



**Stand Together is a group of young people from Hartlepool Youth Services who have come together to learn about the Holocaust and subsequent genocides. We are trying to understand how such terrible things can come to happen, and how we can learn from the past in order to create a better future.**

What we know is that these things do not happen overnight. When racism, discrimination, hatred and intolerance remain unchallenged, they become normalised, and can generate an environment in which genocide can take place.

Today, fear and prejudice is all too common – both online and in person around the UK. Police figures from England and Wales show hate crimes have risen year after year.

Anti-Gypsy, Roma and Traveller and Anti-Muslim attitudes are widespread and members of the LGBTQI+ community continue to face hostile environments. Sexism, ageism, racism and disability discrimination are all forms of identity-based prejudice which need to be challenged.

We all have the power to make changes and take action to support those who face discrimination.

We can educate ourselves to better understand those who we perceive as different, we can stand up against intolerance and we can report hate crime if we see it, these are actions we can and must take to make our communities safer.



## Holocaust Memorial Day is held every year on January 27<sup>th</sup>

Every year has a different theme and the theme for 2021 is  
“Be the Light in the Darkness”

In years past, we have held public events to mark the occasion. Due to Covid-19 we are unable to do that but we are still planning to mark the day. We are planning an online event which will include, films, art, photography, poetry, stories and information.

We would like other young people to give their thoughts and ideas to our project.

### You can be involved in a few different ways;

- **Be part of a photo collage** - We are attempting to gain a number of photos of lots of individual young people – these photos will be used to create a poster that will be shaded to create a candle – showing that young people can be the light in people’s darkness. If you want someone from the group to come and take your photograph let us know or you can take it yourself or a staff member can take it from a Youth Service IPad. You can then send it to [daniel.williamson@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:daniel.williamson@hartlepool.gov.uk) \* If a young person or member of staff are taking the photo – please make sure the head and shoulders are in the picture, with a neutral background and young person is not smiling!
- **Anonymous story** - Have you experienced prejudice and discrimination? Would you like to share your story? You can tell us anonymously if you like. Write something in your own words and put in the envelope provided in the pack.
- **Audio clip** - We are also collecting audio clips. Tell us, in a short sentence “I am the light in the darkness because...” record it on your phone or on the youth centre IPad and send to [daniel.williamson@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:daniel.williamson@hartlepool.gov.uk) \*. Use the template in the pack to help you think about what you want to say.



If you want to get involved in Stand Together we meet every Wednesday from 5.00-7.00 at Throston Youth Project, Wiltshire Way. We are currently meeting online. For more information you can contact Sarah @ [sarah.mccluskey@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.mccluskey@hartlepool.gov.uk) or Rachael @ [rachael.garlick@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:rachael.garlick@hartlepool.gov.uk) or call 01429 523900.



*“We will continue to do our bit for as long as we can, secure in the knowledge that others will continue to light a candle long after us.”*

**- Gena Turgel MBE, survivor of the Holocaust (1923-2018)**

We have interpreted this year's theme to mean how we as individuals can shine a light on the darkness of racism and prejudice and how we could be the “light” for somebody.

We feel that being the light in the darkness is being someone that is unafraid to stand up to discrimination when you see it. Being the person that will stand side by side with someone and support them if they are a victim of a hate crime. To be the light is to show someone that they are not alone and that we will not stand by.

Maybe you have experienced discrimination or bullying yourself and know how it can make someone feel? Maybe you have stepped in to stand up for someone? Maybe you have witnessed it happening before and have now decided that you wouldn't stay silent again?

We believe that it is everyone's responsibility to stand up to prejudice, discrimination and intolerance. We want everyone to play their part in making a better, safer future everyone. This doesn't mean that you put yourself in danger or have to be confrontational. You could;

- Confronting name calling and ridicule
- Confronting mistruths and myths
- Challenging upsetting or offensive language
- Call out racist jokes and stereotypes
- Involving someone who has been deliberately excluded

*“The first insult was “Zigeuner, Schweine Zigeuner” - Gypsy pigs. I remember these words and I'll die with them.”*

**- Józef Sadowski, Roma survivor of Nazi Persecution**

## People who have been the light

### Man who went viral with show of solidarity for Muslims says: 'We must build bridges'



A man from Manchester whose expression of solidarity with his local Muslim community went viral last week has spoken of the need to “take the first step sometimes and build bridges”.

Andrew Graystone, 57, stood outside his local mosque during Friday prayers holding a cardboard sign with a handwritten message: “You are my friends. I will keep you safe while you pray.”

