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Letter to Peers c/o Sally Sealey OBE Head of Secretariat UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation 2 Marsham Street London SW1P 4DF Sally.Sealey@communities.gov.uk

30 May 2025

Dear All,

We are aware that Peers will shortly be discussing the Holocaust Memorial Bill and wish to inform you of our views on the proposed Memorial and Learning Centre, and encourage you very strongly to support the Bill.

As you know, we have just commemorated the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. This received unprecedented interest amongst the general public, as well as support from the highest levels of the British political, faith and civic society. His Majesty The King marked Holocaust Memorial Day with us and sister organisations at Buckingham Palace before going to Poland on the anniversary itself. The Prince and Princess of Wales joined the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and several Secretaries of State, as well as senior figures from other parties and guests at the national UK Ceremony, along with survivors of the Holocaust.

The BBC broadcast the national UK Ceremony, organised by ourselves, on BBC One, with an astonishing viewership of more than 2 million people – indicating the extent of interest in commemorating the Holocaust.

In 80 years' time, none of the survivors will be here to commemorate the Holocaust, and neither will we. Yet a physical memorial to the Holocaust would be.

A physical memorial, in the heart of London, would be a lasting memorial to the horrors of the past, a reminder of what can happen when hate gets out of hand and together with a Learning Centre, will help ensure that members of the public can commemorate the Holocaust.

Of course, there are arguments against such a memorial, and no single project protects us from the scourge of antisemitism nor of any hatred – but the current situation means that in arguing for a different memorial we are likely to be left with no memorial.

This would be not only letting down the Holocaust survivors whose experiences we are seeking to honour, but letting down too, the public whose interest in this history will not be supported by a memorial in the heart of our capital city.

To support our work visit: hmd.org.uk/donate

Yours sincerely,

Laura Marks CBE Chair

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Oliva Marks-Woldman OBE

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Olivia Mr. John