**CALL IN INQUIRY INTO THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNITED**

**KINGDOM HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL AND LEARNING CENTRE LOCATED**

**WITHIN VICTORIA TOWER GARDENS, MILLBANK, LONDON SW1P 3YB**

**PROOF OF EVIDENCE OF RT HON ED BALLS AND RT HON LORD PICKLES**

**CO-CHAIRS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL FOUNDATION**

**7 SEPTEMBER 2020**

**Contents**

## Qualifications and Experience

## Introduction and Scope of Evidence

## The UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation and its Mission

## The purpose of the Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre

## The location of the Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre

## Conclusions

**Annexes**

## Response to paper by Dr Dorian Gerhold on Victoria Tower Gardens dated 28 May 2019 included with Baroness Deech’s Statement of Case.

## International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism

## Press Release from Prime Minister’s office, 27 January 2015

## Press Release from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 7 May 2019

## Speech by Prime Minister Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP, 27 January 2020

**A. Qualifications and Experience**

**The Rt Hon Ed Balls**

1. I am the Co-Chair of the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation.
2. In 2014 I was appointed by the then Prime Minister (David Cameron) as a member of his Commission on the Holocaust. The Commission was asked to investigate whether further measures should be taken to ensure Britain has a permanent and fitting Memorial to the Holocaust and educational resources for future generations.
3. In January 2015, the recommendations of the Commission were published and adopted by the then Prime Minister (CD 5.9). David Cameron announced the creation of the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation to advise the Government on the implementation of the recommendations. I was appointed as a member of the Foundation.
4. In March 2018 I was invited by the Prime Minister at that time (Theresa May) to take on the role of joint Chair of the Foundation, alongside the Rt Hon Lord Eric Pickles.
5. As Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families from 2007 to 2010, I firmly supported the inclusion of the Holocaust within the national curriculum. I ensured that funding was available to support visits by schoolchildren to Auschwitz.
6. The evidence which I have prepared and provide for this call-in reference APP/X5990/V/19/3240661 in this proof of evidence is true and I confirm that the opinions expressed are my true and professional opinions.

**The Rt Hon Lord Eric Pickles**

1. I am the Co-Chair of the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation.
2. I was appointed by the then Prime Minister (David Cameron) as a member of the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation (UKHMF) in 2015. In March 2018 I was invited by the Prime Minister at that time (Theresa May) to take on the role of joint Chair of the Foundation, alongside the Rt Hon Ed Balls.
3. In 2015 I was appointed the Prime Minister’s Special Envoy on Post Holocaust Issues. My role is to ensure that the United Kingdom plays an active role in a number of international bodies related to remembering the Holocaust and addressing antisemitism.
4. One of the bodies I work with is the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), an organisation that has become more prominent in recent years following publication of a working definition of antisemitism that has been adopted by the UK Government as well as many Governments overseas and a large number of institutions within the UK. The IHRA definition (see annex H) has played a prominent role in our fight against antisemitism in the UK.
5. I was recently part of the drafting committee for a document that reaffirmed the UK Government’s commitment to the Stockholm Declaration on Holocaust denial and antisemitism. The document was signed by 35 States in Brussels in January 2020.
6. I currently chair the International Tracing Service (ITS) now known as the Arolsen Archive. This is the largest archive of Holocaust victims and slave labourers in the world. It is used to reunite families and to return the last items victims had saved before being murdered in the Nazi death camps.
7. I serve as the UK’s representative on the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation. This Foundation is responsible for managing the conservation of the death camps which are fundamental to educating people about what happened in the Holocaust. The UK Government supports and provides funding for the ‘Lessons from Auschwitz’ project which enables many thousands of young people to visit Auschwitz, to learn about the reality of the Holocaust and subsequently to raise awareness among communities in the UK.
8. As Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government from 2010 to 2015, I was responsible for policy on building stronger communities and strengthening integration, including through faith engagement and tackling intolerance and hate crime. I commissioned a number of projects aimed at raising awareness of the Holocaust and ensured continued support for national commemoration of Holocaust Memorial Day which is marked internationally on 27 January each year.
9. The evidence which I have prepared and provide for this call-in reference APP/X5990/V/19/3240661 in this proof of evidence is true and I confirm that the opinions expressed are my true and professional opinions.

**B. Introduction and Scope of Evidence**

1. As Co-Chairs of the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation, we advise the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government who is responsible within Government for the delivery of the project and is accountable to Parliament. Alex Powell, a senior civil servant within the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, is the Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) for the UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre programme. He manages the project, reporting through internal structures to the Department’s Accounting Officer and ultimately to the Secretary of State, following normal approval procedures in accordance with *Managing Public Money* (CD 5.34).
2. The project is to be delivered through a combination of public funding and private donations. The Prime Minister in 2015 called for a society-wide fundraising effort: to support this effort UKHMF members Gerald Ronson CBE and Lord Andrew Feldman have established a new charity, the Holocaust Memorial Charitable Trust. A decision on whether any entry fees should be charged will be taken by Ministers ahead of the opening date, drawing on an assessment of expected running costs as well as the likely impact on visitor numbers.
3. As Co-Chairs we will present evidence on the objectives which will be achieved through construction of the Memorial and Learning Centre.
4. Our evidence is set out as follows:

* In the next section, we provide information on the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation: its history, purpose and membership. We set out the agreed Mission Statement of the UKHMF, which provides a clear summary of what the Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre will be and the purposes it will serve.
* In section D, we provide further detail on the purpose of the Memorial and Learning Centre, drawing in particular on “*Britain’s Promise to Remember”* (CD 5.9) the report of the Prime Minister’s Holocaust Commission which was published in 2015.
* In section E, we provide further information to demonstrate why the UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre must be located in Victoria Tower Gardens.
* In section F we set out our concluding arguments on the pressing need for the Memorial and Learning Centre and the reasons why it will be a source of national pride.

