**Holocaust Memorial Day 2017**

**How can life go on?**

*‘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.’*

*Elie Wiesel – author and survivor of the Holocaust*

Each year Holocaust Memorial Day remembers and honours those who have died in the Holocaust and other genocides. This year’s theme, ***How Can Life Go On?***, asks us to focus on those who survive and to stand with and by them.

**Themes that can explored in class and through assemblies and prayer are:**

* Displacement and becoming a refugee
* Coming to terms with the events you have experienced and witnessed
* The search for understanding and justice
* Rediscovering your identity
* Dealing with anger and hate
* Rebuilding communities
* Speaking with others about your experiences
* Learning how to live again

*The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust* (HMDT) has produced a number of excellent resources which can be used in schools with students of different ages. The material is focussed and sensitive but needs to be looked at before use so that you can gauge the best resource for your group. Remember, there might be a genocide survivor in your class.

Resources for educators can be found at <http://hmd.org.uk/content/for-educators>.

Here you can select a lesson plan or assembly and you can download the life stories of many genocide survivors, rescuers, resisters and witnesses.

If you have any questions about the education resources you can email education@hmd.org.uk or call 0207 785 7029.

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**Prayer**

Prayer during the week of January 23rd – 27th will help us bring to mind past events which affected so many lives. We are reminded that, as human beings, we are capable of the cruellest and most horrific treatment of others, our fellow brothers and sisters.

We acknowledge that many people live with terrible memories and have survived unspeakable events and personal experiences which make it incredibly difficult to try to live from day to day.

We remember those who suffer and pray for them to receive the strength to carry on. We recognise and are thankful for the work of those who strive to make life easier for those who suffer and those who work for justice and peace throughout the world. We ask for God’s blessing on their efforts so that they may continue to build a just and fair world.

We remind ourselves that we too have a part to play in building a better world, even if we are not yet sure what that part is, and we ask God for the faith, wisdom, strength and resources to do this important work.