

# HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2016



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Unfortunately, the Holocaust was not the last time we have seen such atrocities. At other times, humans have again killed others in a systematic, brutal way.

Since the Holocaust, the world has seen similar atrocities carried out in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. Click [HERE](#) to find out more about these.



## “DON'T STAND BY”

One man who could not stand by during the Holocaust was Nicholas Winton. He was born in England in 1909 to Jewish parents. At the age of 29, he cancelled a planned skiing holiday and instead travelled to Prague to see for himself the dire situation he had heard some Jewish people were forced to live in. There were some aid agencies helping to relocate adults, Nicholas realised that someone needed to help the children.

The British government had allowed some children from Germany and Austria to enter our country so that they would be safe from persecution (known as the *Kindertransport*). Nicholas Winton managed to persuade the government to accept some children from Czechoslovakia also. He and his family worked endlessly to find host families for the children here in Britain and raising funds to cover the travel expenses of the children. In all, he was able to arrange safe transport for 669 children. After the war, many of the children found out their parents had died at the hands of the Nazi's, but thanks to Nicholas Winton and the fact he would not 'stand by', they had a safe, happy home here.

## WHAT CAN I DO?

- 1) Don't stand by whenever you see anyone suffering (Follow the Golden Rule!)
- 2) If you have Twitter, follow @HMD\_UK, tweet your support and find out lots more about what's going on.
- 3) Research some of the situations you hear about on the news at the moment – why are people leaving Syria. Is it our duty to help those suffering in the same way as Sir Nicholas Winton did?
- 4) Sign one of the pledges left in your reg box and post it in the box in the foyer so everyone can see that together, we can create a more positive future.



Sir Nicholas Winton died in July last year and remained a reluctant hero until his dying day. Click on the picture to watch a clip reporting on his work and death.

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## "DON'T STAND BY"

*First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out—*

*Because I was not a Socialist.*

*Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out—*

*Because I was not a Trade Unionist.*

*Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—*

*Because I was not a Jew.*

*Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.*

This text was written by Pastor Martin Niemoller around 1946 in response to the way he had seen so many people stand by and watch the atrocities of the Holocaust without speaking out.

The theme of this year's HMD is 'Don't stand by'. It aims to encourage all of us to never stand by when we see humans who are suffering or in pain. By being a bystander, are we as guilty as those who commit awful crimes against other humans. Is it our duty to step in and stop such bad things happening?

### What was the Holocaust?

Between 1941 and 1945, the Nazi's attempted to annihilate the Jewish people of Europe. The Holocaust (Shoah in Hebrew) was not just some random killings, it was systematic wide scale murder. Whole camps were set up with the sole intention of committing such atrocities against the Jews and others that the Nazi's considered as subhuman. By the end of the Holocaust, around 6 million Jewish men, women and children had perished at the hands of the Nazis. Others who suffered during the Holocaust included homosexuals, travellers and those with disabilities. Click [HERE](#) to hear some life stories from those who were there.



Click on the picture above to hear from a Holocaust survivor.



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