



How can we learn from the past?




Be informed.


Be curious.


Be heard.



Be informed: Why do we remember?



Wednesday 27th January 2021 is Holocaust Memorial Day.

This is a day for everyone to **remember the millions of people who were killed during genocide**. This includes The Holocaust and genocides that have happened since.

Genocide:

When a group of people* are killed on purpose.

The meaning of the theme

This year, the theme for Holocaust Memorial Day is *Be the Light in the Darkness*. What do you think this means? Have a think and then click to see if you were on the right lines.



The aim of this theme is to **encourage all of us to think about the individual people and communities** that managed to **shine a light** during history's **darkest times**, particularly periods of **genocide**.



Be informed: Why do we remember?



Throughout history, groups of people have been **murdered because of who they are**. Some of the **qualities** they have been **persecuted** for include:



Nationality:
where they are from



Religion:
what they believe in



Race or ethnicity:
what they look like

Holocaust Memorial Day helps us to **remember these specific groups of people** and their experiences, and guides us towards **“building a better future together”**.



Be informed: Why do we remember?



Now more than ever, it is **important to focus on what brings us together** (the light), **instead of what pushes us apart** (the darkness).



Intolerance:

Refusing to accept ideas, beliefs, or behaviour that are different to yours.

Examples of this “darkness” in today’s world include things like **misinformation**, **intolerance**, **discrimination** and **conspiracy theories**.

While these issues **might seem too big to overcome**, it's important to remember the words of **a very important historical figure**:



Martin Luther King

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only **light** can do that. **Hate** cannot drive out hate; only **love** can do that.



Be curious: What can we learn from others?



Despite some of the **atrocities** in our history, there have also been **lots of stories** about people and groups working to **drive out the darkness** in their communities.

Resistance

Someone who **stands up for what they believe**, and who **is a light in the darkness**.

Someone who shows **extreme bravery** in their actions, even if it **puts them at risk**.

Rescuers

Kindness

Someone who **lights the way** for change and has a **positive impact** on others.

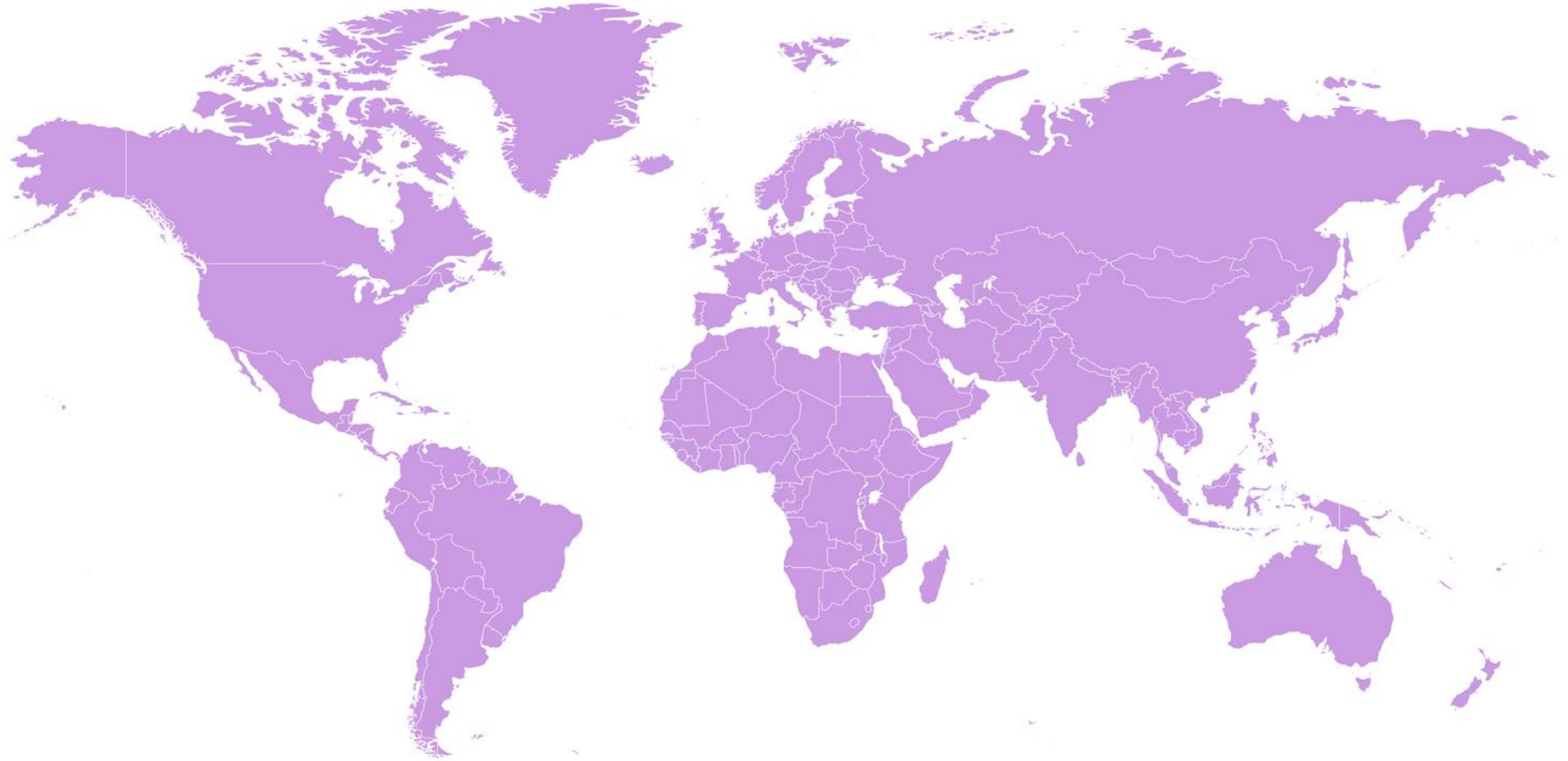
Someone who **shines a light on a situation** so others can clearly **see who is responsible**.

