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**While the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising ultimately failed to stop the Nazis and their collaborators from deporting the last remaining Jews, it has inspired generations since to honour the humanity of the victims.**

**Examine the way in which the memory of the ghetto uprising can be shown through poetry, art, music, dramatisation, or personal memoirs.**

**Your entry should show how you honour their humanity and their memories, and how it will continue to shape future generations.**

“Remember it didn’t start with Gas Chambers. It started with politicians dividing the people with “us vs them”. It started with intolerance and hate speech and when people stopped caring, became desensitised and turned a blind eye.” - Unknown

1939-1945, a significant part of history that will forever be remembered for the inhuman and unforgettable treatment the Jews suffered during the Holocaust. A war costing millions of innocent civilians their lives because their race, religion, beliefs or political views weren't acceptable in the eyes of one dictator and his army.

Approximately 11 million people lost their lives in a war of hate, love, bravery, sacrifice and resilience. For many the chance of escaping death was almost impossible, it was a choiceless choice. But how they died and what they were remembered for was one power every individual still held.

“To live and die with honour”, the Warsaw Ghetto uprising from the 19th April- 16th May 1943 was an incredible example of what it means to be an upstander. Led by 24 year old Mordechai Anielewicz, 700 untrained Jewish teenagers created the most stirring episode of resistance in the Holocaust inside the Warsaw Ghetto. Armed with only pistols and gasoline bombs to fight against 2000 heavily armed German Soliders, The Jews resistance was to choose their death. Were they going to give in and die the way the Germans wanted or were they going to put up the biggest fight of their life and die with dignity?

Sentenced to death, the remaining Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto were supposed to be transported to concentration camps in a routine operation carried out by the Nazi’s. The 28 day uprising in the Ghetto was the first time in history Nazi soldeirs had died in a Ghetto. This showed the Jews, the Nazi’s and world that change is possible if you are willing to be an upstander.

“Though it be to die, we will fight... we will fight not for ourselves but for future generations. Although we will not survive to see it, our murderers will pay for their crimes after we are gone. Our deeds will live forever.” As we follow the oath of never again, we hold the responsibility of ensuring the deeds of the fallen live forever. The actions and resistance movements created by the Jews in the Holocaust have taught future generations what it means to show courage, heroism, unity and standing up for what's right, even if the odds are against you. Their deeds and bravery have inspired the world to speak up, and not settle for anything less than what's right.

Black lives matter, the Rainbow community, the Ukrainian response to Russia are just a few movements the Ghetto uprising inspired. Without the Holocaust, the United Nations wouldn't have been formed with the purpose of “reaffirming faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of a human person.” Eleanor Roosevelt wouldn't have played a vital role in creating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, giving people a chance at equality, charities like I Am Hope wouldn't operate.

As a society we are close minded, we have an unspoken expectation to all live the same lifestyle. Have the same values, beliefs, work ethic, interests, same sexuality and religion. But realistically, we live in a world where you have to dare to be different, be proud of who you are, what you believe in and stand up for what you deem to be right. Without leaders like Mordechai Anielewicz and the Uprising no one would have shaped the path of individuality and acceptance. Leaders like Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King and Volodymyr Zelensky would not have had the courage to fight for their beliefs had the resistance in the Holocaust not showed the world that without conflict, fighting and upstanders there wouldn't be change.

The Uprising wasn't the only part of the Holocaust that paved the way to acceptance and change, it was the small actions that are easily forgotten. Germans hiding Jews to keep them alive, we just have to look at the story of Anne Frank to see how that one action saved so many lives, the kindertransport saving hundreds of children, civilians smuggling food to the Jews to keep them alive or even the a single Nazi guard helping a child escape a death camp. It's the small actions we take that may mean nothing to us at the time, but mean everything to the people we help. This is how we are remembered when we are gone, it's our legacy and our honour.

If there was one message I was to take from the Jewish response in the Holocaust, it would be a famous quote written by Holocaust Survivor Elie Wiesel “There may be a time where we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time where we fail to protest”. The Holocaust has shown me how to be an upstander, the power of unity, the importance of love, to count my blessings and always take time to acknowledge those who sacrificed everything. I believe International Holocaust Remembrance Day

should be a global public holiday, an event that has the power to stop the world for a day, make us reflect, and pay our respects to those who lost it all, just like ANZAC Day does in New Zealand, Australia and Turkey.

The uprising in the Holocaust is proof that actions speak louder than words. Through the actions taken by the Jews during the resistance, they left a legacy and died with honour. World War II showed us that love and unity can conquer all, if you are brave enough to dare to be different.