



# World Day of Remembrance for road traffic victims

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every third Sunday in November



The UK's charity for  
road traffic victims

*Public remembrance is not for the benefit of victims to remember what happened to them.*

*Victims remember well what happened to them. Public reflection is the act of recognition.*

*It states to the victims and their families that their humanity is valued, that their loss is our loss and that their suffering is shared.*

Holocaust memorial day booklet, 2007



**Over 1.4 million  
people killed in  
2008**

## Why we remember

A road death is not a normal death but a sudden death that is violent and premature. The impact of such a traumatic event is often long-term, even unending...

Almost 4,000 people are killed and many hundreds of thousands injured on roads throughout the world every day. Many more have to cope with bereavement or the effects of injury and thus become part of the huge group of people affected by road carnage.

The World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims focuses on both the overall scale and the individual devastation caused by road deaths and injuries as well as the impact upon families and communities.

The day was originated in 1993 by RoadPeace, the UK charity for road traffic victims, as a

response to road crash victims' need for the same public recognition that is given to victims of other types of crime, disaster or war.

It is also a day to commend the work of those involved in the aftermath of a crash – including fire, police and ambulance teams, doctors, nurses and counsellors.

In the past, it has been left mainly to non-governmental victim organisations to offer assistance to fellow-victims and to try and change attitudes by highlighting the extreme human suffering caused by road traffic crashes.

An annual day of remembrance brings the devastating impact of road deaths and injuries and lack of support to the widest attention.

## A World Day of Remembrance

On 26 October 2005, the United Nations General Assembly called on member states and the international community to adopt and recognise the third Sunday in November of every year as the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims. The UN believes this is an appropriate acknowledgement for bereaved families and victims of road traffic crashes. It is also a way to draw attention to the consequences and costs of road crashes and to measures that can be taken to prevent them. Its aim is to remind governments and individual members of society of their responsibility to make road-use safer.

The World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims is now observed in countries in every continent of the world.

In November 2009, government ministers from around the world meet for the first time to discuss an ambitious ten year plan for road safety, their commitment to a Decade of Action to save lives on our roads. The UN recognises the need for urgent action, unwilling to accept the prediction that, if nothing changes, road fatalities will become the fifth leading cause of death worldwide by 2030.

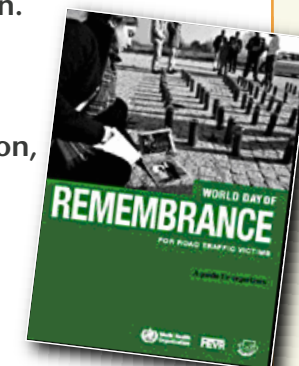
## Together in remembrance...

Please join others around the globe as they draw attention to this World Day of Remembrance to bring recognition and solace to many people and a change of attitude towards danger on our roads. Visit [www.wdr.org](http://www.wdr.org) for more information.

The World Health Organisation, RoadPeace and the European Federation of Road Traffic

Victims have developed a guide for those wishing to plan an event of remembrance and develop related advocacy materials to mark the day.

This document can be downloaded from: [www.who.int/violence\\_injury\\_prevention/publications/road\\_traffic/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/publications/road_traffic/en/index.html)



*“A common Day of Remembrance offers solidarity and friendship to our fellow bereaved, draws attention to the devastation caused by road danger and calls for an end to the carnage.”* Brigitte Chaudhry, RoadPeace founder and president of the European Federation of Road Traffic Victims

## How RoadPeace can help

You are encouraged to create acts of remembrance in your own way, whether in a religious service, remembrance ceremony, special concert, or other ways that bring together family, friends, schools and local communities.

Contact RoadPeace if you would like any of the following:

- help with publicising your event
- copies of the RoadPeace Anthology of readings and poems, many of which were written by RoadPeace members
- examples of previous services/ceremonies
- paper Oak Leaves, for inscription of names to be read out
- more copies of this leaflet

### About RoadPeace

RoadPeace is the UK's leading charity supporting people who are bereaved or injured as the result of a road crash. The charity was founded in 1992 in response to a complete lack of support and information during the traumatic aftermath of road death and injury. It is a membership charity, with local groups, working closely with organisations campaigning on behalf of pedestrians, cyclists and sustainable travel.

RoadPeace is a member of the European Federation of Road Traffic Victims (FEVR), an umbrella association of 25 national victim organisations with UN consultative status, through which it cooperates with the World Health Organisation and other international organisations working to reduce road danger.

Registered charity no: 1020364

### Further information

**RoadPeace**  
**Shakespeare Business Centre,**  
**245a Coldharbour Lane,**  
**London SW9 8RR**  
**t: 020 7733 1603**  
**[www.roadpeace.org](http://www.roadpeace.org)**  
**[info@roadpeace.org](mailto:info@roadpeace.org)**

### Helpline

Helping people through the aftermath of road crashes  
Monday to Friday,  
9am to 5pm  
**0845 4500 355**  
[helpline@roadpeace.org](mailto:helpline@roadpeace.org)