

Holocaust Remembrance Day Organizing an Event - General Template

Program Element	Description	Resources
Opening Music	Sets the tone for the event and helps the participants to separate their daily lives from this occasion.	These resources can be found at HolocaustCenterSeattle.org/education/Holocaust-Remembrance-Day
Opening Remarks	Welcome audience. Address question of “Why we remember” and/or what this day commemorates.	Resource on Holocaust Remembrance Day - “Why We Remember” (9 min video, USHMM)
Candle Lighting Ceremony	Typically 7 candles are lit. 6 to represent the 6 million Jewish people killed and 1 candle to represent the non-Jewish victims. Individuals are selected for the honor of lighting a candle. These might include dignitaries, survivors, rescuers, descendants of survivors or others. Music may be played or a poem read.	
Keynote	Options for a keynote are many: request a survivor or descendent of a survivor to speak; show a film; invite a dignitary, political or religious leader to speak; a multimedia presentation by a scholar on a specific topic; a dramatic reading or a play	Film: With My Own Eyes Request a survivor or descendent to speak
Readings	Readings may be out loud or silent. Readings will depend on the audience and the theme.	Selected Readings. Samples might include poems “I Never Saw Another Butterfly,” “Each of Us Has A Name”
Closing Remarks	Remembering the past for a brighter future.	#changebeginswithme - add your photo to social media
Additional Resources and Elements	Consider setting up a display of books or posters. Please consider your audience. Avoid using graphic imagery.	Everyday Objects Posters Passports - stories of local survivors Want more? Email ilana@HolocaustCenterSeattle.org