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Holocaust Centre North

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Dear Members of the House of Lords,

I am writing to you as Director of Holocaust Centre North, one of the UK's leading regional centres for Holocaust education, located on the campus of the University of Huddersfield. Our museum, archive and public programme are grounded in the lives of survivors and refugees who rebuilt their futures in towns and cities across the North of England.

We warmly support the UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre and urge you to support the Bill currently before the House. This is, yes, a project for London—but it is, indeed, a national commitment, and on a subject that matters deeply to communities across the country.

At its heart, the idea of the Memorial has always focused on Britain and the Holocaust. It asks some of the most pressing—and often uncomfortable—questions in our history: What more could Britain have done to help those fleeing persecution and genocide? How did individuals, communities, and institutions respond as events unfolded? How many British lives were touched by the Holocaust, and what did Parliament know—and choose to do—at the time?

These questions resonate far beyond Westminster. They live on in the voices of survivors in the communities Holocaust Centre North serves directly—like Leeds, Bradford, and Manchester—many of whom entrusted their stories to regional institutions like ours. In our work, we see daily how this history continues to shape families, inspire young people, and inform creative and academic work. A national Memorial in London will help connect this moment of reflection to the vital, ongoing efforts happening across the UK.

Once open, the Memorial and Learning Centre will work in close partnership with organisations like ours—signposting visitors to regional collections and helping create a stronger, more joined-up national landscape of Holocaust education. Right now, this landscape is rich but fragmented. The Memorial will provide the central focus that has long been missing.

We are concerned by recent attempts to politicise Holocaust memory, undermine historical expertise, or delay the project through procedural means. This initiative was never about politics. It is about moral responsibility. It is about ensuring that the lessons of the past remain alive in the public imagination and in the democratic institutions that shape our future.

The proposed location of the Memorial is essential. The Holocaust did not begin with violence. It

began with legislation. To place this memorial beside the seat of our democracy is to honour that history and to serve as a lasting reminder of weight of responsibility borne by those in power. This is especially urgent at a time when radical ideologies are finding their way into mainstream discourse. The Memorial will stand as a visible, permanent statement that our democracy must always be alert to the dangers of intolerance, scapegoating, and division.

Some have questioned whether the Memorial's focus on the Jewish genocide is too narrow. In our experience, the opposite is true. The more precisely and responsibly we engage with the Holocaust as a distinct event, the better equipped we are to foster solidarity across communities. Holocaust education, done well, opens conversations—it does not close them. We would be delighted to welcome you to Holocaust Centre North in Huddersfield to show you what this looks like in practice: education rooted in care, truth, and connection. It also plays a crucial role in representing Jewish communities as they are: diverse, intersectional, and complex. At a time of rising antisemitism, this kind of nuanced visibility is essential. Deeper understanding of Jewish life—not as monolithic but as diverse—supports Jewish communities and enriches the social fabric of our entire society.

We hope you will support this Bill and allow the UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre to move forward. It is time for Britain to give this history the national space it deserves.

With warm regards,



Dr Alessandro Bucci
Director, Holocaust Centre North