your love
brings us life.**

God of Heaven and Earth and all of humanity, we are
ready.

We are ready for our lives to be transformed.

The Holocaust



This picture shows terrified Jewish people in the Warsaw Ghetto, and Nazi guards with guns.

The Holocaust was the attempt by the Nazis and their collaborators to murder all the Jews in Europe. Six million Jewish men, women and children were killed in ghettos, mass-shootings, concentration camps and extermination camps.

Why 27 January?

Auschwitz-Birkenau – Nazi death camp



27 January 1945 – Auschwitz-Birkenau was liberated.

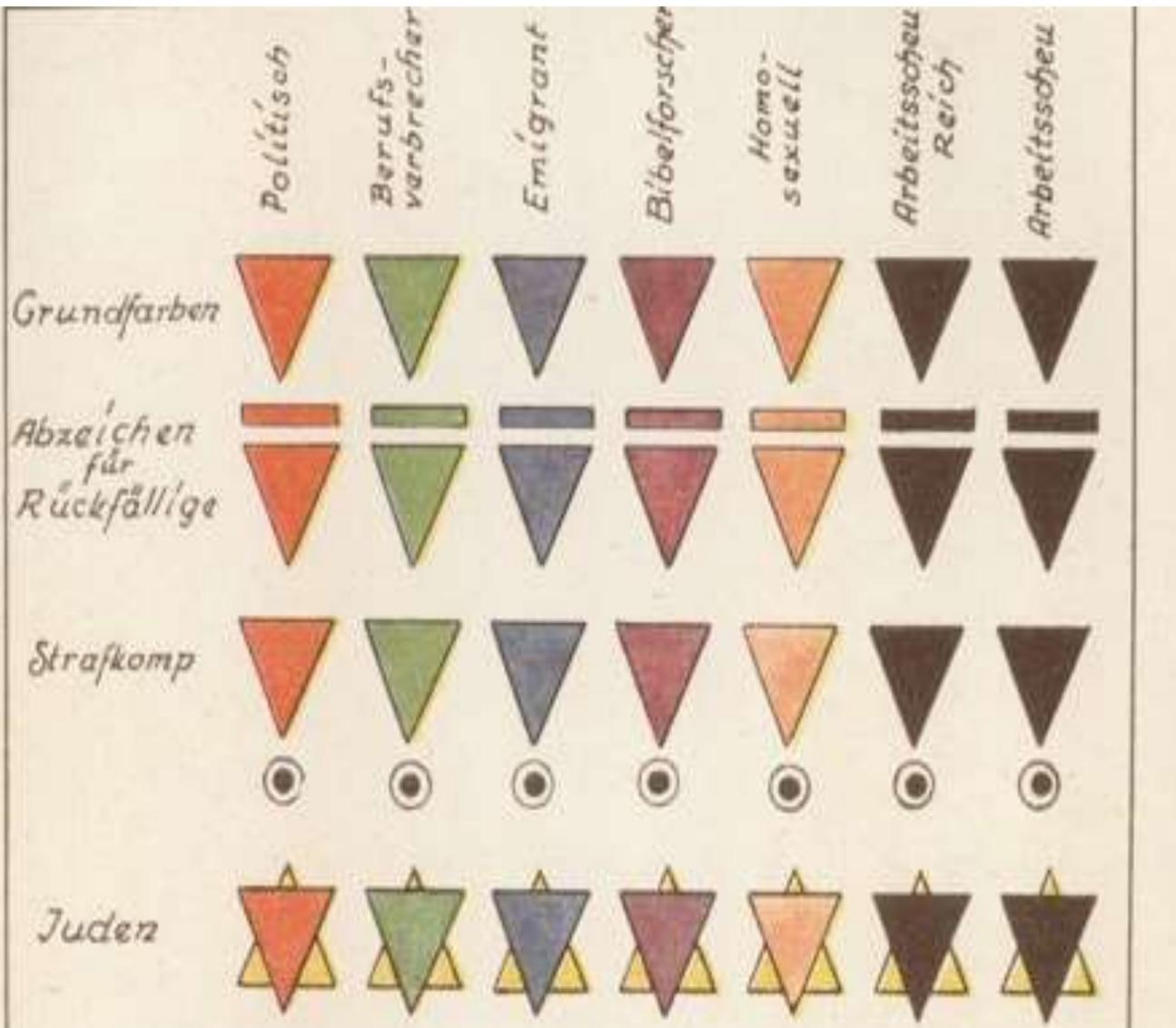
Susan Pollack



*'How do you get over such an experience?
Is it possible to walk away and learn to live with all of this?
How do you find the strength?
Life is precious – you can go in one of two ways – up or down.
I chose to walk away and rebuild my life.
There was no revenge, and no justice.'*

Susan grew up in Hungary, and experienced antisemitism from a young age. In 1944 Susan was sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau, where she was separated from her family. After the war, she found out that more than 50 of her relatives had been killed and that only she and her brother had survived.

Nazi Persecution



On Holocaust Memorial Day, we also remember other groups of people who were persecuted and murdered by the Nazis. These include: Roma and Sinti people (sometimes referred to as 'gypsies'), disabled people, gay people, Jehovah's Witnesses, political opponents and many others.

Different groups of people were given different coloured badges in concentration camps

Rudolf Brazda



'If I finally speak, it's for people to know what we, homosexuals, had to endure in Hitler's days... it shouldn't happen again.'

Rudolf Brazda was the last known concentration camp survivor deported specifically for homosexuality. He was sent to prison twice, and then deported to Buchenwald concentration camp in 1942 where he was subject to forced labour for 32 months.

