

National Holocaust Museum
Phone: 01623 836627
Email: office@holocaust.org.uk
www.holocaust.org.uk

Acre Edge Road,
Laxton, Newark,
Nottinghamshire, NG22 0PA
Registered Charity No: 509022



Members of the House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

04.06.25

Dear Members of the House of Lords

We have been asked to comment on the proposed Holocaust Memorial & Learning Centre next to Parliament, and are grateful for the opportunity to do so. Please allow us to provide some context for the opinions we express in this letter.

We support UKHMF's long stated desire that its new Centre helps to 'raise the ships' in UK Holocaust education. We are one of those ships. In 1995 we became Britain's first place of Holocaust remembrance, and to date remain its only museum wholly dedicated to the Holocaust. We are a National Portfolio Organisation funded by Arts Council England, with nationally styled accreditation. We are also the only Holocaust museum in the world founded by Christians - Stephen, James and Marina Smith.

Our organisation began when the Smith family opened their home to hundreds of Holocaust survivors, who came to regard it as a home from home. Around this unique interfaith bond, they built powerful Holocaust exhibitions and beautiful memorial gardens. Some 35,000 schoolchildren and adults visit our Museum each year to experience a living, breathing model of good citizenship which debunks conspiracy theories; de-others; and nurtures an appreciation of difference.

From our vibrant base in central England, we also take touring exhibitions and education programmes far and wide nationally and internationally. In recent years we have become known for thought-provoking programmes and exhibitions - including the recent *Vicious Circle* funded by MHCLG, which draws parallels between the ideology of the Nazis and the anti-Jewish ideologies of today.

We write to express our support for a Holocaust Memorial & Learning Centre at Westminster which builds on these strengths, dovetailing its work with other existing places of physical



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



**Pears
Foundation**



Made possible with
**Heritage
Fund**



cont/

Holocaust remembrance and education around the country. We view this as an opportunity for the British state to remember the Holocaust as a unique catastrophe borne of a pan-European belief system which British culture, and the English language, helped to shape over many centuries. Our own central England location is a reminder of the medieval British influence seated in Nottingham, Lincoln and Leicester which strongly drove that anti-Jewish belief system.

We lend our support in the hope that the UKHMF is now in a position to set out how the new Westminster centre intends to build on, and coordinate with, the tangible assets and sense of place which we and others such as the Wiener Library, Holocaust Centre North and Lake Windermere Holocaust Project offer. In our case, we bring to bear a treasure trove of artefacts, art, photographs, testimonies and educational resources such as *[The Forever Project](#)* — Europe's first ever collection of interactive Holocaust survivor testimonies launched in 2016.

In the aftermath of October 7, collaboration in defining, updating and delivering UK Holocaust education is something we believe can be accelerated by the new Centre.

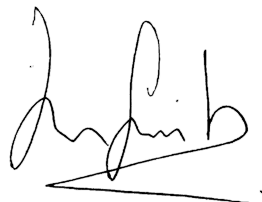
In anticipation of a new era of collaboration, we look forward to a London Centre which works **with** the National Holocaust Museum, multiplying the effectiveness of our own work and of other under-funded peers. (Please see newspaper article attached).

We would be pleased to participate in the formulation of concrete plans which realise this desire for collaboration, which we appreciate has always been UKHMF's intention.

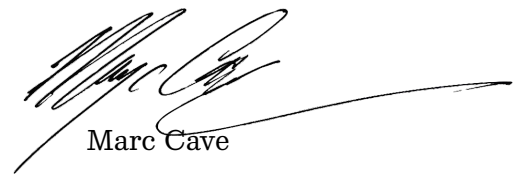
Your sincerely,



Henry Grunwald OBE KC
Chairman



Dr James Smith CBE
Co-Founder & Life President



Marc Cave
Director

