



HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2017

HOW CAN LIFE GO ON?

A programme of events in Leeds to commemorate the Holocaust, Nazi persecution and the subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2017

On Holocaust Memorial Day we commemorate the millions who were murdered in the Holocaust, by Nazi persecution and in subsequent genocides, in order to challenge hatred and persecution in the UK today. The theme for this year's event is *How can life go on?*

THE HOLOCAUST

From the time they assumed power in Germany in 1933, the Nazis used propaganda, persecution and legislation to deny human and civil rights to Jews. Between 1941 and 1945, the Nazis attempted to systematically murder all of Europe's Jews, and by the end of the Holocaust (The Shoah in Hebrew), six million Jewish men, women and children had been killed in ghettos, mass-shootings, concentration camps and extermination camps.

NAZI PERSECUTION

Nazi racial theories fuelled their persecution of Roma, Sinti, Slavic and black people. Disabled people, lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people and political opponents were also targeted. Hundreds of thousands of lives were destroyed or changed beyond recognition because of Nazi persecution.

CAMBODIA

When the radical communist Khmer Rouge seized power in 1975 they ruthlessly imposed an extremist programme to reconstruct Cambodia. The inhabitants of towns and cities were forced to leave and work as labourers in collective farms. Ethnic minority groups were targeted, religion was outlawed and thousands of the Muslim and Christian population were killed. All political and civil rights were abolished; factories, schools, hospitals and universities were shut down; and professional people including lawyers, doctors, scientists and their families were murdered.

RWANDA

On 6 April 1994 the plane carrying Rwanda's President was shot down, and extremist Hutu leaders accused the Tutsis of killing the President. Hutu civilians were told by radio and word of mouth that it was their duty to wipe out the Tutsis, and men, women and children were killed in their thousands in schools and churches. Approximately one million Tutsis and Hutus were murdered in the genocide in just 100 days.

BOSNIA

Following the disintegration of Yugoslavia, Bosnia declared independence in 1992; this was resisted by the Bosnian Serb population who saw their future as part of 'Greater Serbia'. During the ongoing civil war, Bosnian Serb troops descended on the town of Srebrenica in 1995 and began shelling it, despite it being declared a safe zone by the United Nations. Women and children were forcibly removed in trucks and buses, and around 8,000 Muslim men and boys were killed.

DARFUR

In 2003, a civil war began in Darfur, a region in the west of Sudan, between the sedentary population of farmers and the nomadic population, who have been supported by the Sudanese Government. The Sudanese Government has supported Arab militia who have destroyed hundreds of villages and murdered thousands of people. This civil war has led to the deaths of between 200,000 and 400,000 civilians, with up to 2.5 million people still displaced.

HOW CAN LIFE GO ON?

Join the Lord Mayor for an afternoon of commemoration

Civic Remembrance Event Sunday 22 January, 2pm

Leeds Town Hall, The Headrow, LS1 3AD

Free and open to all

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

FABIAN HAMILTON MP

The Lord Mayor will open this year's civic remembrance event, which will include a keynote speech by Fabian Hamilton MP and a performance by the Carriageworks Young Theatre Makers. The event will also include music performed by members of the Clothworkers Consort of the University of Leeds; reading of the seven statements of commitments with candle lighting; and a traditional Hebrew memorial prayer sung by the Chairman of Bradford Synagogue, Rudi Leavor.

Fabian Hamilton has been the Member of Parliament for Leeds North East since 1997. Born in London in 1955, he went to school in Brentwood, Essex and the University of York where he graduated with a BA in Politics, Sociology and Economics in 1977. In 1987, he became Councillor for Wortley ward in West Leeds and chaired Leeds City Council's Race Equality Committee amongst other roles.

He has been a member of many Parliamentary Select Committees over the years, including Foreign Affairs from 2001 until 2010.

LIGHT THE DARK

CARRIAGEWORKS YOUNG THEATRE MAKERS

The Carriageworks Young Theatre Makers present their moving memorial performance *Light The Dark*, directed by Ruth Cooper. The Carriageworks Young Theatre Makers are an ensemble of young people working collaboratively as performers, writers and directors by creating original, thoughtful theatre. Inspired by the testimony of Holocaust survivors, the young people have created a performance which honours those accounts while offering their personal reflections and responses to this year's theme *How Can Life Go On?*



The Clothworkers Consort of the University of Leeds

FILM SCREENING: SON OF SAUL



WEDNESDAY 1 FEBRUARY, 7.30PM

Dir. Brian Percival, 2013, 107 mins, cert. 15
Seven Arts, 31A Harrogate Rd, Leeds LS7 3PD

Free and open to all

Leeds City Council would like to thank the HMD steering group, the Holocaust Survivor's Friendship Association and all the people who participated in the events for their contribution.

Arts Development
For the creative city of Leeds

www.leeds.gov.uk/arts
0113 378 7192

Winner of the Grand Prix at Cannes in 2015, and winner of the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film at the 88th Academy Awards, *Son of Saul* is an unforgettable Holocaust drama set inside Auschwitz, and the feature debut of László. It stars Géza Röhrig as Saul Ausländer, a Hungarian-Jewish prisoner in Auschwitz whose horrific job in the Sonderkommando - a group of prisoners given special tasks and minor privileges - is to help burn the camp's dead.

Finding a body he takes to be his son's, he tries to arrange a clandestine burial. Meanwhile other members of the Sonderkommando are planning to destroy the crematorium; but Saul stays focused on his personal quest: to grant his son a proper burial, and so restore his humanity.



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