Never Again? Genocides continued around the world



Cambodia, 1975 - 1979



Rwanda, 1994



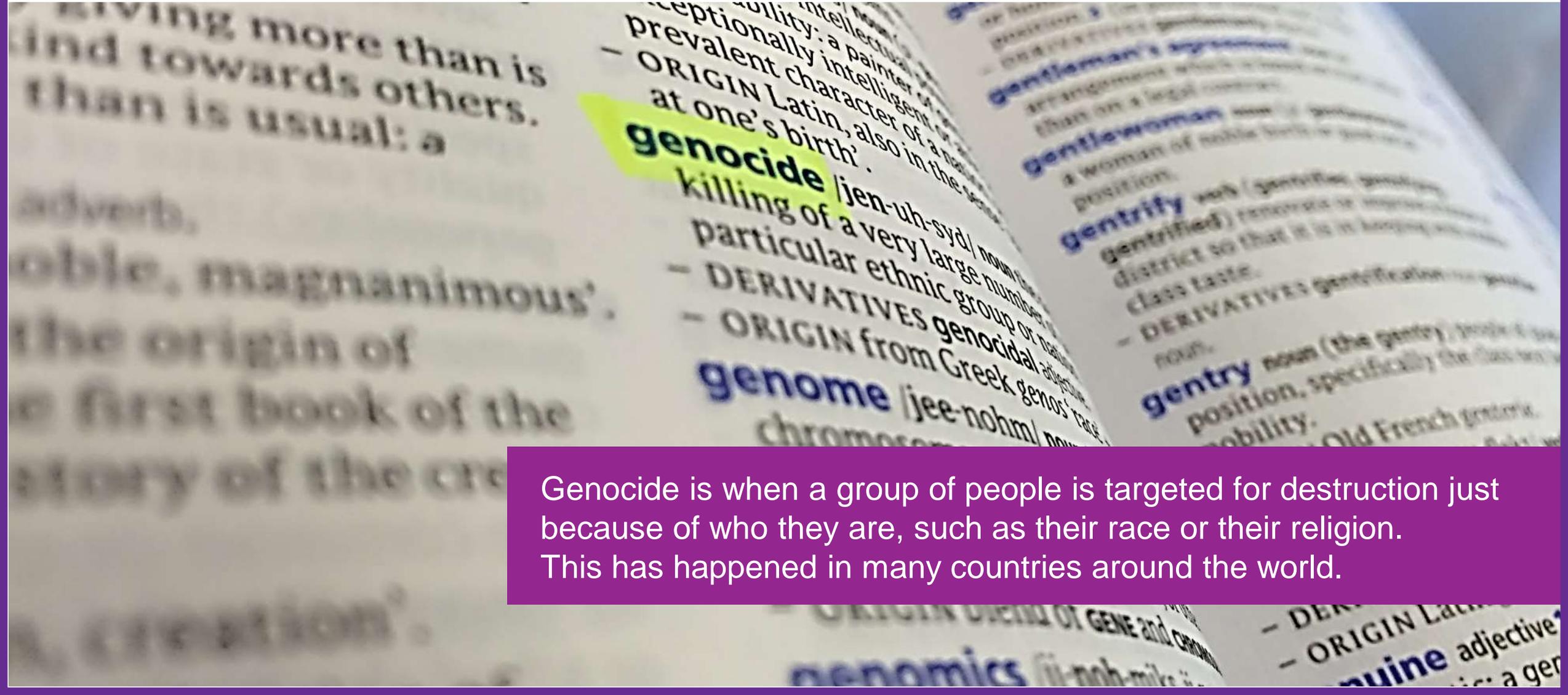
Bosnia, 1995



Darfur, 2003 - present

After the Holocaust, the world said 'Never Again'. But humanity has failed to learn lessons from the Holocaust, and genocides continue to happen around the world, to this day. On Holocaust Memorial Day we remember the millions of men, women and children, who have been murdered in the genocides which followed – in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

What is genocide?



genocide /jen-uh-syd/ noun

