

## **World Day of Remembrance - events around the globe.**

On 21 November 2004 events took place around the world to mark the World Day of Remembrance. This Remembrance Day was introduced to offer road victims recognition of their loss and suffering. Instigated in 1993 by RoadPeace, a British charity dedicated to supporting road crash victims, since 1994, the third Sunday in November has been observed as European Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims with religious and secular events held in participating countries. However, the growing participation of countries around the globe in 2004 have turned this into a world event.

***In Evora, Portugal***, events for World Remembrance Day were organized by Estrada Viva Liga contra o Trauma (Living Road Coalition against Trauma Coalition), a group whose membership includes victims and families of victims, government representatives, students, and traffic police ([Brigitte..could you confirm this please](#)). A memorial dedicated to victims of road traffic crashes was opened for the event. The memorial was left in a public square for a week, but has since transferred to a permanent site in a garden outside the city that is strategically placed by the road leading to Lisbon.



Giraldo Square Memorial.

*The spirit of this celebration and public recollection of the memory of those who lost their lives or health on Portuguese roads represents recognition by society and the state of the tragic dimension of road crashes and helps survivors deal with the trauma - Portuguese press release, World Day of Remembrance, November 2004*



Lighting candles to remember road traffic victims in Portugal

***In Spain*** World Remembrance Day received much coverage in the national media, while public gatherings took place in a number of cities and towns. A minute's silence was observed in many towns, while many towns carried out further activities to remember their traffic victims: for example, in Zaragoza, silhouettes representing the deceased were shown, while in Valencia black ribbons represented those affected by traffic crashes.

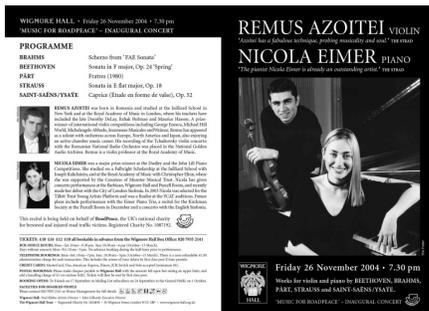


**Spanish poster for World Day of Remembrance**

**In Luxembourg** an interfaith ceremony, with participation from six religions, was held at a church, where a string quartet played. The day received considerable coverage in the local media.



**In London** a concert was held at the renowned Wigmore Hall in memory of an 18 year old boy tragically killed in a traffic crash. The concert was organized by RoadPeace and was attended by London's mayor Ken Livingstone.



*"We hope that knowing they are not alone or forgotten, will provide comfort to crash victims and a source of strength. We welcome the growing national and international support for our Remembrance Day - with millions of people across the globe we share sadness and despair, but also hope for an end to this preventable carnage."* UK press release

Other events included a tree planting ceremony in a Remembrance Garden in Lenasia, an Indian district of Johannesburg, South Africa; a wreath-laying

ceremony at a memorial to road victims in Nievre, France; a conference 'The day after a road crash' and a religious service in Rhodes, Greece; a 'March in white' of people dressed in white representing those killed and injured during one year in Luxemburg.