

Latest News

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Holocaust Memorial Day in Solihull

Over 200 residents and school children attended a memorial service to mark National Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January at Solihull Central Library.

This internationally recognised day honours the survivors and marks the tragic loss of life in the Holocaust and more recent genocides in Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda and Darfur.

Holocaust Memorial Day falls on the anniversary of the liberation of



the largest Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau, Poland. This year marks the 66th anniversary of that day. The official theme for this year's event was Untold Stories to help learn the lessons of the past and to help build a better future for everyone.

The Mayor of Solihull, Councillor Ian Courts, officially opened the Solihull Partnership event which was organised as part of its Solihull Faiths' Festival Programme. Prayers were led by local Rabbi Yehuda Pink, leader of Solihull Hebrew Congregation based in Olton.

Magda Bloom, a local Holocaust survivor, presented an emotional speech at the event about the horrors she experienced as a young child during the Holocaust. Following the service Magda shared many other personal stories with children from local schools.

Members of the Solihull Faiths' Forum (SFF) also spoke about other genocides following World War II. The service was concluded by a one-minute silence and the signing of a Commemoration Book.

Mayor of Solihull, Councillor Ian Courts, says: "I would like to thank everyone that attended today's memorial service. In keeping with the official theme of Untold Stories, we were presented with many interesting yet emotional stories to help remember those who were persecuted and murdered throughout these tragic genocides.

"Although this day is to remember the horrors of the past, we must not be naive in thinking that such atrocities may not take place again or that man's inhumanity to man is not even happening today. This is a day when everyone, from all our different communities, can come together and reflect on the potential consequences of racism and intolerance, and commit to creating a better, safer, and more inclusive society. We must strive to make a world where understanding and respect for others replaces one of aggression and discrimination," adds Cllr Courts.

PIC CAPTION: Mayor of Solihull, Councillor Ian Courts (left) with local Holocaust survivor Magda Bloom, and Rabbi Yehuda Pink at this year's Holocaust Memorial Day in Solihull.

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