killing of a very large number of people belonging to a particular ethnic group or nation.

– DERIVATIVES genocidal adjective

– ORIGIN from Greek genos 'race', genome

genome /jee-nohm/ noun

chromosomes

Genocide is when a group of people is targeted for destruction just because of who they are, such as their race or their religion. This has happened in many countries around the world.

HOW CAN THIS HAPPEN?

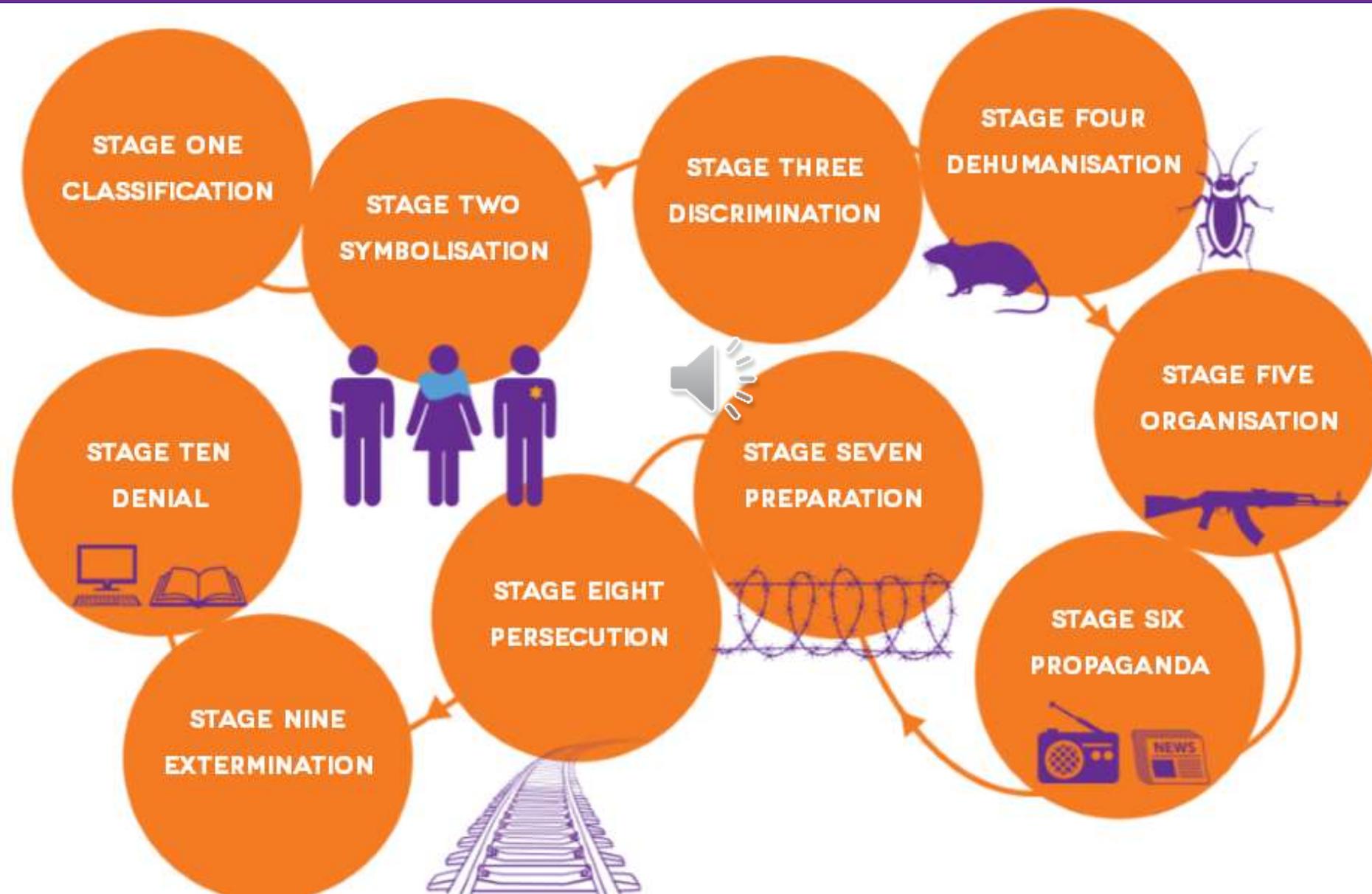
Genocide does not happen out of the blue – it is the result of **prejudice and persecution** which sees a group treated differently from the rest of society.

