



Remembering the past,  
honouring the memory,  
shaping the future

THE FORUM FOR  
**Yom HaShoah**  
Annual Jewish Remembrance Day  
for Victims of the Holocaust

YOM HASHOAH    27<sup>th</sup> NISSAN 5770    11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2010

A recent conversation with a 15 year-old secondary school Jewish student.

*“Yom what ? Yom Kippur ?”*

*“No. Yom HaShoah, the Annual Jewish Remembrance Day for Victims of the Holocaust, established as a commemoration day by the State of Israel in 1951.”*

*“Oh, Jan 27<sup>th</sup> ?”*

*“No, that’s a very recently established International Day of Remembrance for Victims of the Holocaust and other Genocides.*

*Yom HaShoah falls on each 27<sup>th</sup> Nissan, in the Jewish calendar.”*

*“Like Yom Kippur, on a different day each year ?”*

*“Yes.”*

*“So what ? I’ve learned something about the Holocaust, it happened ages ago and things have moved on. The State of Israel, computers, men on the moon, facebook, etc ! Why do we have to remember it ?”*

Believe it or not, the dilemma facing the “Forum for Yom HaShoah” group, comprising the 25 UK organisations involved in Holocaust Remembrance, Awareness and Education; and Survivor, Refugee and Ex-Service Personnel Welfare, is that some 65 years after the end of WW2, our Community do not instantly recognise this commemoration and observe it and what will happen once the Survivors and Refugees of that immense tragedy and others who fought or lived through it, are no longer with us to tell of their horrific experiences ? Does it and will it matter one iota, if it has been and will continue to be observed by those who survived, fought and lived through it and after that... **lets forget it ?**

**“Forget it ?”** This was one of the greatest tragedies to befall our people in its entire history. A tragedy of unparalleled proportions. Never before has there been a systematic attempt to remove a people from an entire continent (and beyond if that had succeeded) for no other reason than their religious identity.

**“Forget it ?”** It is world Jewry’s obligation to remember and honour the memory of the 6 million Jews who perished, including over 1.5 million children, as well as all those non-Jews who likewise perished, to ensure that they are never forgotten nor their deaths denied. We owe it to present and future generations of our people, whose knowledge of the tragedy is at the best limited or worst non-existent, not that they should just express sorrow or pity, but that they should learn the lessons of how it happened to ensure, as best they might, that it should never, ever happen again.

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**The ‘Forum’ comprises the following UK Sponsoring & Participating Organisations:**

45 Aid Society / 45 Aid Second Generation Group  
Aish UK  
Anne Frank Trust  
Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen & Women  
Association of Jewish Refugees  
Beth Shalom Holocaust Centre

Board of Deputies of British Jews  
Council of Christians & Jews  
Holocaust Educational Trust  
Holocaust Memorial Day Trust  
Holocaust Survivor Centre  
Imperial War Museum

Jewish Lads’ & Girls’ Brigade  
Jewish Museum  
London Jewish Cultural Centre  
Maccabi GB/CST  
Pears Foundation  
Rabbi B Marcus, Central Synagogue

Second Generation Trust  
UJIA JLEC  
Union of Jewish Students  
Wiener Library  
Yad Vashem UK  
Zionist Youth Council

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Working with the Board of Deputies of British Jews

For every one person that learns and takes notice, there is one more person to shape the future. No learning, no shaping. It only needs ONE person to stand up to bullying, bigotry, intolerance, prejudice, racial or religious discrimination, to encourage others to do so.

*“When they came for me and there was no one left to stand up for me, I was doomed. If only I had stood up for others that they came for before they came for me, there would have been some hope for me. Now all is lost!”*

Since 1951, Yom HaShoah has been commemorated annually by Survivors, Refugees, Ex-Service Personnel and others in the Jewish and wider Community dedicated to remembering the Victims of the Holocaust, honouring their memory and shaping a better future because of it. Education and awareness has paid an important part in bringing knowledge of this tragedy to generations who had the good fortune not to have lived through it.

But now all members of the **Forum for Yom HaShoah** group, have resolved to develop a new initiative for Anglo-Jewry, to ensure that the current and future generations will have a greater awareness and understanding of **Yom HaShoah**, as they have of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Pesach etc. They should recognise and observe its commemoration, as they should also do for Jan 27th and by this recognition and observance, work towards shaping the future by ensuring that such a tragedy **NEVER AGAIN** befalls our people, or any other race or religion and that **the world becomes a better place to live in.**

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**The “Forum for Yom Hashaoh” are campaigning to promote greater awareness, understanding and observance of Yom HaShoah within the Anglo-Jewry.**

**To mark this year’s commemoration, which falls on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April,**

- **They are organising the Annual Communal Commemoration at 11 am, at the National Memorial to the Holocaust, at the Dell in Hyde Park, London.**

**The ceremony will last app 45 minutes and all the London Jewish Community are invited to attend.**

- **Other commemorations will be held at Provincial centres.**
- **They have received the agreement of all the main Synagogaal organisations to designate Shabbat April 10<sup>th</sup> , as “Yom HaShoah Shabbat”.**

**Special memorial prayers will be recited and Holocaust Survivors, Refugees and Ex-Service personnel present will be welcomed to tell of their experiences**

- **They are encouraging as many Synagogues, Jewish Communal organisations and Schools as possible, to hold commemoration events either on Yom HaShoah or on the days immediately preceding or following it.**

**FULL INFORMATION ON ALL EVENTS IS AVAILABLE  
ON THE “FORUM FOR YOM HASHOAH” WEBSITE**

**[www.yomhashoah.org.uk](http://www.yomhashoah.org.uk)**