**C. UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation**

1. The UKHMF was established in January 2015 to provide independent advice to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on delivering the recommendations of the UK Holocaust Commission’s Report “*Britain’s Promise to Remember*” (CD 5.9).
2. Foundation members are appointed by the Prime Minister, on the advice of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government. The current members of the Foundation, in addition to the Co-Chairs, are Lord David Alliance, Sir Jon Cunliffe CB, Sir Lloyd Dorfman CBE, the Rt Hon the Lord Feldman of Elstree, Peter Freeman CBE, Alice Greenwald, Baroness Dido Harding, Natasha Kaplinsky OBE, the Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, Gerald Ronson CBE, Professor Mona Siddiqui OBE and Matthew Westerman.

***Mission Statement***

1. In December 2018 the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation agreed and published the following Mission Statement:

“*The United Kingdom Holocaust Memorial is the UK’s national establishment for remembrance of the Holocaust. It is dedicated to the six million Jewish men, women and children murdered in the Holocaust and all other victims of the Nazis and their collaborators.*

*The Memorial will stand as a reminder of the horrors of the past and will encourage reflection on their implications for British government and society, both at the time and subsequently. The view of Parliament from the Memorial will serve as a permanent reminder that political decisions have far-reaching consequences. By setting history’s worst example of the disintegration of democratic values against the greatest emblem of Britain’s aspirations for democracy, it will stand as a permanent reminder of the responsibilities of citizens in a democracy to be vigilant and responsive whenever and wherever those values are threatened.*

*We seek to preserve the memory of the Holocaust whilst also considering its contemporary relevance. The Holocaust – the murder of Europe’s Jews by Nazi Germany and its collaborators – remains unsurpassed as a historical event in its aims and extent, yet the questions it raises have many echoes in the modern world, including (but not restricted to) subsequent genocides and the persistence of antisemitism.*

*Deeper understanding of the Holocaust, and of Britain’s responses to it, therefore, prompts us to ask challenging questions about human behaviour and the world around us. The UK Holocaust Memorial will thus aim both to remember and to encourage reflection on the lessons of the past amongst all British citizens and visitors of all nationalities. In dedicating itself to this mission, Britain reaffirms its commitment to stand up against antisemitism, prejudice and hatred in all its forms.*

***How we will deepen understanding of the Holocaust and Britain’s response***

*We seek to combine a striking architectural monument with an engaging, reflective and powerful exhibition. This will be founded on academic research and judicious use of sources, combined with an experiential approach to immerse visitors in the historical content and provoke their critical thinking.*

*The display will confront the immense human calamity caused by the destruction of Europe’s Jewish communities during the Holocaust, arousing a sincere commitment to mourn, remember and act. Victims will be remembered as individuals, not nameless statistics.*

*The thematic exhibition will set the Holocaust within the British narrative: historically, politically and culturally. This narrative will be balanced, addressing the complexities of Britain’s ambiguous responses to the Holocaust, avoiding simplistic judgements and encouraging visitors to critically reflect on whether more could have been done, both by policymakers and by society as a whole.*

*We will work with other institutions across the UK supporting Holocaust commemoration and education. We will complement the permanent exhibition with online material, drawing on the same research and sources, making links to other relevant sites, and promoting a deeper understanding of the Holocaust among as wide an audience as possible.*

*Facing history honestly requires us to question the role of our own Parliament, government and society in the history of the Holocaust, and recurring genocides in its aftermath. The obligation to confront the contemporary rise of antisemitism will not be overlooked, in light of the recent rise of extremist views in Britain and many other countries.*”

**D. Purpose of the Memorial and Learning Centre**

1. The UKHMF Mission Statement (para 22 above) sets out the objectives of the Foundation and of HM Government in establishing the new national Memorial and Learning Centre. The Mission Statement, and indeed all the work of the UKHMF, is built upon the work done by the Prime Minister’s Holocaust Commission and the report it published in January 2015 “*Britain’s Promise to Remember”* (CD 5.9). Reviewing the key findings and recommendations of the Commission provides a more detailed analysis of the reason why the Memorial and Learning Centre are needed.
2. The Holocaust Commission was appointed in January 2014 by the then Prime Minister, David Cameron. The purpose of the Commission was “*to examine what more should be done in Britain to ensure that the memory of the Holocaust is preserved and that the lessons it teaches are never forgotten*”.
3. The Commission began its work with a detailed audit of relevant work underway in Britain, alongside a study of best practice in other countries. A series of consultation events and meetings took place, and a Call for Evidence received almost 2,500 responses.
4. In its final report (CD 5.9), after a year’s work, the Commission explained why it is important to remember the Holocaust.

*Ensuring the voices of survivors are not replaced by those of deniers*

1. In the course of its work, the Commission encountered a minority of views that could be categorised as ‘revisionist’ and in some cases as outright denial of the facts of the Holocaust. Whether a result of simple ignorance, the influence of certain political agendas or straightforward antisemitism, it is clear that such views are still to be found. As the events of the Holocaust become more remote and there will be no one left who can say, “I was there” there is the risk that the narratives of the deniers may become more widespread.

*Preventing the normalising of prejudices*

1. The Commission recognised how, over the course of more than two thousand years of persecution, antisemitism became socialised and acceptable in many pre-war European societies. In some parts of the world it remains so to this day. For centuries, in many countries, pogroms and expulsions became the default response to internal crises. Something so firmly rooted in religious belief, social mores, and culture is very difficult to remove and there is much work still to be done to rid societies of this prejudice. Holocaust education can help prevent the seeds of prejudice from taking root.

*Learning the lessons*

1. The Commission argued that through study of the Holocaust, future generations can understand not just what happened at Auschwitz and the other extermination camps, but how this came to happen; how vicious words and ideas led ultimately to deportations, ghettos, gas chambers and mass graves – and the involvement of ordinary citizens in this murder of their neighbours. While the Holocaust was unprecedented and should never be seen as equivalent to other genocides, we see many of the same steps from prejudice to persecution in other atrocities, like those in Rwanda and Bosnia.

