



INTERNATIONAL
**HOLOCAUST
REMEMBRANCE**
ALLIANCE

IN PLAIN SIGHT
UNITED KINGDOM
2024
PRESIDENCY 

IN PARTNERSHIP
WITH



MY HOMETOWN

TEACHER'S GUIDE



MY HOMETOWN

01

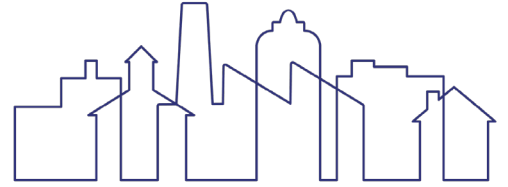
Welcome

The UK Chairmanship of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), supported by Collingwood Learning, and in partnership with UCL Centre for Holocaust Education, are delighted to invite your school to participate in My Hometown, an international Holocaust education project.

To mark our presidency of IHRA this year, we are launching an initiative to engage schools from across the world in creating a series of outstanding educational projects, that will be showcased at the IHRA plenary in London in 2024.

Educating young people and communities about the Holocaust is a vital element of creating a more inclusive and safer society for all. As a school in an IHRA member country, we welcome you to join us in taking part in My Hometown, by creating your own project to discover stories that connect your students' hometown with the Holocaust and its legacy.





02

Global Recognition

Certification

All participating schools and students receive an IHRA My Hometown Certificate.

Film

The most original My Hometown projects will be featured in a highlights film shared with our global IHRA delegations at December's IHRA Conference.

Online Gallery

My Hometown projects will be celebrated as part of a permanent My Hometown online gallery dedicated to sharing best practice globally.

Online Youth Gathering

As part of the UK's presidency of IHRA, chosen schools from around the world will be invited to share their work at an online youth gathering.

Submission Deadline 1st November 2024

MY HOMETOWN

03

What is IHRA?

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) unites governments and experts to strengthen, advance and promote Holocaust education, research, and remembrance and to uphold the commitments of the 2000 Stockholm Declaration. The IHRA (formerly the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, or ITF) was initiated in 1998 by former Swedish Prime Minister Göran Persson.

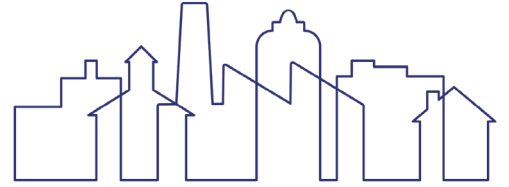
Today the IHRA network consists of 35 countries as well as key international partner organizations with a mandate to deal with Holocaust-related issues. The IHRA's network of experts includes representatives from the world's foremost institutions which specialize in education, remembrance, and research about the Holocaust.

04

About My Hometown

My Hometown is an opportunity for students to unearth stories relating to the Holocaust through connections close to home. It is also an opportunity for schools to focus on the Roma and other victims of Nazi persecution. It will help to bridge the past with the present and enable students to see their local area with greater significance as they uncover local links to this unprecedented history.

Learning through active research of the local and historical environment can assist understanding of the human experience and enable students to critically consider how and why such stories should be locally recognised, remembered, and told.



05

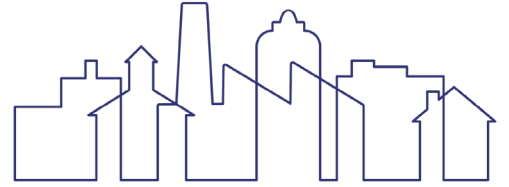
Making Connections



MY HOMETOWN

The school might choose to focus on one of the following:

- Local biographies of individuals who lived in your hometown before the Holocaust, who were later murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators.
- Sites of local synagogues or buildings that speak of vibrant communities that once existed and /or where there is now a resurgence of community life.
- Historical accounts of local sites where persecutions, ghettoization, and other atrocities took place, identifying what occupies these sites today, and whether the history of these places are publicly recognised, marked, and remembered.
- Stories of local collaboration, or bystander action, the impact of it and how these difficult narratives are confronted and acknowledged.
- Stories of local acts of courage, compassion, resistance, rescue, and resilience during the Holocaust and how they are told and remembered.
- Stories of the circumstances around movements of individuals directly affected by the Holocaust, to or from your town.
- Local stories of individuals who were fleeing the Nazis and found refuge in your town, how they were received, and how they adapted to the new environment.
- Accounts of locally born allied service men and women who liberated the Nazi concentration camps or served as nurses in displacement camps.
- Stories of survivors, their lives after the Holocaust and how they made your town their town too, after the end of the war.



06

Researching Holocaust History



7

6

MY HOMETOWN

Local History

Involve students in researching the physical space around their hometown or nearby sites that have relevance to the Holocaust, together with local maps, historical records, and testimonies, is a creative way to begin the process.

Reliable Sources

It is important to use materials and information from reliable online sources, museums, and national institutions that are based on sound evidence. See our [List of Centres of international Expertise](#).

