

Holocaust Memorial Day - 27 January 2014



▲ Mayor of London Boris Johnson with the JDA group at City Hall's Holocaust Memorial Ceremony

Holocaust Memorial Day is held each year on 27 January – the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. The largest concentration and extermination camp was liberated 69 years ago.

The purpose of Holocaust Memorial Day is to remember the Holocaust, Nazi persecution and subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. It reminds us what can happen if we do not take responsibility for tackling racism.

30 JDA members, led by JDA Executive Director Sue Cipin, attended the Holocaust Memorial Ceremony at City Hall, which was attended by the Mayor of London Boris Johnson.

The ceremony included an address and memorial prayer given by Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner, Head of the Movement for Reform Judaism.

A memorial candle was lit by Holocaust survivor Steven Frank and Rwanda genocide survivor Sophie Masereka, both of whom described how they lived through mass killings.

Sue Cipin, JDA Executive Director says: "Holocaust education has now evolved to remember not only the victims of Nazi persecution, but of all genocide. Genocide, anti-Semitism, racism and discrimination continue today. We have a shared responsibility to understand, reflect, teach future generations and fight these evils."



▲ JDA group with Rwanda genocide survivor Sophie Masereka (centre) who will give a talk at JDA on Sunday 11 May 2014 (see What's Happening!)