*“The circumstances are always different, but that only makes the study of the Holocaust more important. It provides a lens, a window, a light that allows us to watch, measure, illuminate and understand the emerging signs of the acceptance of hatred and the stages of prejudice ultimately turning to violence. Indeed, the poisonous words and passive acceptance of discrimination which marked the beginning of the Holocaust can clearly be found in the ideology of extremism or, the hatred that underpins antisemitism, Islamophobia, racism and homophobia today.”*

*The Holocaust as part of British history*

1. The Commission found that, for most people, Britain’s relationship with the Holocaust is seen through the eyes of survivors, refugees or children who arrived on the ‘Kindertransport’, those who have rebuilt their lives in the UK. It is largely a positive story of resilience and rebuilding.
2. Many people will be aware that it was the British armed forces that liberated Bergen-Belsen, discovering 50-60,000 inmates, many of whom were dying of starvation and disease, and the bodies of thousands more who had already succumbed.
3. Less well-known are the parts played by people such as Frank Foley and Sir Nicholas Winton, whose bravery and resourcefulness enabled many potential victims to escape the grip of the Nazis.
4. However, Britain’s story was not wholly positive. From 1933 to 1938, Britain, like most democratic governments in Europe, turned a blind eye to the growing persecution in Germany. Antisemitism was also present on the streets of Britain. The British Union of Fascists was active from 1932, engaging in acts of violence against Jewish people and buildings, particularly in the East End of London.
5. As the number of Jewish refugees from Germany increased during the 1930s, there was constant pressure to restrict immigration, mainly due to high unemployment. In 1938 Britain relaxed its domestic immigration controls and allowed 50,000 refugees to enter the UK. But at the Evian Conference in France that year, Britain, along with all but one of the 32 countries attending, refused to accept more refugees in any significant numbers. In addition, Britain controlled Palestine where it was overseeing the development of a Jewish National Home. Over 60,000 Jews emigrated there. However, in 1937 violence in the region led Britain to curb Jewish immigration. After the outbreak of war, the British government banned all immigration from Nazi-occupied territories. Those who had managed to get into the country were put into internment camps in places such as the Isle of Man and Sandwich in Kent, often alongside Nazi sympathisers.
6. It is now clear that, from the summer of 1941, the governments in London and Washington knew that mass murder was taking place. In December 1942 the Allied governments issued a solemn declaration condemning the extermination of the Jews. Yet, despite knowledge of the ‘Final Solution’ and pleas for help, there was no real effort by the Allies to rescue the Jews of Europe. The Allies argued that they did not have the capacity to conduct accurate air raids on Nazi camps. They felt that a speedy victory in the war was the best method to put a stop to the Nazi atrocities and to save the Jewish people.
7. It is easy to make judgments in hindsight, but Britain was one of the few countries which offered some sanctuary, and alongside France was the only country to declare war on Nazi Germany without having been attacked. It is clear that Britain has a unique relationship with this terrible period of history.

*Recommendations of the Commission*

1. Having identified this powerful set of reasons why the Holocaust must be remembered, and in the light of its public consultation, the Commission noted widespread dissatisfaction with the current national memorial in Hyde Park.

“*The current national memorial in Hyde Park is wholly inadequate. It is not widely known about; felt to be hidden out of sight; provides no context or information; and stands on its own offering no opportunity to learn more. The strength of feeling on this was very clear, particularly from many of our Holocaust survivors.*”

1. The Commission therefore recommended that there should be a striking new Memorial to serve as the focal point of national commemoration of the Holocaust. The Commission proposed that the Memorial should be prominently located in central London to make a bold statement about the importance Britain places on preserving the memory of the Holocaust; it would stand as a permanent affirmation of the values of our society.
2. The Commission further recommended that the design of the national Memorial should be guided by a number of principles. The national Memorial should:
   * be a place where people can pay their respects, contemplate, think and offer prayers.
   * take the form of something people can interact with.
   * provide factual information about what happened, linked to other resources.
   * tell the story of Britain’s own connection to the Holocaust.
   * convey the enormity of the Holocaust and its impact; in particular the loss to mankind of the destruction of European Jewry.
   * reflect the centrality of the murder of European Jews to Nazi objectives.
   * appropriately represent the fate of other victims of Nazi persecution.
3. But it is also clear (said the Commission) that a Memorial on its own is not enough and that there must be somewhere close at hand where people can go to learn more.
4. These recommendations (with others) were accepted by the then Prime Minister, David Cameron, who announced in January 2015 that the Government would build a national Memorial to the Holocaust and a world-class Learning Centre (see annex I). The Rt Hon Theresa May reaffirmed the Government’s commitment to this objective (see annex J), as has the current Prime Minister the Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP (see annex K).
5. The Foundation which we jointly chair is focused on delivering this commitment.
6. We have worked with successive Secretaries of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to develop the proposals for a striking Memorial and Learning Centre which are the subject of this planning application.
7. We have also developed plans for the scope of the Learning Centre which will provide an engaging, reflective and powerful exhibition. While the Memorial will honour the six million Jewish people murdered in the Holocaust, the learning centre will also remember the other victims of Nazi persecution, including Roma, gay and disabled people, and the victims of subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.
8. The thematic exhibition will set the Holocaust within the British narrative: historically, politically and culturally. It will be founded on academic research and judicious use of sources, combined with an experiential approach in order to immerse visitors in the historical content and provoke their critical thinking.
9. We aim to create an immersive exhibition which uses film that is projected, film on screens, audio and sound as the principal modes of delivering content. The sources will be film, audio, photography and print, drawn from film and sound archives, writing, poetry, libraries, the BBC and Hansard. The narrative will be balanced, addressing the complexities of Britain’s ambiguous responses to the Holocaust, avoiding simplistic judgements and encouraging visitors to critically reflect on whether more could have been done, both by policymakers and by society as a whole.
10. As our Mission Statement makes clear, we intend to work with other institutions across the UK supporting Holocaust education. The Holocaust remains a part of the statutory national history curriculum in England, and is widely taught in schools across the UK. The Memorial and Learning Centre will provide an opportunity to draw attention to the best available support for teachers and lecturers, helping to ensure that young people across the country gain a deeper understanding of the Holocaust.

