

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Southampton Holocaust and Genocide Memorial Day 2023

Southampton will mark the UK's national Holocaust and Genocide Memorial Day (HMD) with a commemorative event organised by the Parkes Institute for the Study of Jewish/non-Jewish Relations, University of Southampton and hosted by Solent University.

Holocaust and Genocide Memorial Day is the annual, national commemoration and remembrance of victims of national, ethnic, racial, and/or religious persecution. It commemorates all people murdered in genocide. HMD traditionally takes place on 27<sup>th</sup> January each year. This date marks the liberation of Auschwitz Concentration Camp.

This year, the chosen theme is 'Ordinary People'. This theme speaks to many different 'ordinary' aspects of genocide; ordinary perpetrators, ordinary victims, and ordinary bystanders are all part of the history of genocide and the Holocaust. Further information on HMD and this year's theme can be found by visiting [www.hmd.org.uk](http://www.hmd.org.uk).

Southampton's HMD event will take place in the Palmerston Lecture Theatre at Solent University on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January from 6pm to 8pm (doors will open at 5.30pm). This event is hybrid, free, and all are welcome to attend. Those registering to attend online will be sent joining information with registration. Registration details can be viewed at <https://SotonHMD2023.eventbrite.co.uk>.

The University of Southampton and Solent University this year will mark the 'Holocaust by bullets' at Babyn Yar, Ukraine. The evening will feature a roundtable discussion with Professor Jeremy Hicks (Queen Mary University of London), Dr Markian Prokopovych (University of Durham), and Graham Cole (Parkes Honorary Fellow and Holocaust Education Trust) on the theme of Holocaust by bullets and the ethical and historical questions raised by Ukrainian filmmaker Sergei Loznitsa's recent film *Babi Yar: Context* (2021). This film will be screened at Union Films (University of Southampton) on 26<sup>th</sup> January. Please see below for further details.

There will also be a reading of poems based on the Cambodian Genocide by students from Solent University. Southampton school pupils' reflections from outreach workshops will be shared as part of the event. Refreshments will be available before and after the event, and after the event concludes attendees will be able to tour an exhibition and stalls featuring local community groups and charities related to HMD.

On Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January at 6pm, the Phoenix Film society at Union Films will co-host a screening of Loznitsa's film *Babi Yar: Context*. This screening is free to attend but, due to the nature of the film, it will be open to over 18s only. Those unable to attend the screening in-person will be offered the possibility to stream the film.

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