Graystone, a writer from Levenshulme in Manchester, said he had been motivated to support the Muslim community after hearing of the Christchurch attack. “I thought, what would it feel like as a Muslim going to prayers today? I would feel a mixture of enmity and even fear.”

At a time when countries around the world are on high alert in case of further Islamophobic attacks, Graystone decided he wanted to ensure that mosque-goers in his neighbourhood felt safe. “I picked up a card, wrote my message, went down to my local mosque at Barlow Road and stood outside.”

Many worshippers were suspicious at first, he said. “They thought I was a protester. But when they saw what was written on the board, people warmed to me.”

Graystone stood outside throughout the Friday prayers, not aware the imam had commended him during the service.

“When people came out, I was surrounded by hundreds of people,” he said. “People were thanking me, blessing me. Some people said their faith in humanity was restored.”

Images of Graystone warmly grinning as he held his sign of support went viral, with people on Twitter commending his act of solidarity.

Graystone said: “I have received around 100,000 messages in the last 24 hours – and hardly any negative messages. That shows the power of choosing friendship over fear.”

Graystone belongs to a church and says there is a network of local faith organisations who work together to maintain social cohesion. But he added: “It isn’t really about religion... It is about friendship and community – and you have to take the first step sometimes and build bridges.”

## Man arrested after Jewish children were targeted on the tube



A man has been arrested after antisemitic abuse was directed towards Jewish children on the London Underground.

The suspect, whose name and age has not been released by police, was held in Birmingham on Saturday night on suspicion of committing a racially aggravated public order offence and he remains in custody.

His arrest came after a man was filmed reading anti-Jewish Bible passages to two young boys in skullcaps while they were travelling with their family on the Northern line.

Wearing a cap and hoody, the man is seen in the video threatening a man off-camera after he tries to intervene before a woman in a hijab – Asma Shuweikh – confronts him.

The mother-of-two, from London, told the PA news agency she “wouldn’t hesitate to do it again”. “I would have loved more people to come up and say something, because if everyone did, I do not think it would have escalated in the way that it did,” she said, adding that when she saw what was happening she knew she “had to confront him”.

“Being a mother-of-two, I know what it’s like to be in that situation and I would want someone to help if I was in that situation.”

Fellow commuter Chris Atkins took the video after catching the tube heading south on the Charing Cross branch of the line at midday on Friday.

“The Muslim woman didn’t take any shit from him and really, really took him to task, very firmly and persistently,” Atkins said.

“In this day and age we are told how intolerant everyone is and all religions hate each other and there you had a Muslim woman sticking up for some Jewish children.”

Twitter users hailed Shuweikh as a “hero”.

Shuweikh said she got off the tube after two stops and did not realise the video was going viral until a friend texted her to say she had seen her on Twitter. She created a Twitter account so she could see the reaction.

“It was so heartwarming to see the responses and see what people were saying,” she said. “I can’t take all the credit because a lot of other people were involved. I would not hesitate to do it again.”

## **What was the Holocaust?**

The Holocaust was a period in history at the time of World War Two (1939-1945), when millions of Jews were murdered because of who they were.

The killings were organised by Germany's Nazi party, led by Adolf Hitler.

Jews were the main target of the Nazis, and the greatest number of victims were Jewish. Nearly seven out of every 10 Jews in Europe were murdered because of their identity.

The Nazis also killed other groups of people, including Roma ('gypsies') and disabled people.

They also arrested and took away the rights of other groups, like gay people and political opponents. Many of them died as a result of their treatment.

## **What is genocide?**

The Holocaust was an example of genocide. Genocide is deliberately killing a large group of people, usually because they are a certain nationality, race or religion.

Further genocides have happened in Cambodia 1975-79, Rwanda 1994, Bosnia 1995 and Darfur 2003 – present.

## **What is discrimination?**

Discrimination is the unfair treatment of people based on characteristics such as race, sexuality, religious belief or gender identity.

## **What is prejudice?**

Being biased against someone or having an unfavourable opinion on them without any reason or experience.

## **What is a hate crime?**

A crime against someone which is motivated by hostility towards someone due to their race, disability, sexuality, religious belief or gender identity.

## Recognising racism at school

How do you know if someone or something is racist?

Sometimes it can be hard to recognise racism, especially if you're not the target.

