Holocaust Organizations and Historians Urge Action to Preserve
US Government Agency that Monitors Anti-Semitism

(New York, NY) – With reports surfacing that the President plans to defund the U.S. State Department’s Office to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, more than 100 Holocaust institutions, scholars, and educators from around the world are calling on government officials not to cut, but to maintain and strengthen the office. These institutions and individuals cite the recent examples of hatred, xenophobia, and racism spreading across the nation and ask the public to call Congressional and Senate offices.

The statement is as follows:

The undersigned Holocaust remembrance organizations, educators, and historians ask you to **speak out and take action** against hatred.

We are alarmed by reports that the President **plans to defund** the US State Department’s Office to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, an office that tracks and counteracts anti-Semitism abroad. Ira Forman, the most recent Special Envoy in charge of that office, was our voice to a world in the throes of xenophobia and racism. He recently wrote, “Anti-Semitism is not only a Jewish problem; Jew-hatred — like other forms of religious and ethnic prejudice — is a threat to the very foundations of liberal democracies.”

We urge the US government to **maintain and strengthen** the State Department’s Office to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism and to **create a new office** to address this urgent issue domestically. The need becomes clearer by the day as hatred, like a tidal wave, sweeps across the nation. Cemeteries, synagogues, churches and mosques are being desecrated. Jewish Community Centers and schools are targets of bomb threats and shootings. Swastikas and white supremacist threats appear on walls and on social media. **Now is the time to increase vigilance, not roll it back.**

**ACT NOW. Call Your Representatives in Congress and the Senate.**

*Ask them to preserve the State Department’s Office to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism and to create such an office to fight domestic anti-Semitism as well.*

Senate: goo.gl/u9SBbX  Congress: goo.gl/paBNA
Additional Actions You Can Take
Call your state representatives and ask them to fund educational programs designed to stop hatred and bullying — programs that build character and promote civics. Get involved with your school boards and interfaith groups. Talk to your neighbors. Rally in your town to promote tolerance and support victims of anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, racism, sexism and discrimination in all its forms.

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

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

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

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

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

Connecticut
Holocaust Child Survivors of Connecticut
Mrs. Agnes Vertes, President
Weston, CT

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

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

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

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

**Iowa**
**The Sparks Fly Upward Foundation**
Prof. Cathy Lesser Mansfield, Executive Director
Des Moines, IA

**Kansas**
**Midwest Center for Holocaust Education**
Jean Zeldin, Executive Director/CEO
Overland Park, KS

**Maryland**
**Baltimore Jewish Council**
Howard Libit, Executive Director
Baltimore, MD

**Jewish Museum of Maryland**
Marvin Pinkert, Executive Director
Baltimore, MD

**Massachusetts**
**Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston**
Jeremy Burton, Executive Director
Boston, MA

**Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies**
Clark University
Dr. Mary Jane Rein, Executive Director
Worcester, MA

**Terezin Music Foundation**
Kate Gascoigne, Board Member
Boston, MA
Michigan
Hidden Children and Child Survivors of Michigan
Rene Lichtman, Co-Chair
Detroit, MI

Minnesota
Center for Holocaust and Genocide Education
St. Cloud State University
Dr. Daniel Wildeson, Director
St. Cloud, MN

Tolerance in Motion
Laura Zelle, Director
Minneapolis, MN

World Without Genocide
Mitchell Hamline School of Law
Dr. Ellen J. Kennedy, Executive Director
St. Paul, MN

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

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

New Hampshire
Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies
Henry Knight, Director
Keene, NH

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

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

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

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

**New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education**
Lawrence M. Glaser, Executive Director
Trenton, NJ

**New Mexico**
**Holocaust & Intolerance Museum of New Mexico**
Lyn Berner, Administrator
Albuquerque, NM

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

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

**Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Project**
Jodi Oriel, Director
Rochester, NY

**Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Project**
Regina Fabbro, Endowed Chair
Rochester, NY

**Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center**
Millie Jasper, Executive Director
White Plains, NY

**Holocaust Memorial & Tolerance Center of Nassau County**
Steven Markowitz, Chair
Glen Cove, NY
Holocaust Museum & Center for Tolerance and Education
Andrea Winograd, Executive Director
Suffern, NY

