

Read the text of the Archbishop's address.

Life goes on but the end of the killing does not mark the end of the suffering. Liberation for the survivors is a two-edged sword. It brings an end to appalling dehumanisation and suffering but starts the rest of a life, often marked by memories of what has happened, memories that circle the psyche, looking for moments to recapture the personality, and which torture and humiliate again and again. The restoration of individuals and communities is our responsibility as a society that rightly holds to biblical Judeo-Christian injunctions to welcome the stranger in our midst and to seek the flourishing of all within our land.

I have just returned from a visit to Auschwitz/Birkenau, with 60 clergy; its witness is to appalling human suffering caused by the terrible collusion of the silent majority. Whilst Jews and others were caricatured and vilified by unscrupulous politicians and venal newspapers, there was an unquestioning acceptance by ordinary people. Life goes amid a culture of alternative facts, of post truth, of collusion with deeds which sing the tunes of evil, a culture which needs to be challenged at every level and in every conversation and debate in this country, if it is indeed to be a place of safety and healing for those fleeing tyranny and cruelty, if indeed life is to go on, flourishing and fully.

The Community Sponsorship Programme encourages grassroots organisations and communities to welcome Syrian refugees into homes and then to commit to support and encourage them as they are welcomed as full members of British society, irrespective of their faith or ethnicity. Life for them, after yet another place of indescribable suffering, is life that goes on when there is welcome and healing.

Participation in the scheme in partnership with Lambeth Council and the Home Office has called us at Lambeth Palace to act on what we say. The road to restoration begins with us. Yes, advocacy for the voiceless, justice for the disenfranchised; but here also, mercy for the refugee. Holocaust Memorial Day and the witness of the survivors cries out to those of these times for nothing less, so that life goes on.

Find out more about the Full Community Sponsorship scheme, including how to apply, [on the gov.uk website](#).

Earlier this month the Archbishop visited Auschwitz/Birkenau. You can read his reflections about the experience [here](#).

2 min read

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