**E. Location of the Memorial and Learning Centre**

1. The Commission was very clear that the Memorial must be prominently located in central London. After an assessment of possible sites, the Foundation concluded that Victoria Tower Gardens would be uniquely appropriate as the location for the Memorial and recommended this site to the Government. In January 2016 the then Prime Minister announced that the Government had accepted the recommendation:

*“Today I can tell the House this memorial will be built in Victoria Tower Gardens. It will stand beside Parliament as a permanent statement of our values as a nation and will be something for our children to visit for generations to come.”*

1. It is the Foundation’s view that no other site could meet the requirement for prominence in the same way; the Commission were clear the Memorial had to be in a prominent location to have the impact required. Victoria Tower Gardens is immediately adjacent to the Palace of Westminster and the River Thames; it is within a very short distance of Westminster Abbey. Important national memorials, including the Cenotaph, are a few minutes’ walk away, as are all the major Government Departments, including 10 Downing Street. Establishing the Memorial in this location, alongside these nationally significant buildings and monuments, will provide an unequivocally bold statement of its importance. Moreover, the Memorial at this site will be seen by the millions of people who come every year, drawn to this place at the heart of British national life.
2. As the UKHMF Mission Statement explains, the view of Parliament from the Memorial will serve as a permanent reminder that political decisions have far-reaching consequences.
3. The Palace of Westminster is the seat and symbol of parliamentary democracy in Great Britain. The essence of parliamentary democracy is that responsibility for government rests on citizens as well as legislators. Locating the Memorial alongside the Palace of Westminster will establish a connection that will promote reflection along several lines:

* Contrasting the high ideals of government through parliamentary democracy against the depths of tyranny demonstrated in the Holocaust.
* A reminder that national governments were key players in the events of the Holocaust, and indeed of subsequent genocides.
* Asking what causes governments, even in advanced and democratic societies, to support such atrocities.
* A reminder that actions and decisions taken specifically by the British Government had profound implications for many victims of the Holocaust.
* A challenge specifically to British citizens and parliamentarians to take responsibility for the commitment to avoid future genocides.

**F: Conclusions**

1. To establish a new national Memorial at the very heart of Westminster is an ambitious aim. Only the most serious, momentous and profound subject matter could justify such a step. With the Holocaust – the systematic attempt by a modern, civilised state to exterminate the whole Jewish people – we have exactly such a reason.
2. We also have a pressing need. Seventy-five years after the liberation of the death camps and the end of the Nazi regime, we see evidence across the world of revisionism and even outright denial that the Holocaust took place. We see the re-emergence of antisemitism, even on our own streets and within our own communities. And we know that the eyewitnesses who can directly challenge revisionists, and who provide the most vivid demonstrations of where antisemitism can lead, will not be with us much longer.
3. It is essential that we act now to establish a Memorial that will boldly, prominently and permanently remind us of the Holocaust.
4. The Memorial will be no vain symbol of false pride. The British people and our allies undoubtedly played a decisive role in bringing the Holocaust to an end, but that is by no means the whole story. We need to acknowledge where we fell short, not least by failing to tackle antisemitism at home and abroad and by denying potential victims the opportunity to escape persecution. Our Learning Centre will enable the full story to be told; working with partners we will help to deepen understanding of the Holocaust across the whole of our society.
5. We can take a legitimate pride in our commitment to remember, and to learn. As a nation, we want to learn from the past and to build a future which is free from prejudice and hatred. A dignified, striking Memorial prominently placed amongst our national institutions of Government will symbolise this noble aspiration.
6. The Memorial, created by a world-class team of architects and designers, will certainly be a structure to make us proud. It is eminently appropriate both to the subject it commemorates and the location in which it will stand. As a national Memorial, it will be a source of pride and an inspiration to the whole of our society, across boundaries of religion, class, geography or political party – as indeed we demonstrate through our joint leadership of this endeavour.

**Annex G**

## **Response to paper** **by Dr Dorian Gerhold on Victoria Tower Gardens dated 28 May 2019 and included with Baroness Deech’s Statement of Case**

1. Baroness Deech’s Statement of Case includes a paper by Dr Dorian Gerhold which lists a number of statements made by people connected with the Memorial project setting out reasons for locating the Memorial in Victoria Tower Gardens; the paper seeks to show inconsistencies or poor reasoning behind those statements.
2. This note responds to the Dr Gerhold and Baroness Deech paper first by setting out the 3 most significant explanations of the choice of site, then by addressing each of the detailed criticisms.

**Key Public Statements**

1. In January 2015 the Prime Minister’s Holocaust Commission published its report *Britain’s Promise to Remember* (CD 5.9). The report included the following recommendation, which was accepted by the Government:

**“A striking and prominent new national Memorial**

The evidence is clear that there should be a striking new memorial to serve as the focal point of national commemoration of the Holocaust. It should be prominently located in Central London to make a bold statement about the importance Britain places on preserving the memory of the Holocaust. This will stand as a permanent affirmation of the values of our society.”

1. The decision to site the Memorial in Victoria Tower Gardens was made by the then Prime Minister and announced to the House of Commons on 27 January 2016.

*“Today I can tell the House this memorial will be built in Victoria Tower Gardens. It will stand beside Parliament as a permanent statement of our values as a nation and will be something for our children to visit for generations to come.”* ***David Cameron***

1. The UKHMF Mission Statement, published in December 2018, says:

“*The view of Parliament from the Memorial will serve as a permanent reminder that political decisions have far-reaching consequences. By setting history’s worst example of the disintegration of democratic values against the greatest emblem of Britain’s aspirations for democracy, it will stand as a permanent reminder of the responsibilities of citizens in a democracy to be vigilant and responsive whenever and wherever those values are threatened.*“

1. As these statements show, siting the Memorial at Victoria Tower Gardens meets key objectives, as explained in this proof of evidence (see paragraphs 49-51 above), of prominence and a reminder of responsibilities.

