

The Wiener Holocaust Library

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House of Lords
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Dear Members of the House of Lords

As Director of The Wiener Holocaust Library, one of the world's leading archives on the Holocaust and Nazi era, I write to express our support for the planned UK Holocaust Memorial, recognising the issues raised about its proposed location. We believe this project offers a vital opportunity to consolidate remembrance of the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust, alongside other victims of Nazi persecution, as part of wider efforts to safeguard the lessons of this history for future generations.

We acknowledge concerns about the Victoria Tower Gardens site – including its protected status as public green space, potential impact on local heritage assets, and questions about accessibility and security raised by parliamentarians. However, locating the memorial near Parliament will reinforce Britain's commitment to confronting antisemitism, hatred, and prejudice—a message of critical importance amid rising global intolerance.

We are confident that the UKHMF will deal sensitively and appropriately with the nation's role during the Holocaust, and that the Foundation's Academic Advisory Board have given meticulous attention to the memorial's educational content and contextual framing.

We endorse the memorial's potential to complement existing institutions, including our own outstanding collections and impactful activities. The Wiener Holocaust Library stands ready to share archival resources and expertise. We want to ensure a collaborative approach that incorporates the expertise of multiple institutions while addressing concerns about resource duplication. With survivor voices growing fewer, timely action to keep the memory of the Holocaust alive is essential.

The Wiener Holocaust Library remains committed to supporting initiatives that combat hatred through education. We hope the Memorial and Learning Centre will help serve this purpose by supporting and championing those dedicated to the vital mission of remembering and learning from the Holocaust.

Kind regards,



Dr Toby Simpson OBE

Patrons: Dr Yossi Beilin, Helena Bonham Carter CBE, Dr Colin Boswell, Sir Andrew Burns KCMG, Jonathan Caplan QC, Sir Mick Davis, Prof Anthony Finkelstein CBE, Lord Finkelstein OBE, Martin Fraenkel, The Rt Hon Dame Margaret Hodge DBE MP, Tamara Isaacs CB, Emma Kane, David Lewis, Shahid Malik, Dr Gabriele Matzner-Holzer, The Rt Hon David Miliband, Rabbi the Baroness Neuberger DBE, The Lord Pannick QC, Dame Esther Rantzen DBE, The Rt Hon Sir Malcolm Rifkind, The Rt Hon Sir Bernard Rix QC, Ellen Schmidt
Joint Presidents: Prof Alan Montefiore, Anthony Spiro OBE Chair: Anthony Landes Director: Dr Toby Simpson

The Wiener Holocaust Library is a company limited by guarantee
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