

MERTHYR TYDFIL COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

DATE: 1st NOVEMBER 2016

SUBJECT: HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2017

PURPOSE: TO INFORM THE SACRE OF HMD 2017

BACKGROUND

Holocaust Memorial Day is an annual event that takes place on January 27th and was established in the UK in 2000. The first HMD was held in January 2001. January 27th marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz- Birkenhau concentration camp by soviet troops in 1945. Holocaust Memorial Day seeks to change the future by learning from and remembering the past. Schools are encouraged to participate in Holocaust Memorial Day in order to remember the victims of the Holocaust and more recent genocides. It provides a framework to explore issues of morality, human reactions, individual experiences, responsibilities and larger questions of the role of governments and democracies. The government, including the Welsh Government, encourages schools and LAs to commemorate this event in some way.

The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust produces materials specific to the theme Holocaust Memorial Day. The theme for 2017 is “**How can life go on?** “

The aftermath of the Holocaust and of subsequent genocides continues to raise challenging questions for individuals, communities and nations. HMD 2017 asks audiences to think about what happens after genocide and of our own responsibilities in the wake of such a crime. This year’s theme is broad and open ended, there are few known answers.

Author and survivor of the Holocaust Elie Wiesel has said:

'For the survivor death is not the problem. Death was an everyday occurrence. We learned to live with Death. The problem is to adjust to life, to living. You must teach us about living.'

Further information about the theme and free educational resources containing material suitable for primary to post 16 students is available online at <http://education.hmd.org.uk>

RECOMMENDATION:

- To circulate to schools the information on HMD and reference the website for appropriate resources www.hmd.org.uk.