

All members of the House of Lords

24th March 2025

The decision to build the UK's national Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre has taken far too long.

In a world where antisemitism is once again rising - on our streets, online and in public discourse - this memorial is not just important, it is urgent. In these troubled times, a clear and permanent symbol of remembrance in the heart of our democracy would be one of the most powerful ways the United Kingdom can show that it has not forgotten the past and will not turn away from its lessons. The proposed Memorial and Learning Centre is not only about honouring those who perished, but about who we are today and what we stand for as a nation. It must stand as a beacon of truth, of warning and of hope.

I write to you from a deeply personal place. My charity, the '45 Aid Society, was founded by a remarkable group of child Holocaust survivors who arrived in Britain in 1945. A total of 732 children - many of whom had lost their entire families in gas chambers or on death marches - were brought to the UK to begin new lives, having survived the most horrific chapter in modern history. Despite the trauma they carried, these children showed extraordinary strength and resilience. They became model citizens. They were eternally grateful to their adopted country. And they understood why it was essential that their experiences be passed down, not hidden away.

In 1963, they came together to form the '45 Aid Society - not only to support one another but to ensure that the world never forgot what had happened. They believed that education was the strongest defence against hatred.

Today, their children and grandchildren carry on that legacy. Through outreach, education and remembrance, we strive to ensure that their message continues: that silence and indifference must never be allowed to prevail again.

This is why I - and so many others - urge you to ensure that the national UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre in Victoria Tower Gardens is built without further delay.

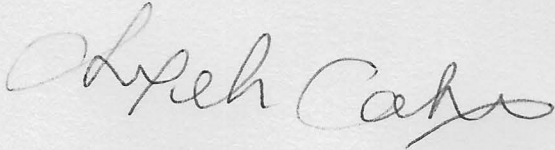
A memorial placed beside the Houses of Parliament will serve as a constant reminder: that democracy must be protected; that the rule of law must be upheld; and that every

human life must be valued, cherished and defended. The Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre will be a powerful statement that we have learnt - and are still learning - the lessons of history. It will stand not only as a symbol of remembrance, but as a call to action in the face of prejudice, ignorance and hate.

We cannot change the past. But we can choose how we honour it. And we can choose what kind of future we build from its lessons.

Now is the time.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Angela Cohen', with a stylized, cursive script.

Angela Cohen MBE

Chair, '45 Aid Society

Daughter of a Holocaust Survivor

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