

## **HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

On Saturday 27 January 2001 Britain will hold its first annual Holocaust Memorial Day. The day will provide a national mark of respect for all victims of Nazi persecution and also remember all those affected by recent acts of similar nature such as ethnic cleansing in Yugoslavia and Africa.

The choice of date (27 January) is in itself a powerful reminder of the tragic events of the Second World War. 27 January marks the anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi extermination camp at Amschwitz-Berkenau.

Local authorities are in a position to reach their local communities and act as democratic leaders in their areas. This event is an opportunity to forge such a partnership with our diverse communities in Buckinghamshire. It is also an opportunity to promote race equality in the wake of the strengthened Race Relations Act and the Human Rights Act. Holocaust Memorial Day is one in which local authorities may seek to demonstrate their compliance with a positive duty to promote race equality.

Local authorities are expected to receive guidance from central government on how to commemorate the Day and host events for the whole community.

The Holocaust Memorial Educational Trust have produced an educational pack for schools and educational institutions. Every school in the country will receive a free copy of the pack. This also provides an opportunity for our schools to develop curriculum work within the mainstream as part of History and Personal and Social Education work.

It is proposed that the Community Relations Forum should recommend to service departments to develop events and programme for marking this day in Buckinghamshire. It is also recommended that a ceremony be held centrally in the County on that day to signal the commitment of the County to the ideals of tolerance and respect for human life.

**Ranjit Dheer**  
**Director - Wycombe Racial Equality Council**

**30 November 2000**