

**'LEARNING LESSONS FROM THE PAST TO BUILD
A BETTER FUTURE'**

What can we learn from the Holocaust and other genocides about how we should live our lives to create a better future for now, and for generations to come?



Never Again

Never Again we all declared
Next time we'd be more prepared
A declaration, new constitution
In answer to their 'final solution'.

But some year's later it happened once more
In Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda and Dafur
Genocide rears its hated head
Innocent communities left for dead.

How did that happen, how can it be?
Once again for the world to see?
Persecution of the human race
An evil that we have to face.

I listened to Ziggy, his story told
Of life at Auschwitz, freezing cold
He's been back where once he stood
Walked over the ashes and the blood.

But he's positive and keen to state
That he's not bitter, he does not hate.
There is no difference between you and me
Whatever religion or nationality.

Clearly words are not enough
For some life can still get tough
Action will speak louder than the word
We must make sure that we are heard.

A memorial we will create
For we should not discriminate
In the centre for all to see
To show that love and peace can be

At Jack Hunt School it's clear to see
A diverse and mixed community
Like Bruno and Schmuell we'll play together
Share a joke, be friends forever.

If young people can lead the way
Perhaps history will not replay
An end to suffering, an end to pain,
This time we mean it - Never Again.

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What we need to learn from the holocaust is quite simply that we need to speak out. We need to stand up and make ourselves heard when we feel something is wrong. Despite the tragedy of more than 60 years ago we as a people still sit by while similar atrocities happen across the world. People ignore them because they do not affect them directly however they are so quick to protest and complain about insignificant things like rubbish collection. We kid ourselves that there is nothing we can do, when there is. If we speak out, together we can halt such atrocities for good. People say that the holocaust “couldn’t happen here” because we would do something about it. But would we? Nazi officers took three British women Auguste Spitz, Marianne Grunfield and Therese Steiner to their deaths from their homes in Guernsey. Did the people speak out against this then? No they didn’t. This raises the question, could it happen again? Unfortunately I think it could, quite easily. This is why we need to continue to learn from the holocaust to make sure that future generations know it happened and that it should never happen again. We should not just learn from the suffering but also the stories of selflessness and bravery to encourage rather than discourage. But it is not for us to teach future generations to speak out; we need to speak out now. We need to speak out about Darfur, where 400,000 civilians have been killed directly and indirectly from civil war and nearly 3 million have been displaced. We don’t need to learn about the holocaust today, we need to learn about the holocaust now and pass the message on.

Josh Flew, Year 13

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Imagine. You're told that you can no longer enter certain areas of your home.
Imagine. You are told you must move to a barricaded ghetto.
Imagine. You haven't eaten in days. You are barely given scraps.
Imagine. You are forced into a cattle truck and travel in anguish for days.
Imagine. You are thrown out of this cattle truck and must line up in utter shock.
Imagine. The confusion as you try and gain bearing.
Imagine. Being asked your name, your age, and being sent into another line.
Imagine. You are told your family are going to wash. They never come back.
Imagine. The despair when you find out your entire family has been killed.
Imagine. Life after seeing death, seeing the Holocaust, experiencing hell.

The Holocaust.

So many lessons should've been learnt after the Holocaust. Yet, groups of people continue to be segregated due to their beliefs. Even today in France we see Roma Gypsies being exiled. Not because of crime they commit, because they don't, but because they are seen as an eyesore. And, even in Britain today we have four out of the five steps of genocide amongst us – hate speeches, racist groups and organisations, racial abuse and racial killings – all of which cannot be accepted. In Britain today generations of racists continue to grow. It is a trend that must be stopped. Peterborough – being a base for many refugees and asylum seekers – must continue to take steps to create a community that cares, and has respect for all; no matter what the colour, who the god, what the belief or what the disability.

Toby Abbs, Year 11

www.pledge-against-prejudice.tumblr.com

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I was inspired to take part in this because I attended a Holocaust survivors speech. Zigi Shipper's lack of hatred or anger towards the Nazi generation shows that there isn't any need for a continued hate or prejudice down later generations and that any negative feelings can be overcome, and worked through, if people had the patience and willingness to do so.

15 million lives, eradicated during the years of the Holocaust. 6 million of which were Jews, and a sickening 1.5 million were defenceless children. The Holocaust was a shocking and deplorable event, driven by hatred and racism. Even though the entire world vowed 'Never Again', in several parts of the world, such as Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur, genocides have and continue to tear communities apart and destroy families. While these events can seem overwhelming and removed from our world, I strongly believe that we, as a community, have lessons that we must take from the world around us in an effort to continue to strive to make 'Never Again' a true reality. By showing resistance to both racial discrimination and hatred towards others, we can bring a stop to the spread of these ideas. Instead we should work together and find a way round any barriers that prevent us from communicating more efficiently with other cultures.

And, as Zigi Shipper himself said, 'Why waste a life on hatred, we are all human'.

Catherine Cook, Year 11.