

Holocaust Memorial Day 2022

One Day Readings

Holocaust Memorial Day is **One Day** that we put aside to come together to remember, to learn about the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and the genocides that followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur, in the hope that there may be **One Day** in the future with no genocide.

You didn't think about yesterday, and tomorrow may not happen, it was only today that you had to cope with and you got through it as best you could.

Iby Knill, survivor of the Holocaust

The readers taking part in this commemoration reflect the breadth of communities in Wolverhampton.

In our remembrance we rightly remember the genocides known to us, but we must not forget the millions of untold stories of which our imaginations will only ever do an injustice.

Programme:

Address

Her Majesty's Deputy Lord-Lieutenant of West Midlands Rajinder Mann OBE

Address

The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Wolverhampton Councillor Greg Brackenridge

One Day Readings

Reading 1 - Poland: 19 April 1943, the Jewish inhabitants of the Warsaw Ghetto fought back against the Nazi Regime.

Esther Brunstein, 80 miles away in the Lodz Ghetto recalls:

In April 1943 news reached us about the uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto. How we rejoiced and how proud we were of them! How we longed to have the opportunity to do the same!

Reading 2 - Poland: 16 May 1944, Roma and Sinti resisted the SS

Ewald Hanstein a German Sinto was called up for the German army 1940 but was eventually betrayed and in May 1943 deported to the so called "Gypsy Family Camp" in Auschwitz.

On 16 May 1944, he witnessed the resistance put up by the Roma and Sinti as the SS attempted to ferry them to the gas chambers. In early August he joined the last transport from Auschwitz to Buchenwald concentration camp leaving his family. He was eventually liberated by American troops weighing just 40 kg. None of Ewald's family survived.

Reading 3 - Cambodia: 16 April, 1975 Khmer Rouge attack Phnom Penh.

Sophal Leng Stagg lives in Florida, USA. This is from her book: Hear me now – Tragedy in Cambodia, published 1998

I cannot completely explain my reasons for the need to write about these experiences except as a testimony to those whose lives were lost and can no longer speak for themselves.

On the night of 16 April, 1975 we were awakened by the terrible sounds of bombs and guns, close at hand. ... My parents led us to a shelter underneath the house ... Needless to say none of us slept that night.

Reading 4 - Bosnia: 12 July 1995, after Bosnia declared independence from Yugoslavia, Bosnian Serb troops descended on the town of Srebrenica. This was the last day that many women saw their husbands, fathers, sons and brothers. General Mladić ... tried to calm the panicking civilians saying 'Don't be afraid.'

Over the next 30 hours, 23,000 people were deported. That evening, the systematic murder of the Bosnian men and boys left in Srebrenica began.

Reading 5 - Rwanda: 6 April 1994

The genocide in Rwanda lasted 100 days, beginning after the plane carrying the President was shot down on 6 April 1994. In 2006 Beatha Uwazaninka wrote:

Today Rwanda is rebuilding and for some, life is going on. ... I love it and have hope for my country. It's only 12 years since the genocide and Rwanda has been reborn.

But although life might seem good for some people, for survivors it's still hard... Many live with physical wounds and broken hearts. And they live alongside the people who killed their families...

Reading 6 - Sudan 2007

Faiza was a lawyer in Sudan, supporting victims of the Genocide in Darfur. In 2007 the Government targeted Faiza and she sought asylum in the UK. Faiza's name has been changed to protect her identity.

It took two years for Faiza and her children to be granted asylum, despite support from her MP. During this time, she had to travel for hours every week to report to an officer. She says she felt like a criminal. 'It was a very, very difficult time for me and my children. The process was so hard for someone like me, coming from a very quiet and peaceful life'.

קדיש

יִתְגַּדֵּל וַיִּתְקַדַּשׁ שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא
בְּעֻלְמָא דִּי-בְרָא כְרַעוּתָהּ,
וַיִּמְלִיךְ מַלְכוּתָהּ בְּחַיִּיכוּן
וּבְיוֹמֵיכוּן וּבְחַיֵּי דְכָל-בֵּית
יִשְׂרָאֵל, בְּעֻגְלָא וּבְזֶמַן קָרִיב,
וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

יְהֵא שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא מְבָרַךְ לְעָלַם
וּלְעָלְמֵי עָלְמַיָּא.

