

EVERY
CASUALTY
COUNTS

Interfaith groups

A guided discussion

ECC Witness Circles

A conversation about the people
behind the numbers

everycasualty.org



You're welcome here

1

We'll hear one person's story.

2

We'll talk honestly.
Every question is welcome.

3

Nothing you say leaves this room.

4

You don't need to be an expert, or agree on politics.

“One man's death is a tragedy. A million deaths is just a statistic.”

Attributed to Stalin

“If I look at the mass, I will never act. If I look at the one, I will.”

Mother Teresa

Everything in this conversation lives between these two sentences.

Meet one person

Instructions

Choose one profile from ECC's Memorial
memorial.everycasualty.org

Read it aloud, slowly. Then hold a
moment of silence together.



Record. Recognise. Remember.

Casualty recording is the painstaking effort to document every death in a conflict – the name, the age, the place, the circumstances – one person at a time.

Done right, it is complex, including many overlapping facets.

Around the world, a network of local organisations does this heartbreaking work, often by interviewing surviving families, and often at personal risk.

It underpins accountability, legal cases, compensation – and the right of a family simply to know the fate of the person they lost.



Recording the dead is an act of dignity.



It protects the living

records can serve as evidence for accountability and justice.



It restores identity

ensuring every life matters, and is remembered.



It refuses the idea

that anyone is “collateral damage.”

War devalues human life. Casualty Recording is the work that restores that value.

Every tradition honours its dead

Different words, different rites – the same refusal. No tradition in this room treats a death as a number. Each insists, in its own voice, that a life has a worth the world did not give and the world cannot take away.

We do not have to share a theology to share this.

Instructions

Share how your own tradition honours and remembers the dead – a teaching, a practice, a prayer. Speak for your own practice; no one is asked to represent a whole faith.



“Whoever destroys a single life destroys an entire world;
and whoever saves a single life saves an entire world.”

Mishnah, Sanhedrin 4:5

“Whoever kills a soul... it is as if he had slain all of
humanity; and whoever saves one, it is as if he had
saved all of humanity.”

Qur'an 5:32

Two traditions, one sentence. A single life is an entire world.

Mourning each other's dead

In public life, grief is too often ranked – some deaths mourned everywhere, others passed over in silence. Many in this room will know what that feels like from the inside.

Casualty recording is the refusal of that ranking: every life recorded with the same care, whoever the person was, whoever killed them.

When we mourn one another's dead, we become one another's witnesses.



Let's talk

Instruction

One question at a time. Gentle and respectful voices – off politics, onto people and dignity. There are no right answers, and every voice should be heard.

Question 1

Did anything change for you when we read one person's story? How did you feel?