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

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

Sousa Mendes Foundation
Dr. Olivia Mattis, President
Huntington, NY

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

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

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

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

Ruth Fagerman Markowicz Holocaust Resource Center of Greater Toledo Ohio
Hindea Fagerman, Director
Toledo, OH

Oregon:
Holocaust and Genocide Studies Project
Portland State University
Amanda Smith Byron, Director
Portland, Oregon

Pennsylvania

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

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

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

**World Federation of Jewish Child Survivors of the Holocaust and Descendants**
Stefanie Seltzer, President
Bala Cynwyd, PA

South Carolina

**Columbia Holocaust Education Commission**
Dr. Lilly S. Filler, Co-Chair
Columbia, SC

**The Selden K. Smith Foundation for Holocaust Education**
Minda Miller
Columbia, SC

Tennessee

**Tennessee Holocaust Commission**
Danielle Kahane-Kaminsky, Executive Director
Nashville, TN

Texas

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

Virginia

**The Virginia Holocaust Museum**
Dr. Charles W. Sydnor, Acting Executive Director
Richmond Virginia
Washington
Music of Remembrance
Dr. Mina Miller, President and Artistic Director
Seattle, WA

The Ray Wolpow Institute for the Study of the Holocaust, Genocide, and Crimes Against Humanity
Western Washington University
Dr. Sandra Alfers, Director
Bellingham, WA

Wisconsin
Nathan and Esther Pelz Holocaust Education Resource Center
Dr. Shay Pilnik, Executive Director
Milwaukee, WI

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

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

Individual Signatories

Alabama
Prof. Dan J. Puckett
Department of History
Troy University
Montgomery, AL

Ms. Phyllis Weinstein, Founding President
Birmingham Holocaust Education Center
Birmingham, AL

California
Marcia Reines Josephy
Josephy Exhibitions
Los Angeles, CA
Dr. Arthur B. Shostak  
Drexel University  
Emeritus Professor of Sociology  
Alameda, CA

Dr. Bill Younglove, Instructor and Teacher Supervisor  
California State University Long Beach  
Lakewood, CA

Connecticut  
Prof. Emerita Mira Binford  
Department of Communications  
Quinnipiac University  
Hamden, CT

Florida  
Mark R. Freid, Board President  
Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center of Florida  
Orlando, FL

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

Dr. Miriam Klein Kassenoff  
Holocaust Educator, Author, and Child Survivor  
Miami Beach, FL

Holly Mandelkern, Author and Holocaust Educator  
Winter Park, FL

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

Dr. Leon Weissberg, Holocaust Educator  
LTW Educational Consultants  
Hollywood, FL

Illinois  
Ethan Bensinger, Documentary Filmmaker  
Bensinger Global Media  
Deerfield, IL
Maryland
Nancy Civin, Holocaust Educator
Baltimore, MD

Jeanette Parmigiani, Director of Holocaust Programs
Baltimore Jewish Council
Baltimore, MD

Marsha Tishler, Holocaust Educator and Survivor
Rockville, MD

Massachusetts
Jan Darsa, Senior Associate for Jewish Education
Facing History and Ourselves
Brookline, MA

Mark Ludwig, Executive Director
Terezin Music Foundation
Boston, MA

Michigan
Dr. Henry Greenspan, Founder
Working Group on Integrity in Holocaust Remembrance
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI

Dr. Margaret Lincoln, Holocaust Educator
Battle Creek, MI

Dr. Jamie L. Wraight, Director
The Voice/Vision Holocaust Survivor Oral History Archive
The University of Michigan – Dearborn
Dearborn, MI

Nevada
Raymonde Fiol, Past President
Holocaust Survivors Group of Southern Nevada
Las Vegas, NV