***Response to specific points made by Dr Gerhold/Baroness Deech***

1. **Statement of British Values**
2. The paper from Dr Gerhold and Baroness Deech presents the argument that the “*reference to British values suggests an inappropriate tone of national self-congratulation*”. There is no such suggestion and there never has been. As explained in this proof, the Memorial and Learning Centre will very deliberately present an account of Britain’s relationship with the Holocaust which is comprehensive, honest and which avoids simplistic judgments.
3. Establishing the Memorial at such a prominent site makes a strong statement of our national values by demonstrating the importance we attach to commemorating the victims of the Holocaust and seeking to learn its lessons.
4. **Should be beside one of humanity’s oldest parliaments/democracies**
5. Dr Gerhold and Baroness Deech argue that this reference “…*ignores the English/UK Parliament’s long history of religious intolerance…*”. In fact, it presents the opportunity to explore in the Learning Centre the history of antisemitism and intolerance in the UK.
6. Dr Gerhold and Baroness Deech further suggest that the only reason to place the Memorial next to Parliament would be “…*if a Parliament necessarily protects against racial and religious hatred*”. This is a very odd argument. In placing the Memorial next to Parliament we are making the point that Parliament should protect against hatred, not that it ‘necessarily’ does.
7. **To show that Parliament is a bastion against tyrants**
8. Dr Gerhold and Baroness Deech appear to recognise the point that Parliament can and should be a defence against tyranny but has sometimes failed. The main argument they put forward is that ‘*democracy’* or ‘*the people whose will is expressed’* in Parliament cannot be equated with the building in which Parliament meets. This is true of course but neglects the important role of buildings and memorials in providing a visible symbol of abstract truths. The Palace of Westminster is an internationally recognised symbol of parliamentary democracy.
9. **Eternal promise to remember**
10. It is argued that ‘*no politician can make an “eternal promise’ about anything*’. No doubt this is technically true, but a British politician committed to the ambition of a long-term Memorial could hardly choose a better place than alongside the Palace of Westminster, which dates from the 11th Century, and close to Westminster Abbey, which has its roots in at least the 10th Century.
11. **Reminder of what happens when democracy is subverted**
12. It is accepted in the paper that the Holocaust demonstrates what happens when racial and religious hatred is unchecked, but it appears not to be accepted that this demonstrates a failure of democracy. It is asserted that *“[m]any democracies have failed without giving rise to genocide*.” The logic of this position is that democracy and genocide are not connected, and that (presumably) a state could maintain a successful democracy while committing genocide. Most civilised observers would consider genocide to be an appalling failure of democratic government.
13. **Reminder of what happens when racism is unchecked**
14. Dr Gerhold/Baroness Deech believe that the purpose of the Memorial has no bearing on whether it should be next to Parliament. For the reasons given above (see paragraphs 49-51 above) the Government and UKHMF take a different view.
15. **Reminder to be vigilant when values are threatened**
16. It is argued in the paper that vigilance is needed at the local community level; it is also argued that citizens who don’t live in democracies need to be vigilant too. In both points, Dr Gerhold and Baroness Deech are correct. But the Government and UKHMF also believe, very strongly, that citizens need to be vigilant when exercising all their responsibilities, including when electing a parliament; it is illogical to suggest otherwise.
17. **Reminder that parliaments have the power to oppress; to hold Parliament to account**
18. Dr Gerhold and Baroness Deech set out a number of positions:
19. Holding Parliament to account implies that no-one else holds responsibility for countering racial hatred
20. It is doubtful that MPs need to be reminded of the cost of intolerance
21. It is doubtful that a Memorial would influence MPs
22. The German parliament has no significant responsibility for the rise of the Nazis
23. There is no logic behind point (i). Responsibilities for countering hatred rest with everyone, though it is strange to imply that Parliament has no special role. Parliament legislates to ensure there are institutions with policies designed to foster the health of the nation, but that doesn’t remove each individual’s responsibility for managing their own health.
24. On point (ii), no doubt it is true that the great majority of MPs are aware of the Holocaust and take very seriously their responsibilities for countering intolerance. We want to maintain that position for the centuries to come. We believe, in opposition to point (iii), that memorials can be powerful reminders for MPs as much as for anyone else.
25. Point (iv) is simply untrue. The Nazis found it necessary to pursue their barbaric aims through legislation, as well as through violence, propaganda and other means. To remember the role played by the German parliament does not excuse any other institutions nor take away the guilt of the Nazis themselves.
26. **Encourage visitors to learn about Parliament’s decisions at the time of the Holocaust**
27. This is characterised as “…*interesting but inessential information*” which could be imparted at other locations. The Government and UKHMF take a different view, believing that the role played by Parliament and the British Government before and during the Holocaust needs to be much more widely understood. Locating the Memorial and Learning Centre next to Parliament will ensure that these matters gain an extensive audience.
28. **To question the impact of the Holocaust on our own Parliament**
29. It is argued that decisions made by the UK Parliament during the Holocaust and other genocides could be examined in any location. They could, but the examination will gain more attention in a Learning Centre close to the Parliament under discussion.
30. **To remind that political decisions have consequences**
31. This point is seen by Dr Gerhold/Baroness Deech as ‘banal’; “*it is impossible to envisage a visitor to the Memorial who would need to see Parliament nearby to understand the point.*” In our view this is, sadly, optimistic.
32. **Timeless banks of the Thames**
33. ‘*No comment needed’* say Dr Gerhold/Baroness Deech, perhaps recognising the value of the river Thames in giving prominence to the Memorial.