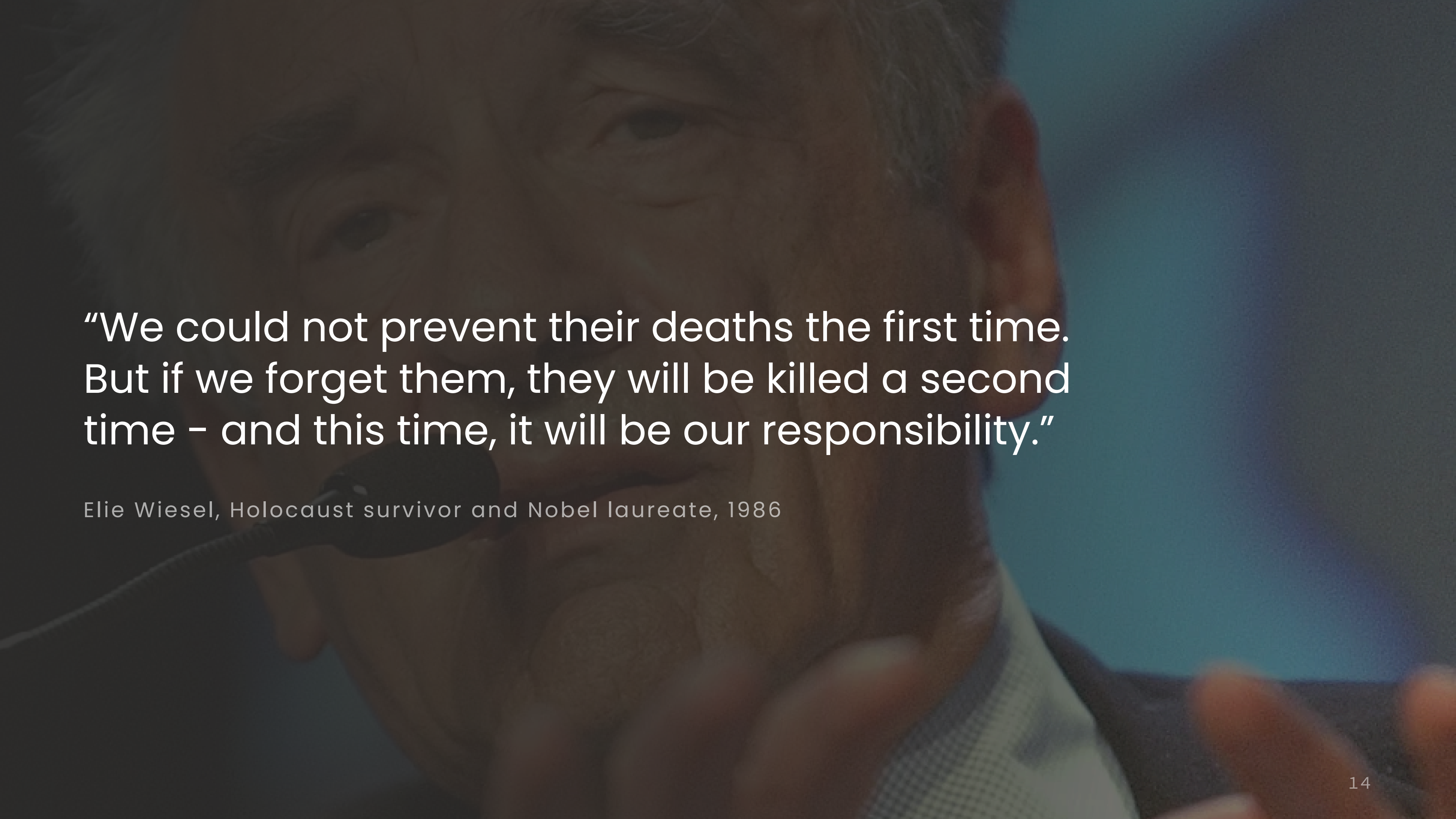
Question 2

Why does knowing someone's name and story matter?

Question 3

Life is precious.

What does that ask of us when the lives lost are strangers, far away, or “on the other side”?



“We could not prevent their deaths the first time.
But if we forget them, they will be killed a second
time – and this time, it will be our responsibility.”

Elie Wiesel, Holocaust survivor and Nobel laureate, 1986

We remember them by name

From mourning to hope and peace.

Instructions

We will read a handful of names from ECC's Memorial aloud, with a pause after each. As we read each name, choose one act of remembrance:

- 1 light a candle for each name
- 2 lay a stone in a bowl
- 3 hold a minute of silence



What will you do to ensure each life lost to war is remembered with dignity?

A small, personal commitment – to carry out of this room and into your own life.

Some people choose to

Lay a flower on Remembrance Day for someone whose name they learned

Light a candle on their birthday

Say a name aloud, and share their story with someone

Return to the Memorial when they are ready, and meet another person



Stay part of the circle.

1

Host it again

Bring this conversation to another circle – a neighbouring congregation, another interfaith network, a community gathering.

2

Join us in November

A new edition of ECC's Memorial is released this November, with a memorial event for all in London on Remembrance Sunday.

3

Join the Remembrance Collective

everycasualty.org/RC

and **sign up to the newsletter**, which keeps you close to the work. You can also support ECC's mission there.



Every life deserves recognition.

By honouring the losses of the past, we can build a more peaceful future for everyone.

Instructions

Let us close with a shared moment of silence – followed, for those who wish, by prayer or reflection in their own tradition.

**EVERY
CASUALTY
COUNTS**

everycasualty.org