New Hampshire
Prof. Paul Vincent, Chair
Department of Holocaust & Genocide Studies
Keene State College
Keene, NH

Thomas White, Coordinator of Educational Outreach
Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies
Keene, NH

New Jersey
Dr. Harvey R. Kornberg, Director
Koppelman Holocaust Center
Rider University
Lawrenceville, NJ

Peppy Margolis, Director of Community Programs
Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies
Branchburg, NJ

Prof. Ann L. Saltzman, Director Emerita
Center for Holocaust/Genocide Study
Drew University
Madison, NJ

Dr. Harriet Sepinwall, Professor Emerita
College of Saint Elizabeth
Morristown, NJ

New York
Prof. Mehnaz Afridi, Director
Holocaust, Genocide and Interfaith Education Center
Manhattan College
Riverdale, NY

Bonnie Gurewitsch, Retired Archivist and Curator
Museum of Jewish Heritage — A Living Memorial to the Holocaust
New York, NY

Prof. Patricia A. Kress
Department of Psychology
Monroe Community College
Rochester, NY

Dr. Dan Leshem, Director
Kupferberg Holocaust Center
Queensborough Community College
Bayside, NY

Dr. Jud Newborn, Author and Multimedia Lecturer
Sophie Scholl and the White Rose Resistance Project
Founding Historian, Museum of Jewish Heritage (1986-2000)
New York, NY

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

Jill L. Santiago, Holocaust Educator
Suffolk County Community College
Selden, NY

Dr. William L. Shulman, President
Association of Holocaust Organizations
Hollis, NY

Prof. Angelique Stevens
Department of English/Philosophy
Monroe Community College
Rochester, NY

Dr. Jill Vexler, Anthropologist and Curator
New York, NY

Prof. Lenore J. Weitzman
Vice-President, Jewish Book Council
Visiting Scholar, NYU Department of History
New York, NY

Carla Wittes, Director of Program
March of Remembrance and Hope (Canada)
New York, NY

Ohio
Prof. Emeritus Marty J. Kalb
Department of Fine Arts
Ohio Wesleyan University
Delaware, OH

Lilly Kurtz, Board Member
Center for Holocaust and Humanity Education
Cincinnati, OH

Oregon
Sonia Marie Leikam
Holocaust and Genocide Educator
Portland, OR

Pennsylvania
Jeanette Friedman
Holocaust and Human Rights Educator and Author
Paradise Valley, PA

Prof. Jonathan Friedman, Director
Holocaust and Genocide Studies
West Chester University
West Chester, PA

Amanda J. Hornberger, Coordinator
Lakin Holocaust Library & Resource Center
Reading, PA

Prof. Emeritus Arthur B. Shostak
Department of Sociology
Drexel University
Philadelphia, PA

South Carolina
Leah F. Chase, Board Member
South Carolina Council on the Holocaust
Charleston, SC

Eileen Chepenik, Chair
South Carolina Council on the Holocaust
Charleston, SC

Dr. Lilly Filler, Secretary
South Carolina Council on the Holocaust
Columbia, SC

Mrs. Lyssa Harvey, Ed.S, Co-Chair
Columbia Holocaust Education Commission
Columbia, SC

Prof. Emeritus Kevin Lewis
Washington
Ilana Cone Kennedy, Director of Education
Holocaust Center for Humanity
Seattle, WA

Nancy Powell, Director
The Powell Heller Holocaust Education Conference
Tacoma, WA

Prof. Emeritus Ray Wolpow
Western Washington University
Bellingham, WA

International
Beth Dotan, Former Director
Institute for Holocaust Education Omaha
Shimshit, Jezreel Valley
Israel

Marco Gutewort, Historian and Deputy Chairman
Castle and Memorial Site Lichtenburg
Bad Schmiedeberg, Saxony-Anhalt, Germany

Ilana Krygier Lapides, Director of Holocaust and Human Rights Education
Calgary Jewish Federation
Calgary, Canada