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Holocaust Organizations, Scholars and Educators Sound Alarm on Surge in Hate Crimes

Issue Call to Action to Lawmakers, Media, and Citizens

In a powerful statement, an international group of Holocaust institutions, scholars, and educators around the world denounce racism and sound the alarm on the rise of intolerance, hate speech, and hate crimes. These **ninety institutions** and **seventy-one individuals** urge lawmakers and the media to disempower white nationalist groups. Terezín Music Foundation is proud to be among the signatories.

The statement is as follows:

Recent months have seen a surge in unabashed racism and hate speech – including blatant antisemitism and attacks on Hispanics, Muslims, African-Americans, women, the LGBTQ community, as well as other targeted groups. Journalists have been threatened. Places of worship, schools and playgrounds have been defaced with Nazi symbols intended to intimidate and arouse fear. White supremacist groups have become self-congratulatory and emboldened.

As Holocaust scholars, educators and institutions, we are alarmed by these trends. History teaches us that intolerance, unchecked, leads to persecution and violence. We denounce racism and the politics of fear that fuels it. We stand in solidarity with all vulnerable groups. We take Elie Wiesel's words to heart: "I swore never to be silent whenever and wherever human beings endure suffering and humiliation."

Therefore, we call upon all elected officials as well as all civic and religious leaders to forcefully and explicitly condemn the rise in hate speech and any attacks on our democratic principles. We call upon all media and social media platforms to refuse to

provide a stage for hate groups and thus normalize their agenda. And we call upon all people of good conscience to be vigilant, to not be afraid, and to speak out.

This statement is co-authored by members of the Association of Holocaust Organizations, a network dedicated to the advancement of Holocaust education, remembrance and research, and is affirmed by the following institutions and individuals:

Organizational Signatories

Anne Frank Center for Mutual Respect, Steven Goldstein, Executive Director, New York, NY

Birmingham Holocaust Education Center, Rebecca C. Dobrinski, Executive Director, Birmingham, AL

CANDLES Holocaust Museum and Education Center, Kiel Majewski, Executive Director, Terre Haute, IN

Center for Holocaust and Genocide Education, College of Saint Elizabeth Dr. Amy Weiss, Director, Morristown, NJ

The Center for Holocaust and Humanity Education, Sarah Weiss, Executive Director, Cincinnati, OH

Center for Holocaust Awareness & Information (CHAI), Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester Bonnie Abrams, Director, Rochester, NY

Center for Holocaust, Genocide, & Human Rights Studies, University of North Carolina at Charlotte Prof. John Cox, Director, Charlotte, NC

Center for Holocaust, Human Rights & Genocide Education (CHHANGE), Brookdale Community College Dale Daniels, Executive Director, Lincroft, NJ

Center for Judaic, Holocaust and Peace Studies, Appalachian State University Prof. Thomas Pegelow Kaplan, Director, Boone, NC

The Center for the Study of Anti-Semitism, Museum of Jewish Heritage -- A Living Memorial to the Holocaust Abraham H. Foxman, Director, New York, NY

Center for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide, Sonoma State University Prof. Myrna Goodman, Director, Rohnert Park, CA

Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Keene State College Prof. Henry Knight, Director Keene, NH

The Colorado Holocaust Educators, Todd Hennessy, Director, Denver, CO

Columbia Holocaust Education Commission, Lilly S. Filler, M.D., Co-Chair Lyssa Harvey, Co-Chair, Columbia, SC

The Council of Holocaust Educators, Colleen Tambuscio, President, Trenton, NJ

Darfur and Beyond, Cory Williams, Co-Founder, Phoenix, AZ

Dayton Holocaust Resource Center, Dr. Renate Frydman, Director, Dayton, OH

El Paso Holocaust Museum & Study Center, Lori Shepherd, Executive Director, El Paso, TX

Esther Raab Holocaust Museum & Goodwin Education Center, Helen Kirschbaum, Director, Cherry Hill, NJ

