

CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES
Committee for Catholic Jewish Relations

Holocaust Memorial Day

27th January 2009



What is hatred?

How does it grow?

How can I stand up to hatred?

Hatred is not an attractive word but it is a reality which we must face and be prepared to deal with. It is not just to be associated with extremist groups; it is a phenomenon which occurs in Britain in small ways in daily life. Hatred is a destructive lethal force when present in prejudice, discrimination, racism, anti-Semitism and Islamophobia. One of the most terrible outcomes of hatred was the Shoah or Holocaust, when 6 million Jews and other minority groups lost their lives in Nazi Germany.

Seeds of hatred

Between 1918 and 1932 in Germany discrimination against Jews was rife. In 1925 Adolf Hitler's "Mein Kampf" was published setting out the ideology of racial superiority. After the Nazis were elected in 1933 racist and anti-Semitic campaigns became widespread and anti-Jewish propaganda became common. Hatred had become mainstream. A few years later it became normal. Laws were passed aimed at preserving racial purity and attacking those considered "untermenschen" (sub-human). More recently, divisive or racist laws have been introduced in Cambodia and Rwanda.

Anti-racist measures

Governments have a duty to protect citizens against racism or discrimination. In this country incitement and expression of hatred towards particular groups are now "hate crimes" but many groups and communities in UK still face prejudice, discrimination and exclusion.

The practice of love



Pope Benedict XVI has warned that racism is alive in modern society. He urges the Church to help overcome all forms of racial intolerance. The Church has a particular responsibility to practise and foster love between peoples. The Pope teaches in his encyclical *God is Love* that love is possible and we are able to practise it because we are created in the image of God.

Resistance to hatred



The White Rose

Five students from Munich University and one of their professors made a promise to **Stand up to Hatred** by challenging the Nazi regime. They formed the White Rose group and began a secret campaign, distributing political literature. They challenged the German people to react to the violence and oppression which were all around them by standing up and fighting for freedom.

Righteous among the Gentiles

As a boy Pope John Paul II knew many Jewish children in his village in Poland. Some years later at the time of the Shoah when he was a seminarian he found Edith, a young Jewish girl, dying on a station platform. He took her to Krakow and to safety. Here she meets the man who had become Pope.



Choose to stand up to hatred

- Recognize the language of hatred. Stop using discriminatory language and stop others who are using it.
- Refuse to stand by and allow others to commit acts of hatred. Report hate crimes.
- Learn from history that the result of unchecked and unchallenged hatred, prejudice, discrimination and racism is genocide.
- Take positive action. Be inclusive of minorities in your community.

Resources

The Vatican Documents on Catholic-Jewish Relations

Documents from the Holy See
Catholic Truth Society, London
Website: www.icrelations.net

For Holocaust Memorial Day Pack (including material from CTBI)

The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust
PO Box 49743, London, WC1H 9WU
Tel: 0845 838 1883
Email: enquiries@hmd.org.uk
Website: www.hmd.org.uk

For outreach to schools, resource materials, visits to Auschwitz:

Holocaust Educational Trust
BCM Box 7892, London WC1N 3XX
Tel: 020 7222 6822
Email: info@het.org.uk
Website: www.het.org.uk

For educational material and visits:

Beth Shalom Holocaust Centre
Laxton, Newark, Notts NG22 0PA
Tel: 01623 836627
Website: www.bethshalom.com

The Imperial War Museum,
Lambeth Road
London, SE1 6HZ
Tel: 020 74165320
Website: www.iwm.org.uk

For general information:

The Council of Christians and Jews
1st Floor Camelford House
87-89 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TP
Tel: 020 7820 0090
Email: cjrelations@ccj.org.uk
Website: www.ccj.org.uk

For resources on racial justice and ethnic minorities:

Catholic Association for Racial Justice
9 Henry Road, London N4 2LH
Tel: 020 8802 8080
Email: info@carij.org.uk
Website: www.carij.org.uk

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