Holocaust Memorial Day 2018
The 27th January marks Holocaust Memorial Day. On and around this time, all across the world people join together to remember and reflect on the horrific events of the Holocaust, genocides and persecutions both past and present.

Each year York develops a programme of varied events, working with partners both inside and outside of the city that not only embraces the national theme, ‘The Power of Words’ but commemorates the past, explores the continued persecutions of the present and encourages positive actions to make a difference in the future.

“I want to go on living even after my death! And that’s why I am so grateful to God for having given me this gift, which I can use to develop myself and to express all that’s in me. When I write I can shake off all my cares; my sorrow disappears; my spirits are revived.”

**Anne Frank, written in her diary, 5 April 1944**

The power of words are undeniable, whether positive or negative.

From individuals, corporations, organisations or the state, our daily lives are heavily influenced by the words of others.

The 2018 programme seeks to explore language of the past through propaganda, memoirs and words of resistance alongside the words of today on social media, newspapers and the conversations we hold. Words of hope, courage, faith and words of hatred, discrimination and fear.

We invite you to join us, explore how language has influenced past events, our lives and the impact our words can hold.

Unless stated in individual listings all events are physically accessible. Please contact each venue for specific information.
This is the question we are asking as part of our community and educational based project running from November to January.

Something someone said? Something someone wrote?

Help us to share the power of words.

Real responses from York residents will be transformed into a powerful and moving film alongside a poster campaign being premiered at the HMD civic event in January.

Throughout the city partner venues are supporting the project pop up stations for you to record your words and you can also find details on our social media channels.
Representations of the Holocaust: screening of Night and Fog, Dir. Alain Resnais + Q&A
Wednesday 24 January 1.30pm - 3pm

How should we approach studying, teaching and critiquing cultural representations of the Holocaust? Gill Simpson and Adam Stock, York St John academics who teach such material at undergraduate level in different disciplines, explore how the Holocaust has been represented culturally. In 1955, Alain Resnais produced one of the first cinematic reflections on the Holocaust, Night and Fog (Nuit et Brouillard), documenting the abandoned grounds of Auschwitz and Majdanek. Following a screening of the film, Gill and Adam will lead a discussion on the challenges of critiquing fact-based Holocaust representations.

Quad South Hall, York St John University
☎ 01904 876774 ✉️ a.stock@yorksj.ac.uk

600 Candles
Wednesday 24 January 6pm Free Event

A candle-lit act of commemoration in the Minster’s historic Chapter House. The peace of the Minster will provide an opportunity to remember victims of genocides from the Holocaust to the present day, through music, testimony and time for reflection. All are welcome to sung evensong service beforehand at 5.15pm.

York Minster, Deangate, York, YO1 7HH
☎ 01904 557200 ✉️ lisap@yorkminster.org
Centre for Applied Human Rights 10th Anniversary
Wednesday 24 January - Saturday 27 January
Various times

The Centre for Applied Human Rights (CAHR) is marking its 10th anniversary with a number of events across the University and the City of York. Celebrations begin on the evening of 24th January with a major public event, hosted by the Vice-Chancellor of the University. Speakers will include Michel Forst, the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, and Jestina Mukoko, a Zimbabwean human rights defender and former Fellow at CAHR. There will also be performances and exhibitions in the city.

For more information see https://www.york.ac.uk/cahr/news/events/2018/10th-anniversary/
☎ 01904 325885 ✉ cahr-admin@york.ac.uk

Language, persecution, building new lives: the experience of LGBT asylum seekers
Free Event
Friday 26 January 2pm - 3pm

An event exploring how words were used in the Nazi era and how they are used today to persecute LGBT people. The battles of the LGBT community to establish their own narrative and build new lives in a safe country.

York Explore, Library Square, Museum Street, York

Candle Lighting Ceremony
Free Event
Saturday 27 January 1.30pm - 3.30pm

A simple service in commemoration of the Holocaust and genocides worldwide.

St Martin Church, Coney Street, York ✉ nattrassjane@aol.com
City of York Civic Event

Sunday 28 January 6pm - 7.30pm

City of York Council’s annual Civic Event for Holocaust Memorial Day, inspired by the theme, ‘The Power Of Words’. An insight into how words have influenced events both past and present and the continued impact they hold.

An evening event hosted by the Lord Mayor and the Civic Party, with speakers, readings, information and the unveiling of our community project, ‘What is the most powerful thing anyone has ever said to you?’

Civic Event Program:

- Richard Dimbleby’s 1945 report from Bergen Belsen
- Lord Mayor of York
- The Saddest Day Of My Life
- Book of poetry, The Camps
- The Diary of Anne Frank
- ‘Propaganda’ with speaker Rachael Maskell MP
- What Is The Most Powerful Thing Anyone Has Ever Said To You?
- Some Things Go Beyond Words with Dr. Adam Stock
- Refugees are welcome here
- Seven Commitments, candle lighting

York Explore, Library Square, Museum Street, York

07850259678   lauren@mudstresscoffee.com

Booking advised: www.holocaustmemorialdaycivic.eventbrite.co.uk

Clifford’s Tower Commemoration

Thursday 15 March 6.30pm - 7.30pm

Commemoration of the 1190 massacre of York’s Jewish population at the site of York Castle at Clifford’s Tower, attended by the Lord Mayor and Civic Party, with music, spoken accounts and contributions, concluding with prayer and an act of remembrance.

Clifford’s Tower, Tower Street, York YO1 9SA

07850259678   lauren@mudstresscoffee.com
Statements of commitments

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

• 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.

• 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 genocides.

• 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.

• 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, anti-semitism, racism, xenophobia and discrimination still continue. We have a shared responsibility to fight these evils.

• 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.

• We will continue to encourage Holocaust remembrance by holding an annual UK Holocaust Memorial Day. We condemn the evils of prejudice, discrimination and racism. We value a free, respectful, and democratic society.
‘Words are singularly the most powerful force available to humanity.’

Yehuda Berg

If you would like this information in an accessible format (for example in large print, in Braille, on CD or by email) please call (01904) 551550