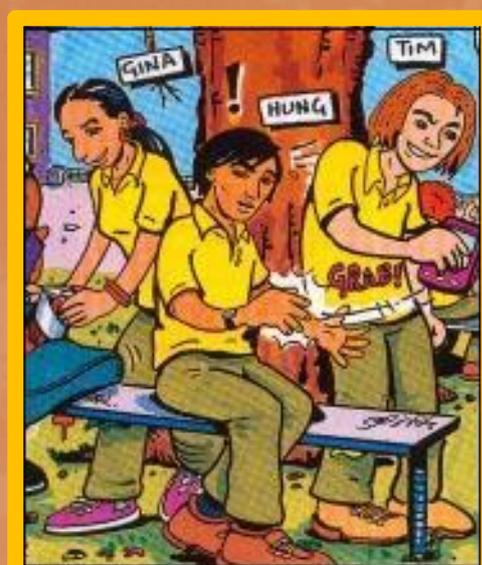
The problem is some people are deliberately racist while others might behave in a racist manner without meaning to hurt other people.

In the same way, some systems or rules or organisations might discriminate against some groups of people either deliberately or without intending to.

Here are some examples of racism that might occur in schools. Have you ever seen or experienced anything like this? If so, what did you do or what could you do about it?

### Examples of racism

- making fun of clothes, food or physical appearance of people from different cultures
- telling jokes directed against people from particular groups
- using insulting language about particular cultural groups
- making fun of people's accents or names
- refusing to work or play with or sit next to other people who are from a different culture or
- speak a different language
- writing graffiti against people from particular cultural backgrounds
- stereotyping people from different cultural or linguistic groups
- telling people to 'go back where they came from'
- not including students from particular backgrounds in class activities
- favouring students from some backgrounds more than others
- not helping students from some backgrounds as much as others
- expecting students from some cultural or linguistic groups to do better or worse than others in schoolwork
- not respecting people's different religious beliefs
- bullying students from different cultural and linguistic groups
- Assaulting people from different cultural backgrounds.



*Takin' a Stand! Courtesy of Streetwise Comics 2000*

## Effects of racism

What might be the result of some of these examples of racism? Who is affected by racism?

Racism can be experienced by all sorts of people at school – students, teachers, parents, cleaners, office staff, canteen staff, and casual workers.

Here are some ways in which racism might affect the students, the teachers and the whole school. What other effects might racism have on people?

### Students who experience racism might:

- be afraid of going to school
- have trouble studying and concentrating in class
- stay away from school
- feel anxious and unhappy
- have trouble making friends
- fall behind in schoolwork
- get lower results in their exams
- not speak their first language for fear of being teased or picked on
- reject their own culture and parental values
- be confused about their own identity
- Be aggressive or disruptive.

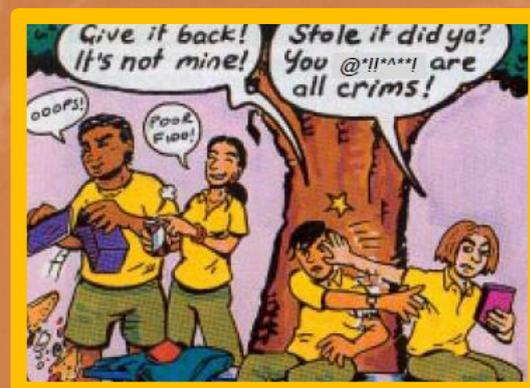
### Teachers who experience racism might:

- not want to go to work each day
- lose confidence in their ability to teach
- feel anxious and unhappy
- stay away from school
- Lose enjoyment in teaching.

### Effects on the whole school:

- students making friends only with others from the same background
- fights in playground between students from different cultural or linguistic groups
- conflict between staff and students from different backgrounds
- unfriendly school environment
- Parents not having confidence in the school and education system.

**Can you think of examples where these kinds of attitudes have been directed at people because of their sexuality, disability, religion / faith or gender identity?**



*Takin' a Stand! Courtesy of Streetwise Comics 2000*

IN THE END  
WE WILL REMEMBER  
NOT THE WORDS OF OUR ENEMIES  
BUT THE **SILENCE** OF OUR FRIENDS

*Martin Luther King Jr.*



celebquote.com

**Strong people  
stand up for  
themselves, but  
stronger people  
stand up for  
others.**

via gapbagap.net



I always wondered  
why somebody didn't  
do something about  
that, then I realized  
I'm that somebody.

//  
**WHENEVER  
ONE PERSON  
STANDS UP AND SAYS,  
"WAIT A MINUTE,  
THIS IS WRONG,"  
IT HELPS OTHER  
PEOPLE TO DO THE  
SAME.**

GLORIA STEINEM