**Victoria Tower Gardens as a garden of conscience and liberties**

1. Dr Gerhold and Baroness Deech challenge the view that there is any common theme connecting the Holocaust Memorial with the Burghers of Calais, Emmeline Pankhurst and the Buxton Memorial.
2. It is notable that Westminster City Council, in their own Statement of Case, whilst objecting to our specific proposal do nevertheless acknowledge: “*Victoria Tower Gardens is home to a number of existing memorials that celebrate the fight against slavery, inequality, and injustice. It is considered that the Victoria Tower Gardens is a suitable place in principle for a memorial to the Holocaust.”*

**Annex H**

**International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance**

**Definition of Antisemitism**

**The history of the working definition**

The IHRA is the only intergovernmental organization mandated to focus solely on Holocaust-related issues, so with evidence that the scourge of antisemitism is once again on the rise, we resolved to take a leading role in combatting it. IHRA experts determined that in order to begin to address the problem of antisemitism, there must be clarity about what antisemitism is.

The IHRA’s Committee on Antisemitism and Holocaust Denial worked to build international consensus around a working definition of antisemitism, which was subsequently adopted by the plenary. By doing so, the IHRA set an example of responsible conduct for other international fora and provided an important tool with practical applicability for its Member Countries. This is just one illustration of how the IHRA has equipped policymakers to address this rise in hate and discrimination at their national level.

**The Working Definition of Antisemitism**

In the spirit of the Stockholm Declaration that states: “With humanity still scarred by …antisemitism and xenophobia the international community shares a solemn responsibility to fight those evils” the committee on Antisemitism and Holocaust Denial called the IHRA Plenary in Budapest 2015 to adopt the following working definition of antisemitism.   
   
On 26 May 2016, the Plenary in Bucharest decided to:

**Adopt the following non-legally binding working definition of antisemitism:  
  
“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”**

To guide IHRA in its work, the following examples may serve as illustrations:  
   
Manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for “why things go wrong.” It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.  
   
Contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

* Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
* Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.
* Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
* Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
* Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
* Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
* Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.
* Applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
* Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.
* Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
* Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.

**Antisemitic acts are criminal** when they are so defined by law (for example, denial of the Holocaust or distribution of antisemitic materials in some countries).  
   
**Criminal acts are antisemitic**when the targets of attacks, whether they are people or property – such as buildings, schools, places of worship and cemeteries – are selected because they are, or are perceived to be, Jewish or linked to Jews.  
   
**Antisemitic discrimination** is the denial to Jews of opportunities or services available to others and is illegal in many countries.

**Annex I**

**Press Release**

**Published 27 January 2015**

**From:** [**Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street**](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/prime-ministers-office-10-downing-street)**,**[**The Rt Hon David Cameron**](https://www.gov.uk/government/people/david-cameron)**, and**[**The Rt Hon Nick Clegg**](https://www.gov.uk/government/people/nick-clegg)

**Prime Minister pledges prominent Holocaust Memorial for Britain**

The recommendations of the Prime Minister’s cross-party Holocaust Commission have been accepted.

Britain will have a new National Memorial and world-class Learning Centre using the latest digital technology to commemorate and educate about the Holocaust Prime Minister David Cameron has announced at an event to mark the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.

The National Memorial and Learning Centre are 2 of the recommendations made today by the cross-party Holocaust Commission [set up by the Prime Minister](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-launches-holocaust-commission) which has spent the last year investigating how the country should ensure that the memory of the Holocaust is preserved and that the lessons it teaches are never forgotten.

Read [the Prime Minister’s Holocaust Commission Report: Britain’s Promise to Remember](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prime-ministers-holocaust-commission-report).

The Commission, which has been chaired by Mick Davis and included the Chief Rabbi, Helena Bonham Carter, Natasha Kaplinsky, Sir Peter Bazalgette and cross-party representation from Rt Hon Ed Balls, Rt Hon Simon Hughes and Rt Hon Michael Gove, has today recommended:

* a striking and prominent new National Memorial should be built in central London to make a bold statement about the importance Britain places on preserving the memory of the Holocaust and stand as a permanent affirmation of the values of British society
* a world-class Learning Centre should sit alongside the memorial. This should be a must-see destination using the latest technology to engage and inspire vast numbers of visitors. It would also be responsible for developing a physical campus and online hub bringing together a network of the existing Holocaust organisations across the UK and supporting them in driving a renewed national effort to advance Holocaust education across the country
* an endowment fund to secure the long-term future of Holocaust education – including the new Learning Centre and projects across the country
* an urgent programme to record and preserve the testimony of British Holocaust survivors and liberators

All 3 parties have agreed that government will commit £50 million to the creation of the National Memorial, Learning Centre and endowment fund.

Prime Minister David Cameron said:

“Today we stand together – whatever our faith, whatever our creed, whatever our politics. We stand in remembrance of those who were murdered in the darkest hour of human history, we stand in admiration of what our Holocaust survivors have given to our country and we stand united in our resolve to fight prejudice and discrimination in all its forms.

“Today – with the full support of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition – I am accepting the recommendations of the Holocaust Commission. Britain will have a National Memorial, a world-class Learning Centre and an endowment fund to secure Holocaust education forever.

“I thank Mick Davis and all the Commissioners – including Ed Balls, Michael Gove and Simon Hughes – who have given this work the cross-party status it so profoundly deserves. As Prime Minister I will ensure that we will keep Britain’s promise to remember: today, tomorrow and for every generation to come.”

Read the [Prime Minister’s speech in full](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/national-holocaust-commemoration-event-2015-prime-ministers-speech).

Leader of the Opposition, Ed Miliband said:

“In the 1940s both my parents fled the Nazis and several of my relatives – including my grandfather – were killed in the Holocaust. My family’s story is just one of millions of stories of men, women and children who were tragically murdered in the Holocaust because they were Jewish or a member of other persecuted groups.

“I’m pleased to support the Holocaust Commission’s recommendations because they will help ensure that the memories of those killed in the Holocaust live on, both through a powerful memorial as well as long-term education and research programmes.

