



MACCABI GB
For an *active* Jewish Community

20,000 Yellow Candles Lit in Powerful Global Holocaust Remembrance

Friday 25th April, London – On Wednesday evening, 23rd April, Jewish communities across the UK and around the world united to commemorate Yom HaShoah, the annual day of Jewish Holocaust remembrance. As part of Maccabi GB’s Yellow Candle project, 20,000 Yellow Candles were lit in memory of the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust.

The initiative saw widespread participation from individuals, families, schools, care homes, synagogues, and Jewish organisations around the globe. This year, Yellow Candles were lit not only across the UK but also in Hong Kong, the USA, Germany, France, Canada, Belgium, Italy, the Czech Republic, and Poland, demonstrating the project’s continued international growth and resonance.

Each Yellow Candle was accompanied by a biographical card sourced from the Yad Vashem archives, sharing the name, age, and—where known—place and date of death of a Holocaust victim. This personalised approach made each act of remembrance a poignant tribute to an individual life lost in the Shoah.

Thousands of participants used resources available at www.yellowcandleuk.org, including a home ceremony template designed to help families and communities mark Yom HaShoah with reflection and meaning.

A powerful national in-person ceremony, marking 80 years since the liberation of Bergen-Belsen by the British Armed Forces, was hosted by Yom HaShoah UK in Central London and attended by 4,000 people, with thousands more joining online. The event welcomed Home Secretary, the Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP, who spoke during the evening and the event also brought together Holocaust survivors, their descendants, and community leaders, including Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis and the Israeli Ambassador to the UK, Tzipi Hotovely.

In a deeply moving moment, six Yellow Candles were lit to represent the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust. These were lit by Holocaust Survivors, and second and third-generation descendants, symbolising the enduring responsibility to preserve memory and educate future generations.

To further commemorate the 80-year anniversary of the liberation, Maccabi GB organised a poignant procession, “80 Yellow Candles for 80 Years” where 80 community representatives each held a Yellow Candle, creating a powerful collective tribute to those who were lost and the passage of time since liberation.

As official media partner, The Jewish Chronicle played a key role in amplifying awareness of the Yellow Candle project.

The hashtag #yellowcandle saw widespread use on social media, with thousands of people posting photos and tributes, creating a powerful virtual memorial and uniting Jewish communities worldwide in shared remembrance.

Ashley Lerner, Chief Executive of Maccabi GB, said:

“Each Yellow Candle lit is a tribute to a life stolen in the Holocaust, and a commitment to never forget. Being present at the Yom HaShoah UK ceremony this year was incredibly moving. Standing alongside Holocaust survivors, descendants, and thousands of others in shared remembrance was a powerful reminder of why this project matters so deeply. Thank you to every individual, family, and community who lit a Yellow Candle this year and helped keep those memories alive.”

Maccabi GB extends heartfelt thanks to all those who made Yellow Candle 2025 possible, including: The Association of Jewish Refugees, Betty Messenger Charitable Foundation, The Charles Wolfson Charitable Trust, The Jewish Chronicle, We Are All Making a Difference, Yad Vashem UK Foundation, and Yom HaShoah UK.

Individuals can register their interest for next year’s Yellow Candle project, which will take place on Yom HaShoah, Monday 13th April, 2026 by visiting www.yellowcandleuk.org/registration

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About Maccabi GB

Maccabi GB is Britain’s leading Anglo-Jewish Sports, Health and Wellbeing Charity and has flourished for over 80 years. Part of a global movement operating in over 70 countries, our mission is to create inclusive sporting, community and educational experiences that strengthen Jewish identity, enhance wellbeing, and inspire engagement in the Jewish community, Israel and beyond.

Charity Number: 1098206

For additional information on Maccabi GB visit www.maccabigb.org

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