

Reading Materials for International Holocaust Remembrance Day

This blog contains reading materials about the Holocaust. The Holocaust poses unique challenges in the classroom. Effective resources facilitate dynamic teaching and help to support purposeful learning.

“FOR THE DEAD AND THE LIVING, WE MUST BEAR WITNESS” said Noble Peace Prize winner **Elie Wiesel**. **This means** We need to remember the terrible things about the Holocaust that would make things easier if we forgot this, but we need to remember this so we can prevent such a thing from happening again.

World War 2 and the Holocaust

- World War II was the largest war known to mankind. It was the deadliest conflict in human history, marked by 70 to 85 million (7 to 8.5 crore) fatalities. The war took place in vast regions of the earth, more than any other war: in China, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, North and Central Africa, Eastern Europe, Scandinavia, Western Europe, the Pacific and Japan, as well as at sea - in the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans and in the Mediterranean Sea.
- During this war, one of the most systematic genocides in the human history occurred called “the Holocaust”. Holocaust means killing in mass scale which can also be called genocide.

What is the Holocaust?

- In 1933, the Jewish population of Europe stood at over nine million. Most European Jews lived in countries that Nazi Germany would occupy or influence during World War II. By 1945, the Nazis and their collaborators killed nearly two out of every three European Jews as part of the "Final Solution," under the Nazi policy to murder the Jews of Europe. Although Jews, whom the Nazis considered a priority danger to Germany, were the primary victims of Nazi racism, other victims included some 200,000 Roma (Gypsies). In addition, at least 200,000 mentally or physically disabled patients, mainly Germans, living in institutional settings, were murdered in the so-called Euthanasia Program.

1933:

- The Nazi party takes power in Germany. Adolf Hitler becomes chancellor, or prime minister of Germany – Nazis 'temporarily' suspend civil liberties.
- The Nazis set up the first concentration camp. The first inmates are 200 Communists. Books with ideas considered dangerous to Nazi beliefs are burned.

1934:

- Hitler combines the positions of chancellor and president to become 'Führer' or leader of Germany.
- Jewish newspapers can no longer be sold in the streets.

1935:

- Jews are deprived of their citizenship and other basic rights.
- The Nazis intensify the persecution of political people that don't agree with his philosophy

1936:

- Nazis boycott Jewish-owned business.
- The Olympic Games are held in Germany; signs barring Jews are removed until the event is over.
- Jews no longer have the right to vote.

1942:

- Nazi officials discuss the 'Final Solution' - their plan to kill all European Jews - to the government officials.
- More and more extermination camps are being open- where the European Jewish population is being murdered systematically.

1943:

- In February: About 80 to 85 percent of the Jews who would die in the Holocaust have already been murdered

1944:

- Hitler takes over Hungary and begins deporting 12,000 Hungarian Jews each day to extermination camps where they are murdered.

1945:

- Hitler is defeated and World War II ends in Europe
- The Holocaust is over and the death camps are emptied.
- Many survivors are placed in displaced persons facilities.

1946:

- An International Military Tribunal (Judicial Assembly) is created by Britain, France, the United States, and the Soviet Union.
- At Nuremburg, Nazi leaders are tried for war crimes by the above Judicial Assembly

1947:

- The United Nations establishes a Jewish homeland, which became the State of Israel, in 1948.

What is hate speech?

- Hate speech is any kind of communication in speech, writing or behaviour, that uses judgmental or discriminatory language with reference to a person or a group on the basis of who they are based on their religion, ethnicity, nationality, race, colour, gender or other identity factor. This is often rooted in and generates intolerance and hatred and can be demeaning and divisive.

- Hate speech is a menace to democratic values, social stability and peace. We all confront hate speech at some point. Silence can signal indifference to intolerance and the vulnerable become victims.
- Tackling hate speech is crucial to deepen progress by helping to prevent armed conflict, atrocity crimes and terrorism, end violence against women and other serious violations of human rights, and promote peaceful, inclusive and just societies.

Unity in Diversity

- Unity in diversity is the defining characteristics of Nepali society. Mutual coexistence, tolerance and cooperation have guided the people in achieving social cohesion, peace and happiness. Diverse population is an asset, not a liability for the Nepali society.

VOCABULARY DEFINITIONS by The International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation, New York

Adolf Hitler: Austrian-born founder of the German Nazi Party and chancellor of the Third Reich, who ruled as an absolute dictator. (1933-1945). His evil regime was known for the extermination of millions of people, especially European Jews.

Authority: The power to carry out laws, command, determine, or judge; one that has power, especially a government or body of government officials.

Citizen: A resident of a city or town, especially one entitled to vote and enjoy other privileges there.

Citizenship: The position of a citizen with its duties, rights, and privileges.

Civic values: Values relating to, or belonging to a city, a citizen, or citizenship; municipal or civil.

Civil rights: The rights belonging to a citizen, such as civil liberties, due process, equal protection of the laws, and freedom from discrimination.

Democracy: Government ruled by the people.

Ethnic group: People of the same race or nationality who share a culture.

Genocide: The systematic and planned extermination of an entire national, racial, political, or ethnic group.

Hero: A man of distinguished courage or ability, admired for his brave deeds and noble qualities. A person who, in the opinion of others, has heroic qualities or has performed a heroic act and is regarded as a model or ideal.

Holocaust: The genocide of European Jews and others by the Nazis during World War II.

Human rights: The basic rights and freedoms to which all humans are entitled, often held to include the right to life and liberty, freedom of thought and expression, and equality before the law.

Ideology: A set of doctrines or beliefs that form the basis of a political, economic, or other system.

Individual rights to life: One of the principals upon which democracy is based.

Jews: One who practices the religion of Judaism, having its spiritual and ethical principles based upon the Hebrew Scriptures and the Talmud.

Justice: The quality of being just; fairness.

Nazi Germany: The Nazi dictatorship under Hitler (1933-1945).

Political systems: The members of a social organization who are in power.

Power: The might of a nation, political organization, or similar group.

Religion: A set of beliefs, values, and practices based upon a belief in a creator of the universe.

Respect for minority rights: One of the principals upon which democracy is based.

Terrorism: The unlawful use or threatened use of force or violence by a person or an organized group against people or property with the intention of frightening or forcing societies or governments, into action, often for ideological or political reasons.

Values: A principle, standard, or quality considered worthwhile or desirable.

World War II: A war fought from 1939 to 1945, in which Great Britain, France, the Soviet Union, the United States, China, and other allies defeated Germany, Italy, and Japan.

Materials by UN in Nepal

1. All about the Holocaust prepared by UN Nepal (Presentation Poster, poster to display, talking points, vocabulary and Nepali context):
<http://un.info.np/users/file/2020/The%20Holocaust%20Reading%20Materials.rar>

Global Sites:

2. UN official site for the Holocaust Remembrance -
<https://www.un.org/en/holocaustremembrance/>
3. The Holocaust and the United Nations Outreach Programme /Discussion Papers Journal /UN - https://www.un.org/en/holocaustremembrance/docs/pdf/dpj_I.pdf
4. Classroom materials /University College London -
<https://www.holocausteducation.org.uk/teacher-resources/materials/>
5. Film series: <https://www.un.org/en/holocaustremembrance/filmseries.shtml>