

MOTION ON NOTICE - HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY, 27 JANUARY 2016

Council recognises that the Holocaust shook the foundations of modern civilisation. Council believes that we must make sure that everyone especially future generations understand the causes of the Holocaust and reflects upon its consequences and lessons for today.

Council notes that:-

- Holocaust Memorial Day was established in the UK in 2001. It remembers and honours all the victims and survivors of the Holocaust under Nazi persecution and in the subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Kosovo, in regions like Darfur and Nineveh and the cities of Srebrenica and Halabja.
- Six million Jewish men, women and children perished in ghettos, mass-shootings, and concentration and extermination camps before any survivors were liberated by allied troops in 1945. Nearly half a million Gypsies and Travellers were also registered, sterilised and then deported to concentration camps by the Nazi's in an event they call the Porajmos (the 'devouring').
- Similar fates met gay men, lesbians and disabled people. Between 1933 and 1945, an estimated 100,000 men were arrested as homosexuals, of whom some 50,000 were officially sentenced with 15,000 incarcerated within concentration camps. Figures in relation to lesbians are not known but an estimated 200,000 disabled people were killed by the Nazis.
- Over a thousand events will be taking place around the UK on Holocaust Memorial Day and attending these will be Holocaust survivors. Locally, Solly Irving a Holocaust survivor is undertaking his annual visits to our schools to talk about his experiences. We will also hold our commemorative event at Mount Edgecumbe on 27th January starting at 11am.

Council recognises the significance of Holocaust Memorial Day as an opportunity for us all to remember the victims of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides. It also gives us the chance to pay tribute to those who survived and to ensure we remain aware of what can happen if prejudice, discrimination and hatred go unchallenged.

This Council resolves to:-

1. Promote the importance of Holocaust Memorial Day and other annual events which take a stand against genocide, anti-Semitism, racism, xenophobia and hate crimes.
2. Continue our development and promotion of Plymouth as a welcoming and inclusive City.
3. Condemns unfair discrimination against anyone - residents, visitors and new comers including refugees we have recently welcomed to Plymouth.

4. Foster a shared responsibility to create a better present and future for all by challenging the prejudiced views of a minority of people in our society who believe that race, religion, disability or sexuality makes some people's lives worth less than others.

Proposed by Councillor: Councillor Philippa Davey

Seconded by Councillor: Councillor Paul Jarvis