

Commemoration models 4 and 5 May

Examples of commemoration 4 May intercultural (Hoorn)

Silent Procession

This silent procession leads, as in many other towns, along a route with a special meaning. Monuments, buildings of places which remember the events from 1940-1945 are incorporated in the route. Maybe there are possibilities to emphasize/incorporate intercultural places in such a route.

Details/intercultural possibilities

- In Hoorn the route is walked just like the hostages did who were shot at the wall of the Groot Kerk.



- One of the hostages had an Indonesian background.
- On 4 places the route is marked by a hand, which every time expresses a different emotion (despair, anger, parting, consolation). The hand were thought of and made by Truus Menger. The hands express common human feelings.
- She also made the monument, near one of the hands, for the fallen crew of an English plane which crashed during the war near Hoorn.
- In Hoorn there was a synagogue; now there's a remembrance plaque.
- In front of the procession are representatives from a school. Many schools are intercultural; it can be shown in the delegation.

Contemplation

The silent procession often is preceded by a service in church.

- The cooperation could be asked to people from Surinam, Moluccan, jewish, islamic, humanist or another philosophy of life.
- They could participate as a minister, another representative or as a choir.



- The Council of Churches in Holland made a brochure on this. It's called: 'Celebrating together with people from other religions' and is made by the Council of Interreligious Meeting (2003).

Laying of wraths

Usually the silent procession is ended by laying wraths at a central monument. There's music and a few minutes silence, sometimes a speech.

- With the National Commemoration at the Dam more groups became involved during the years. In the National Monument are urns with soil from all provinces. In 1950 also an urn with soil from Indonesia was added. Only much later official representatives from Surinam and the Antilles were invited to lay wraths. Now it's a common practice.
- In the same way representatives from different local groups could be invited.
- If there's a speech, it gives the opportunity to talk about the intercultural character of commemoration and liberation.



Remembrance concert

On Commemoration and Liberty Day, many cities have concerts.

- In Hoorn every year there are different musical groups. This gives the opportunity to invite different ensembles. Also texts are recited: older students read personal texts and poems.

Exposition

Sometimes 4 and 5 May is connected to an exposition of pictures and object concerning 1940-1945.

- On basis of the available historic information about the Second World War in Asia, in the Caribbean, and about the role of Surinam, the Antilles, Morocco and Turkey it's a good thing to broaden the perception of WWII.

Schools

Many schools pay, one way or another, attention to the commemorations and celebrations of 4/5 May and sometimes also to 14/15 August. Often schools take part in commemorations (see above). There are lots of possibilities.

- In Hoorn representatives from the former resistance are invited to tell about the war and the liberation. This generation from the resistance during the war is aged now. A visit to a school therefore is quite a task.



- Think also about the second generation, and about Indonesian, Surinam, Antillian, Moluccan, Jewish or other representatives of publishers.
- For instance in Amsterdam Moroccan students gave special classes about the role of Morocco during the Second World War.
- Children can be asked to write something themselves. An immigrant student recited a personal poem at the concert in Hoorn.
- Older students can ask their parents and their family about what happened to the family during the period 1940-1945.

Liberation Festival (Haarlem)



The Haarlem music-, theatre- and information festival already dates from 1994 and is the oldest in the country, somewhat older than the festivals from Amsterdam and Wageningen. It also has the highest visitor number: 150,000.

Since 1994 in all states and in the capital there are Liberation Festivals (13) which, coordinated by the National 4-5 May Committee, co-operate in a network. Their aim is to give a meaning to the historic message of liberation from a undemocratic and racist regime (1940-1945), especially by popmusic or other music for the younger generation (see www.bevrijdingspop.nl en www.my-productions.nl). A nationwide poll under the visitors of the 13 festivals shows (see www.herdenkenenvieren.nl):

- 87% of the festival visitors believe that the celebration of 5 May has a special meaning by dwelling on the values of liberty, human rights and democracy

- 97% of the festival visitors is enthusiastic about the formula and think these festivals should also take place in the future
- 66% thinks in the future there could be paid more attention to the theme and the meaning of 5 May.

The festival isn't specifically aiming at a multicultural public. Because the celebration in the Haarlemmerhout free, all kinds of people are attracted to it, including immigrants from Haarlem. At performances of Turkish or Moroccan artists temporarily there are a more immigrants in the public. No scores are kept about the numbers of immigrant of native visitors.

Multicultural Festival (Haarlem)



The Haarlemmerhout festival isn't on 5 May but in June. This festival is deliberately more multicultural. There's a lot of world music and a special immigrants stage (see www.multiplex.nl).

Play Back Show and Fair (Hoorn)



In Hoorn the local Comittee 4-5 May organises a Liberation market with stalls (9-18 uur). The rent is about € 20,-.

It's a jumble sale for volunteers, it's not allowed to sell food.

In the afternoon there's a mini playback show.

From 5-7 May at the Rode Steen there's a Liberation fair.