



Foundation Stones

Painting stones as a commitment to remember and learn from the past

Foundation Stones provides a meaningful and creative activity whatever your age. With help from this guide, learn about how you can take part and make a personal contribution to a new national Holocaust memorial. If you require further support please get in touch at FoundationStones@Big-Ideas.org

Introduction

You are invited to paint a stone in remembrance of the six million Jewish men, women and children murdered in the Holocaust and all other victims of Nazi persecution. You can also choose to dedicate your stone to those murdered in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. Foundation Stones from across the United Kingdom will become part of the new UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre in London. Each painted stone is a commitment to remember the past and to build a future free from all forms of prejudice, discrimination and hatred.

Why stones?

When visiting a Jewish grave, it is customary to leave a small pebble or stone on the headstone. By placing a stone on a grave, a Jewish person is symbolically helping to bury their loved one – something most families of Holocaust victims were unable to do.

The Holocaust and other victims of Nazi persecution

The Holocaust was the murder of six million Jewish men, women and children by Nazi Germany and its collaborators during the Second World War. The Nazis enslaved and murdered millions of others including Roma and Sinti, members of the LGBTQ+ community, people with physical and mental disabilities and political opponents.

The UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre

A new UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre is going to be built. The Memorial will be dedicated to the six million Jewish men, women and children who were murdered in the Holocaust and to all other victims of Nazi persecution. The Learning Centre will educate visitors on the Holocaust, Britain's response and subsequent genocides.

Artist's impression of the UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre design



How to take part

- 1.** Find a stone which fits in the palm of your hand. If you are able to go outside, try looking in your street or local park. If this is not possible try your garden or maybe even your fish tank!
- 2.** Think about what you want to say on your stone. Are you remembering a particular person, group or genocide? Are you saying something about your hopes for the future?
- 3.** Decorate your Foundation Stones. For this, you can use anything you have in the house. Paints, pens, collage, even nail varnish will work.
- 4.** Share photos of your stones on social media using #FoundationStones and tag a friend who you would like to see take part.
- 5.** Use the address below to post your safely packaged Foundation Stones to the Big Ideas office to be included in the Memorial.
Foundation Stones, Big Ideas
Unit 1, 465C Hornsey Road
London N19 4D
- 6.** Register your stone online to receive a digital certificate at www.big-ideas.org/foundationstonessubmission

Need inspiration?

Talk with the people around you about the project, what stands out to you, who would you like to commemorate on your stone?

Include yourself. Your stone is your personal commitment to remember. You might want to say something about yourself on your stone and why you are remembering.

Be uplifting. Think about images of beauty and life. Celebrate humanity. Decorate with birds, flowers, and faces. Send a positive message.

Think about some of the images and symbols you could use to commemorate the different groups of people who were targeted by the Nazis or who were victims of subsequent genocides.

Think about a future free from all forms of prejudice, discrimination and hatred. What would this future look like on your stone? Words such as peace, unity and acceptance are powerful ones.

And remember you don't have to be an artist. Every stone is unique and the simplest of designs or a few words can be extremely powerful.



A young Chelsea footballer painted the Star of David in his club's colours



A 98 year old woman painted this stone in memory of her mother



A child painted her favourite toy to give to the Memorial