It starts at a very basic level – name calling, using racist language, thinking and believing that other groups of people are not your equal or have equal rights.

On Holocaust Memorial Day, we are reminded of what can happen when prejudice and persecution are left unchallenged, **and of our responsibilities to stand against these processes when we see them in our own communities.**

The next image shows ‘the 10 stages of genocide’ and helps us to know what warning signs to look out for. The stages may occur simultaneously or in a different order.

The ten stages of genocide



What happens on Holocaust Memorial Day?



Local HMD activities around the country

Why is this important to us?

People are still discriminated against today because of their religion, their race, their sexuality, or another element of their identity. Whilst we are not at immediate risk of genocide here in the UK, hate speech and prejudice are frequently seen online, and the number of hate crimes recorded each year has been increasing.

In the next slide click on the sound icon to hear the reading of a poem about Auschwitz, a place where 1 million people were murdered.

Prejudice in the UK

Auschwitz poem

The semiquaver chugging of the train on the track
And the people on board who will never go back
And the terror in the eyes of all the young ones to go
With no one knowing as the train comes to slow

Those men at the station as the ramps drop down
Where humanity lost is the only crippled sound
Hope gone for those who stand behind the hard sharp wire
And the smoke in the towers rises just a little higher

And the blue ink stabs a little harder in the skin
Above the veins of despair where murder let it in
And the terror in the eyes of all those about to leave
Another train on the track no last minute reprieve

And the slow, crot...chet chugging of the train on the track;
And the people on board. Who will ne...ver go.

Back.



Poem by Charles N. Whittaker
Read by actor Olivia Colman

Holocaust Memorial Day – What can we do today?

You have made a start by taking part in this assembly

The national ceremony is online tonight. The ceremony will run from 7–8pm. The link is here <https://www.hmd.org.uk/ceremony>

At 8pm, get ready to Light the Darkness with us. Households across the UK will be lighting candles and safely putting them in their windows to:

- remember those who were murdered for who they were
- stand against prejudice and hatred today

Light a candle and put it in your window at 8pm on 27 January 2021 (if you are able to do so safely).

#HolocaustMemorialDay #LightTheDarkness





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**Send your pictures to school of your candle in
the window on 07922513598**

**We will end with a short film, reminding us of the
power we all have to stand up and speak out against
hatred and prejudice today**

Your voice is amazing





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Holocaust Memorial Day