

4<sup>th</sup> June 2025

As president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the national representative body of the UK Jewish community, I am writing to express my strong support for the national UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre in Victoria Tower Gardens, next to the Houses of Parliament.

The importance of the UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre cannot be overstated. As we move further away from the events of the Holocaust, and children are now growing up in a world where firsthand accounts are becoming rarer, having a lasting memorial to keep the testimonies alive is more important than ever. The lessons and memories of the Holocaust must be passed down to future generations to learn the lessons of the past and help build a better future, especially in a time where our community faces a rise in antisemitism.

With this rise of antisemitic hate there have been concerns raised regarding the security of the Memorial, but I have been assured that the best measures will be put in place when it comes to the security of the visitors and the site. The location, next to the House of Parliament means it is in one of the most secure areas of London.

Whilst many wonder why the UK should have a Holocaust Memorial when the Holocaust did not happen here, I will take this opportunity to remind you that the Holocaust did in fact take place on British soil. You have to look no further than the Nazi occupation of the Channel Islands. Just last year, the UK's Post Holocaust Issues Envoy Lord Eric Pickles published a report on the island of Alderney, which was home to four Nazi labour camps, two of which later became concentration camps, and several temporary camp sites. Hundreds of inmates mainly Soviet prisoners of war and a number of Jews died in these camps.

Building a Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre is not about where the Holocaust took place, but to remember and honour victims and their families and to make sure the lessons of history are learned and never forgotten. The

USA is home to the very successful United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM), despite the Holocaust not taking place on US soil.

It is also worth noting that most major European cities have recognised the importance of commemorating the Holocaust through similar memorials and educational centres. Cities such as Berlin, Paris and Amsterdam have established prominent sites that serve as both places of remembrance and education. These centres play a pivotal role in educating the public, combating Holocaust denial, and promoting the values of tolerance.

Establishing a Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre in our city, next to the Houses of Parliament, sends a clear message. A message of resilience to the nation, reminding us of all to stand up to hate.

As the number of first-hand witness decline and the Holocaust becomes ever more distant, I urge you to support the National Memorial and Learning Centre and demonstrate the importance of Holocaust remembrance and education now and for the future.

Yours sincerely



**Phil Rosenberg**  
President  
The Board of Deputies of British Jews