“At a time of rising anti-Semitic attacks in Britain and across Europe, it is imperative that we remember what religious prejudice can lead to. I know that the Holocaust Commission recommendations will be instrumental in educating our future generations and in recording and preserving the stories of our Holocaust survivors and those who fought to liberate them.

Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg said:

“I would like to thank the Holocaust Commission for their excellent report. It is a great privilege to implement their recommendations and to commit £50 million to build a new national Holocaust memorial and Learning Centre.

“Today, I was honoured to meet and speak with holocaust survivors who have dedicated themselves to bearing witness to the atrocities they and others suffered at the hands of the Nazis. On this the 70th Anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, we honour their courage and commitment.

“They are a beacon of hope amidst so much darkness. But, sadly there will be a time when there are no eyewitnesses left. It is therefore even more important that we build the best possible facilities to educate future generations about the Holocaust and continue to tell their stories long after they are gone.

“We also remember the millions who lost their lives. Learning about the Holocaust is not just a history lesson. It is one of the greatest antidotes we have to anti-Semitism and extremism of all kinds. We simply cannot remember and re-remember these horrors enough. Silence and forgetfulness allows prejudice and hatred to rise again, as we can see from the violence still perpetrated today.

“The fact that thousands of people will visit this new National Memorial is our greatest guarantee that they will not be repeated in the future.”

There were nearly 2,500 responses to a [national call for evidence by the Commission](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-holocaust-commission-keeping-the-memory-alive) which included one of Britain’s largest ever gatherings of Holocaust survivors at Wembley Stadium in May. As well as revealing widespread dissatisfaction with the current memorial in Hyde Park, the consultation found that, although there are pockets of excellence in Holocaust education, there are worrying gaps in young people’s knowledge and understanding of the Holocaust.

The Commission was given privileged access to emerging results from the world’s largest study of young people’s knowledge and understanding of the Holocaust conducted by University College London’s world-leading Institute of Education. Their study of 8,000 young people in England, across all years of secondary school education, found:

* the majority of those surveyed did not know some of the most fundamental facts that explain why and how the Holocaust happened, even after having studied the Holocaust at school
* when asked who was responsible for the Holocaust, the vast majority think only of Hitler and the Nazis – more than 3 quarters didn’t recognise that hundreds of thousands of ordinary citizens were also complicit in the Holocaust
* more than half thought the killing sites were in Germany rather than in Poland
* less than a third knew what ‘anti-Semitism’ meant – compared to more than half who knew what ‘Islamophobia’ meant and 90% who knew what ‘homophobia’ meant

The new Learning Centre and its partners will be tasked with transforming the way Holocaust education is delivered. The latest technology will be used to develop innovative ways to educate and will be made available around the UK. The Commission has been working to develop some initial concepts with pro bono support from Oscar-winning British company Framestore. These include, for example, using virtual reality technology to recreate the streets of 1930s Germany, and smart tickets which would allow visitors to interact with digital installations. BAFTA-winning British production company Atlantic Productions has also offered to work with Holocaust sites such as Auschwitz-Birkenau to use their world-leading laser scanning technology and software to create a permanent digital record of the past and provide valuable information for its future preservation. This digital imagery would be a powerful tool in sharing stories and educating children and families worldwide.

The Learning Centre will also support head teachers and others to champion Holocaust education by working with Teaching Schools and other partners to promote the benefits of Holocaust education, increasing the accessibility and affordability of teacher training, assisting professional bodies to incorporate lessons from the Holocaust into their training and further advancing the UK’s position as a recognised international centre of Holocaust excellence in education, research and study, including through the creation of a professorial chair.

Commission Chair Mick Davis said:

“The Prime Minister charged the Commission with setting out recommendations which would ensure that in 50 years’ time, the memory and lessons of the Holocaust are as strong and as vibrant as today.

“I have no doubt that, if properly implemented, the recommendations in this report will create a compelling memorial and greatly enhance this country’s existing educational effort for the future.”

Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis said:

“I would like to thank the Prime Minister for his vision and foresight in establishing the Holocaust Commission. The work of the Commission transcends politics and I want to thank Ed Balls, Simon Hughes and Michael Gove for their role as fellow Commissioners in ensuring unreserved cross party support for this important initiative.

“Building on the great work already being done, the recommendations of the Commission will have a profound impact on the future of Holocaust education and its centrality in the UK. A fitting memorial and a state of the art educational centre will ensure that Holocaust commemoration and education reach the widest possible audience. It has never been more important than it is today for humanity to learn the lessons of the Holocaust. Only through learning about the darkest period in human history can we ensure it will not be repeated.”

The Commission has forged strong links with leading international institutions, including signing a joint letter of intent to enable greater co-operation between British Holocaust organisations and Yad Vashem in Israel; and a partnership with the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC. It proposes that an international summit should be held in London to mark the opening of the Learning Centre within the next Parliament.

During his speech to Holocaust survivors at the national UK commemorations for Holocaust Memorial Day in London, the Prime Minister announced the creation of the United Kingdom Holocaust Memorial Foundation – a new independent body led by Arts Council Chair Sir Peter Bazalgette that is tasked with taking the recommendations forward including the creation of the National Memorial and Learning Centre.

Sir Peter Bazalgette said:

“Under the leadership of Mick Davis the Holocaust Commission has produced a set of recommendations designed to ensure Britain will always remember humanity’s darkest hour.

“It is vital that the new United Kingdom Holocaust Memorial Foundation maintains the urgent momentum of this work. The prize is empathetic citizens with tolerance for the beliefs and cultures of others. But eternal vigilance is needed to instil this in every generation.”