יִתְבָּרַךְ וַיִּשְׁתַּבַּח, וַיִּתְפָּאֵר
וַיִּתְרוֹמֵם וַיִּתְנַשֵּׂא, וַיִּתְהַדָּר
וַיִּתְעַלֶּה וַיִּתְהַלָּל שְׁמֵהּ דְּקוּדְשָׁא,
בְּרִיךְ הוּא,

לְעָלָא מִן-כָּל-בְּרַכְתָּא וְשִׁירְתָּא,
תְּשַׁבַּחְתָּא וְנַחֲמְתָּא דְאַמִּירָן
בְּעֻלְמָא, וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

יְהֵא שְׁלָמָא רַבָּא מִן-שְׁמַיָּא וְחַיִּים
עָלֵינוּ וְעַל-כָּל-יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְאָמְרוּ:
אָמֵן.

עֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמִרוֹמָיו, הוּא יַעֲשֵׂה
שְׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל-יִשְׂרָאֵל
וְעַל כָּל-בְּנֵי-אָדָם, וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

The Kaddish

Read by Martin Gomberg (Interfaith
Wolverhampton)

Magnified and sanctified be the great name of
the One by whose will the world was created.
May God's rule become effective in your lives,
and in the life of the whole House of Israel. May
it be so soon, and let us say Amen.

May God's great name be praised to all eternity.

Blessed and praised; glorified, exalted and
extolled; lauded, honoured and acclaimed be the
name of the Holy One, who is ever to be
praised, though far above the eulogies and
songs of praise and consolation that human lips
can utter; and let us say: Amen.

May great peace descend from heaven, and
abundant life be granted, to us and all Israel; and
let us say: Amen.

May the Most High, Source of perfect peace,
grant peace to us, to all Israel and to all
humanity, and let us say:

Amen.

Address

The Bishop of Wolverhampton The Right Reverend
Clive Gregory

Laying of Wreaths

Her Majesty's Deputy Lord-Lieutenant of West
Midlands Rajinder Mann OBE
The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Wolverhampton
Councillor Greg Brackenridge
Councillor Steven Simkins (Deputy Leader)
Councillor Wendy Thompson (Opposition Leader)

Statement of Commitment

Chair of Interfaith Wolverhampton Councillor Jas
Dehar

Statement of Commitment

1. We recognise that the Holocaust shook the
foundations of modern civilisation. Its
unprecedented character and horror will always hold
universal meaning

2. We believe the Holocaust must have a
permanent place in our nation's collective memory.
We honour the survivors still with us, and reaffirm
our shared goals of mutual understanding and
justice

3. We must make sure that future generations
understand the causes of the Holocaust and reflect
upon its consequences. We vow to remember the
victims of Nazi persecution and of all genocide

4. We value the sacrifices of those who have
risked their lives to protect or rescue victims, as a
touchstone of the human capacity for good in the
face of evil

5. We recognise that humanity is still scarred by
the belief that race, religion, disability or sexuality
make some people's lives worth less than others.

6. Genocide, anti-Semitism, racism, xenophobia
and discrimination still continue. We have a shared
responsibility to fight these evils

7. We pledge to strengthen our efforts to
promote education and research about the
Holocaust and other genocide. We will do our
utmost to make sure that the lessons of such events
are fully learnt

8. We will continue to encourage Holocaust
remembrance by holding an annual UK Holocaust
Memorial Day. We condemn the evils of prejudice,
discrimination and racism. We value a free, tolerant,
and democratic society.

Blessing

The Bishop of Wolverhampton The Right Reverend
Clive Gregory

*One day Gretl, my school friend...greeted me with
an embrace. The next day she ran across the road
and turned her head away so as not to acknowledge
me.*

Iby Knill, survivor of the Holocaust

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Trust



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WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL

