



HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL DAY

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Commemoration

Thursday 24
January 2008

Great Hall,
Parliament
Buildings,

Stormont Estate,
Belfast

HMD 2008

Imagine... Remember, Reflect, React

Programme

The 2008 Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration

Thank you for attending the Northern Ireland Holocaust Memorial Commemoration 2008.

The '**Imagine... Remember, Reflect, React**' theme challenges us all to imagine the unimaginable. It asks us to focus on the lives and experiences of victims and survivors of the Holocaust; of Nazi persecution and of other genocides. It celebrates the resilience of enterprise, culture and of life itself in the face of destruction. Ultimately it is a call to: Remember the past, Reflect on the present, React to create a better future.

We hope that you find this evening's event a fitting commemoration of all those who suffered and died in the Holocaust. We would ask you to respect the solemn nature of the occasion by not applauding at any time during the Ceremony.

Tea and Coffee will be served in the foyer of The Great Hall after the commemoration. You are warmly invited to join us.

Master of Ceremonies

[Paul Clark](#)

Welcome Address

[William Hay](#)

Address

[Government Representative](#)

The Children of Auschwitz

[A Poem by Laura Hillman](#)

[Read by Grace Radford](#)

Reading of the seven Statement of Commitment

A reading adapted from the Declaration of the Stockholm Forum on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, January 2000, signed by forty-four governments from around the world.

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

[Daphne Selig](#)

'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'

[Linda Coppel](#)

'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'

[Ronald Vellum](#)

'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'

[Raj Puri](#)

'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. Genocide, antisemitism, racism, xenophobia and discrimination still continue. We have a shared responsibility to fight these evils.'

[Joanne Sansome](#)

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

[Sabrina Donahue](#)

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

[Liam Larmour](#)

We Remember Them

(From Gates of Prayer, Reform Judaism Prayerbook)

[Spoken by Lisa Leopold](#)

In the rising of the sun and its going down ...
we remember them.

In the blowing of the wind and the chill of winter ...
we remember them.

In the opening of buds and in the warmth of summer ...
we remember them.
In the rustling of leaves and the beauty of autumn ...
we remember them.
In the beginning of the year and when it ends ...
we remember them.
When we are weary and in need of strength ...
we remember them.
When we are lost and sick at heart ...
we remember them.
When we have joys we yearn to share ...
we remember them.
So long as we live, they too shall live,
for they are now a part of us, as we remember them.

All stand and remain standing

Act of Commemoration

[Inge Radford, lights a candle in memory of the victims of the Holocaust.](#)

A prayer for the repose of the souls of the departed

[Sung in Hebrew by Cantor Alwyn Shulman](#)
[and then spoken in English by Elliot Matthews](#)

O God full of mercy, Who dwells on high, grant proper rest on the wings of the Divine Presence – in the lofty levels of the holy and the pure ones, who shine like the glow of the firmament – for the souls of the holy and the pure ones who were killed, murdered, slaughtered, burned, drowned and strangled in Auschwitz, Chelmno, Treblinka, Sobibor, Majdanek and Belzec for the sanctification of the Name, through the hands of the German oppressors (may their name and memory be obliterated). The whole congregation is praying on their behalf, in remembrance of their souls. May their resting place be in the Garden of Eden. May the Master of mercy shelter them in the shelter of His wings for eternity; and may He bind their souls in the Bond of Life. The Lord is their heritage, and may they repose in peace on their resting places.

Let us respond: Amen

All be seated

Closing Address

[The Very Reverend Dr Houston McKelvey](#)

Blowing of the Shofar

[Harvey Rosenberg](#)
[Introduced by Paul Clark](#)

Acknowledgements

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Ronnie Appleton QC
Dr Dennis Coppel
Mark Donahue
Colin Harper
James Knox
Helena Macormac

'The Children of Auschwitz' a poem by Laura Hillman is used with the kind permission of the Irish Jewish Museum, Dublin.