



United Kingdom
Holocaust Memorial
Foundation

9 June 2025

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL& LEARNING CENTRE

My Lords,

We write as the co-chairs of the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation to ask for your support at the Report Stage for the Holocaust Memorial Bill on 11 June.

From its inception, the initiative to create a new Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre has been seen as an endeavour of great national importance. Both the government and the official opposition have consistently supported the project, which enjoys the full commitment of every living prime minister.

This short Bill paves the way for the Memorial to be established at Victoria Tower Gardens. Detailed consideration of the proposals is subject to further scrutiny by the Planning System in the usual way.

Since the initial announcement of the Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre, much has changed in the world; the evil of Antisemitism stalks our streets and our colleges; Holocaust denial and distortion have become commonplace.

The United Kingdom is a leader in the global response to Holocaust denial and distortion. The uniqueness of the Holocaust must be preserved in memory. There are too many countries attempting to rinse their history through the Holocaust. Interest Groups hijack the language of genocide for petty and sometimes sinister reasons.

With its Learning Centre and location, the Memorial makes an important statement about the UK's commitment to remember. The Learning Centre will examine Britain's relationship with the Holocaust. There are aspects of which we can be proud, such as the eventual liberation of Bergen-Belsen, but other less creditable events, including the long history of antisemitism and the many missed opportunities to help Jewish people.

We take the importance of completing the memorial very seriously within the lifetime of British survivors. A national Memorial will honour the 6 million Jewish victims of

the Holocaust and be a place where survivors and relatives of those murdered can remember the dead and be reassured that the memory of the Holocaust will never be lost. Yet the enduring value of the Memorial and Learning Centre will be through its impact on the whole nation, reminding and educating future generations.

The Bill provides a unique opportunity to assert Parliament's belief that establishing a prominent National Memorial to the Holocaust is the right thing to do. That message will resonate not simply within our borders but across the world.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Balls'.

Rt Hon Ed Balls

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Pickles'.

Lord (Eric) Pickles PC