Shining light

Who do you know?

Do you know of anyone from history who represented one or all of these things?

Be curious: What can we learn from others?



What can others teach us?

On the next few slides, you will see four stories of people* who have lived through some of the worst periods in history. On your own or with a family member, reflect on the questions at the bottom of each slide.

Be curious: What can we learn from others?



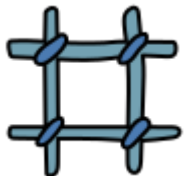
Resistance

Someone who stands up for what they believe, and who is a light in the darkness.



Over four years in the 1970s, **over 2 million people in Cambodia, Asia, died from starvation, execution or disease** under a political regime called **The Khmer Rouge**.

Author **Chanrithy Him**, who lived through this period, has written a book in which she **describes the small acts of resistance she saw**, and which gave her **hope**.



These included things like **calling family members by their first names** instead of “Comrade” (which was what they were supposed to do), and **escaping from work camps to visit relatives**.

What can we learn from these actions? How are these stories relevant today?

Be curious: What can we learn from others?



Rescuers

Someone who shows extreme bravery in their actions, even if it puts them at risk.

Marcel lived in France during the **Nazi Occupation**. He heard about a group called "**The Resistance**", who worked tirelessly to **defy the Nazis** by **helping Jewish people**, including children, **escape** to safety.



Thanks to his background as an **entertainer**, he was able to **keep young children calm and distracted** during their dangerous journey across the border to **Switzerland**.

During his time in The Resistance, **Marcel managed to save at least 70 Jewish children** through his ingenuity and bravery.



What can we learn from Marcel's actions? How is his story relevant today?

Be curious: What can we learn from others?



Kindness

Someone who lights the way for change and has a positive impact on others.



Elysee was just **four years old** during the genocide in **Rwanda, Africa** in 1994 – he saw many **awful things** and the experiences he had will always **stay with him**.

However, **Elysee now works with young people who come to Rwanda as refugees** from neighbouring country Burundi.



He says: “Here in Rwanda we have **gone through something similar** [to the people of Burundi] and we have **regained hope for the future**.”

What can we learn from Elysee’s actions? How is his story relevant today?

Be curious: What can we learn from others?



Shining light

Someone who shines a light on a situation so others can clearly see who is responsible.

It is **not just individuals and groups** who can shine a light, but **entire nations too**. In January 2020, **The Gambia** (a country in West Africa) **filed a case to the International Court of Justice**.



Their case concerned the **treatment of Rohingya Muslims** by the **military in Myanmar** (a country in Southeast Asia) – many Rohingya have **died** and **700,000 have fled** to refugee camps.

The case was described as “**landmark**”, and is likely to lead to a **full investigation** by the **International Court of Justice** in future.



What can we learn from The Gambia's actions? How is this story relevant today?



Be heard: How to be the light in the darkness



To **make sure** the events you read about today **truly become a thing of the past**, everyone has their **part to play**. There are **plenty of actions** we can take!

Taking action

Take a look at the examples below. Which could you do?

Find out more

It is important we learn from history as well as the present; reading about past events is important so we can make sure they don't happen again.

Get to know people

One of the best ways to drive out darkness is to listen to the stories of the people around us, no matter their background!

Report it

If we see anyone being treated unfairly, it is important that we report it to someone – a trusted adult or even the police.





Be heard: How to be the light in the darkness



To find out more about Holocaust Memorial Day...

You can visit their website to see the resources they have listed as part of this year's event, or click the images to check out what they have to offer.



What is it?



Join in!



Stories