Personal Accounts

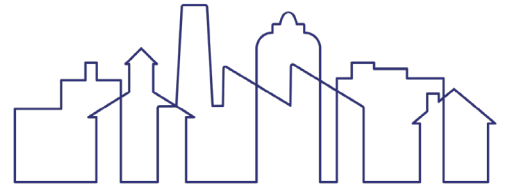
Your project can delve deeper through, for example, a diary extract, a local newspaper report, an original object, a photograph, document, or family/individual story relating to the Holocaust, which connects in some way to your hometown. Allow opportunity for critical and independent thinking.

Using The Material

Care should be taken to ensure accurate provenance of material used and sensitive handling of potentially traumatic material, particularly when students themselves have family links to the content examined. Consideration of students' age, neurodivergence, and emotional wellbeing should also be taken into account.

Teaching and Learning

For expert guidance on good practice, we advise schools refer to the IHRA document, [Recommendations for Teaching and Learning About the Holocaust](#).



07

Sharing Your Work



MY HOMETOWN

Enrichment activities can help consolidate knowledge and understanding, record information discovered, and express a response to what has been learned. They also provide a way of sharing your project with the school and wider community through presentations and events. Activities might include:

Film

Explore people's lived experiences, events, and landmarks by creating a short documentary film. This could include people's views and opinions through interviews.

Discussion

Critically discuss the opinions of the time or discuss what the Holocaust means for your hometown now and in the future. How should sites be protected, preserved, and remembered? Does antisemitism, anti-Roma discrimination, or other prejudice exist in your hometown? If so, what should be done to counter it?

Creative Writing

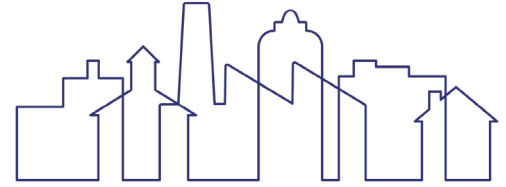
Bring the experience of individuals from your hometown to life to share with others in school, with parents, and the wider community.

Music

Celebrate or revive cultural traditions that once thrived and were lost as a result of the Holocaust, or to communicate emotions felt by students as they discover new knowledge through this project.

Art and Performing Arts

Re-imagine key concepts, communicate your town's relationship with the Holocaust, or the legacy of those who settled there. Create an innovative memorial to encapsulate how the students feel about what they have discovered and its importance.



08

Getting Started

- 1. REGISTER**

Sign up by completing our simple registration form. This needs to be written in English. You will be invited to join our My Hometown channel.
- 2. SELECT A GROUP**

We recommend a group of between 10 and 20 students aged between 11 and 16. Consider diversity and making the group as inclusive as possible.
- 3. RESEARCH**

Students research the history of their hometown in relation to the Holocaust. This could be through written history, local landmarks, family stories, and community groups.
- 4. DEVELOPMENT**

What have the students learnt and what does it mean for them? Students decide how to present their research in a creative way – film, drama, music, art and more.
- 5. PRODUCTION**

Record your work using film footage, photos and scripts, uploading to the My Hometown Teams channel.
- 6. SHARING YOUR WORK**

Share your My Hometown project with the rest of the school or the wider community. This could be an assembly, community event, display, social media campaign, or newsletter.

MY HOMETOWN

09

Your Submission

Upon completion of your project, please upload to our Teams Channel:

Project Summary

Maximum 500 words (in English). This will help us understand your project activities, processes, and how it was shared locally.

Film Clip

3-5 minutes, created by students about their project journey.

Photo Selection

Showing student activities, visits, or sharing your finished work.

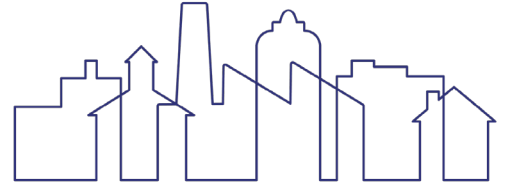
Other Work

Artwork, written work, research and more to support your submission.

**Deadline for Submission
1st November 2024**

GDPR

Please ensure parental permission for the sharing of images or names of students with Collingwood Learning, IHRA, and UCL Centre for Holocaust Education. Please see the [My Hometown Privacy Policy](#).



10

Support

The team at Collingwood Learning are on hand to support you every step of the way. We will hold school workshop sessions (in English) online, give tips and advice, and share inspiration from other teachers around the world.

Use the My Hometown Teams channel to ask questions, share ideas with the My Hometown school community, and save your project work.

11

Next Steps

We would be delighted to welcome you to the project.

Sign up below and we will then be in contact to give you access to the My Hometown Teams Channel and answer any questions you may have.

Primary Contact

myhometown@collingwoodlearning.com

Sign up by selecting the following link or by pasting it into your browser:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/R5BDLM>



collingwood