

Early warning about Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) in January 2015

The County's Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Strategy Group has teamed up with Northumberland's Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) to plan a series of events to commemorate HMD in 2015, a series of events designed to have long-term positive effects.

The theme for HMD in 2015 is "Keep the memory alive", which is most fitting for two reasons in particular: 2015 commemorates the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau in Poland, and the 20th anniversary of the massacre of over 7,000 Bosniaks in Srebrenica, Bosnia.

There will be three aspects to the commemoration planned in Northumberland:

- a dramatic collection of posters will depict the persecution of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities of Europe over the last 100 years. The posters will be displayed at different venues across the County for a week;
- educational workshops for young people will focus on the discrimination experienced by Gypsy and Traveller communities in the UK. The workshops will be delivered by Liz Bennett, author of "Out of Site", in conjunction with internationally renowned "Show Racism the Red Card";
- a commemorative service will be held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Morpeth. The service will include testimony from the survivors of genocide, (the Rwandan genocide included), readings, music and song, and an opportunity for silent reflection and meditation.

More information about the events above will be shared with schools, teachers and others as HMD 2015 approaches. Please make every effort to engage with what promise to be most enlightening and moving events toward the end of next January.