



Department of Curriculum Management

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LETTER CIRCULAR

Information: X

Date: 15th January 2016

Action Required: X

Ref: DCM 017/2016

To: All Heads of Secondary Schools (State and Non-State) and Sections

From: Antoinette Laferla and Kathleen Bonello – Education Officers, Religion

Subject: Holocaust Memorial Day 2016

Heads of School are informed that the theme chosen by the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust for 2016 is *Don't Stand By*. This theme invites reflection about the indifference or outright hostility which many Jews encountered from neighbours and acquaintances, and the wider world, during the Holocaust whilst also encouraging us to honour the courageous individuals or communities who did assist or show solidarity with the victims of Nazism.

The Holocaust was a defining event in human history; its legacies continue to shape the modern world whilst the challenging questions it raises about human behaviour have universal relevance. HMD encourages us to reflect on our own actions and responsibilities, both as individuals and as a society. In this context, teachers may wish to focus on stories of those who provided rescue or relief to Jews, whilst also recognising that such people were a very small minority. The 2016 theme also draws attention to the multi-faceted phenomenon of Jewish resistance. A focus on resistance challenges inaccurate but still prevalent stereotypes of Jews as passive victims and thereby enables students to better appreciate the humanity of the Holocaust's victims.

Schools are encouraged to participate in Holocaust Memorial Day commemorations. Teachers of PSCD, History, Social Studies, Religious Education, Art, Music, Drama, ICT and English, may find it useful to explore resources on the following websites:

Holocaust Centre Nottinghamshire: www.holocaustcentre.net

Jewish Museum London: www.jewishmuseum.org.uk

Jewish Museum Manchester: www.manchesterjewishmuseum.com

Imperial War Museum's Holocaust Exhibition:

www.iwm.org.uk/exhibitions/iwm-london/theholocaust-exhibition

Museum of Immigration: www.19princeletstreet.org.uk

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum: www.USHMM.org

Wiener Library: www.wienerlibrary.co.uk

Yad Vashem, Israel: www.yadvashem.org

Aegis Trust: www.aegistrust.org

Anne Frank Trust: www.annefrank.org.uk

Association of Jewish Refugees: www.ajr.org.uk

Cambodian Society in the UK: www.casunik.org
Holocaust Educational Trust: www.het.org.uk
National Holocaust Centre and Museum: www.holocaustcentre.net
Keeping Memories – the Rwandan Community in the UK: www.ryico.org/keepm/
London Jewish Cultural Centre: www.theholocaustexplained.org
Oral History Society's Website: www.oralhistory.org.uk
SURF: www.survivors-fund.org.uk

Heads of School who wish to participate are kindly requested to fill in the attached feedback sheet and send it to Ms Antoinette Laferla on antoinette.laferla@ilearn.edu.mt by not later than **Friday, 12th February 2016**.

Thank you for your collaboration.

Gaetano Bugeja
Director, Curriculum Management