Evidence of Holocaust, Yakov Zakon, Director, Chicago, IL

Eyes from the Ashes Educational Foundation, Ann Weiss, Director, Bryn Mawr, PA

Facing History and Ourselves, Roger Brooks, President and CEO; Julie Leff, Chair, Board of Directors, Brookline, MA

Finnish Holocaust Remembrance Association, Oula Silvennoinen, Chairman, Helsinki, Finland

Fundación Memoria Viva, Karen Codner, CEO, Santiago, Chile

Galicia Jewish Museum, Jakub Nowakowski, Director, Krakow, Poland

Generations of the Shoah International (GSI), Esther Finder, Member of the Coordinating Council

Gulf Coast Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education, Dr. Donald Berry, Co-Director, Mobile, AL

Haiti Jewish Refugee Legacy Project, Harriet and Bill Mohr, Founders, Menlo Park, CA

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Herbert and Leonard Littman Families Holocaust Resource Center, Rutgers University Karen Small, Associate Director, New Brunswick, NJ

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Holocaust Center for Humanity, Dee Simon, Executive Director, Seattle, WA

Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh, Dr. Lauren Bairnsfather, Director, Pittsburgh, PA

The Holocaust Commission of the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater, Elena Barr Baum, Director, Virginia Beach, VA

The Holocaust Council of Greater MetroWest, Barbara Wind, Director, Whippany, NJ

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Holocaust Education Resource Council, Barbara Goldstein, Executive Director, Tallahassee, FL

Holocaust Educational Foundation, Northwestern University Sarah Cushman, Director, Evanston, IL

Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Project, Monroe Community College Prof. Regina Fabbro, Endowed Chair, Rochester, NY

Holocaust Learning and Education Fund, Inc., Craig R. Weiner, President, Fort Lauderdale, FL

Holocaust Memorial & Tolerance Center of Nassau County, Steven Markowitz, Chair, Board of Directors, Glen Cove, NY

Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach, Sharon Horowitz, Executive Director, Miami Beach, FL

Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio, Ellen Ollervidez, Director, San Antonio, TX

Holocaust Memorial Resource & Education Center of Florida, Pam Kancher, Executive Director, Maitland, FL

Holocaust Museum and Learning Center, Jean Cavender, Executive Director, St. Louis, MO

Holocaust Museum Houston, Dr. Kelly J. Zúñiga, CEO, Houston, TX

Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo, Mara Koven-Gelman, Executive Director, Buffalo, NY

Holocaust Survivors & Friends Education Center, Shelly Z. Shapiro, Director, Albany, NY

Holocaust Theater International Initiative, National Jewish Theater Foundation Arnold Mittelman, President, Coral Gables, FL

Human Security Initiative, Dr. Gregory Weeks, Director, Vienna, Austria

Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, Susan L. Abrams, CEO, Skokie, IL

Institute for Holocaust & Genocide Studies, Raritan Valley Community College Peppy Margolis, Director, Branchburg, NJ

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Jewish Partisan Educational Foundation, Elliott Felson, President, San Francisco, CA

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Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust, Beth Kean, Interim Director, Los Angeles, CA

The Memorial Library and Art Collection of the Second World War, David A. Field, Vice-President, New York, NY

The Memory Project Productions, Laurie Weisman, Executive Director, New York, NY

Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, Michael S. Glickman, President & CEO, New York, NY

Music of Remembrance, Mina Miller, President & Artistic Director, Seattle, WA

National Catholic Center for Holocaust Education, Seton Hill University Prof. Tim Crain, Director, Greensburg, PA

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Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education, Judith Margles, Director, Portland, OR

Philadelphia Center on the Holocaust, Genocide & Human Rights, Dr. Marcia Sachs Littell, President, Philadelphia, PA

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Remember the Women Institute, Dr. Rochelle G. Saidel, Founder and Director, New York, NY

Remember Us, Samara Hutman, Director, Santa Monica, CA

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