## Notes to editors

1. Read the full report of the [Prime Minister’s Holocaust Commission: Britain’s Promise to Remember](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prime-ministers-holocaust-commission-report).
2. The Holocaust Commission was initially [announced](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/25th-anniversary-of-the-holocaust-educational-trust-prime-ministers-speech) by the Prime Minister at the Holocaust Education Trust annual dinner.
3. The Commission was launched on Holocaust Memorial Day 2014 at a reception for survivors in Downing Street. Read the [speech](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/david-camerons-holocaust-commission-speech).
4. The Holocaust Commission ran a [call for evidence](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-holocaust-commission-keeping-the-memory-alive) from January to May 2014. This included a national competition to find a youth Commissioner which received more than 700 entries. Charlotte Cohen was selected to join the Commission by Professor Elie Wiesel, Nobel Peace Prize winner and Holocaust survivor.
5. A list of members of the Prime Minister’s Holocaust Commission and expert groups is available in the [report](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prime-ministers-holocaust-commission-report).

**Annex J**

**Press Release**

**Published 7 May 2019**

From:

[Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-housing-communities-and-local-government), [UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-holocaust-memorial-foundation), [The Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP](https://www.gov.uk/government/people/james-brokenshire), and [The Rt Hon Theresa May MP](https://www.gov.uk/government/people/theresa-may)

**Prime Minister leads unprecedented support for Holocaust Memorial as further £25m committed**

The Prime Minister has been joined by the 4 living former Prime Ministers to back the new Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre.

The Prime Minister Theresa May has led cross-party support for the new Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre, planned for Victoria Tower Gardens beside Parliament.

In an unprecedented move, the Prime Minister has been joined by the 4 living former Prime Ministers – Sir John Major, Tony Blair, Gordon Brown and David Cameron – to back the proposal to ensure we never forget one of the darkest chapters in human history.

Prime Minister Theresa May said:

“By putting our National Holocaust Memorial and Education Centre next to our Parliament, we make a solemn and eternal promise that Britain will never forget what happened in the Holocaust.

“Seeing this through is a sacred, national mission. In the face of despicable Holocaust denial, this Memorial will stand to preserve the truth forever.

“And this education centre will ensure that every generation understands the responsibility that we all share – to fight against hatred and prejudice in all its forms, wherever it is found.”

A further £25 million has also been committed to the new National Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre, Communities Secretary the Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP confirmed today (7 May 2019).

Speaking this afternoon at the Wiener Library, Communities Secretary, the Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP said the additional funding will improve the visitor experience and maximise green space on the site, creating an enduring monument to the victims and survivors of the Holocaust and a learning centre that will educate generations to come.

The funding will be matched by a newly established charity headed up by member Gerald Ronson CBE and Lord Andrew Feldman to support the landmark proposal.

The further £25 million committed to the new National Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre, is contingent on the securing of £25 million of match funding and on planning permission being obtained.

Communities Secretary, the Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP said:

“I believe there can be no more powerful symbol of our commitment to remembering the men, women and children who were murdered in the Holocaust and in subsequent genocides than by placing the Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre, in the shadow of our Parliament at the heart of our democracy.

“Education on the Holocaust and subsequent genocides is one of the most powerful tools we have in the fight against prejudice, intolerance and misinformation.

“Located beside our Parliament, this Memorial will deliver this message, and stand as a permanent reminder that political decisions have far-reaching consequences.”

The United Kingdom Holocaust Memorial is dedicated to the 6 million Jewish men, women and children murdered in the Holocaust and all other victims of the Nazis and their collaborators.

The Learning Centre will focus on the Holocaust and subsequent genocides and will educate future generations on the importance of fighting prejudice and persecution in all its forms.

The proposals have been developed with great sensitivity to the existing context and character of Victoria Tower Gardens. The vast majority of the public space will be retained and views over Parliament and the River Thames will be improved with a range of accessible seating and a new boardwalk along the embankment.

In 2015 the government committed £50 million to the project to kick-start a society-wide fundraising effort.

A time capsule will also be buried at the proposed site to remind future generations that survivors fought long and hard for this memorial.

**British Heroes of the Holocaust award**

Supportive video messages from Mrs May and her 4 predecessors were also played at a special ceremony held to honour 2 British Heroes of the Holocaust at the Wiener Library.

The British Heroes of the Holocaust award is a national award given by the UK Government in recognition of British citizens who assisted in rescuing victims of the Holocaust. It was first awarded on 9 March 2010 following a campaign by the Holocaust Educational Trust.

Speaking at the ceremony in the Wiener Library, London, the world’s oldest Holocaust archive, the Communities Secretary praised the courage and humanity of the late Joan Stiebel MBE and the late Lady Rose L. Henriques CBE for their service to Britain. They are 40th and 41st recipients of the British Heroes of the Holocaust award.

Mr Brokenshire said:

“We can draw real inspiration from the women awarded British Heroes of the Holocaust medals today.

“They refused to turn away and leave it to others to do the right thing. Instead they took on personal responsibility and their courage and human compassion saved many lives.

“I hope these medals will ensure their legacy is never forgotten and will inspire us all to confront injustice, bigotry and hatred.”

Holocaust Educational Trust Chief Executive, Karen Pollock MBE, commented:

“As the Holocaust moves further into history, this Memorial and Learning Centre positioned right next to Parliament will send a clear signal for generations to come of the important place that the Holocaust has in our nation’s history and will stand as a warning of what happens when we let hate and prejudice go unchecked.

“To hear from 4 former Prime Ministers and Prime Minister Theresa May together, demonstrates their strong commitment to remembering and will mean so much to Holocaust survivors and their families.

“Today, as we honour those who took extraordinary steps to save Jewish lives, going above and beyond what others did, we pledge to redouble our efforts to ensure a long-lasting legacy."

**Further information**

Victoria Tower Gardens was chosen as the home for the new Memorial and Learning Centre because, in the shadow of Parliament, it will encourage visitors to learn about the challenging decisions our leaders had to make in the lead up to, during and in the aftermath of the Holocaust.

The additional £25 million will help to provide further funding for the revised entrance pavilion, the Memorial courtyard and surrounding landscaping and to take account of additional VAT incurred on the overall project costs.

Revised designs for the UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre were unveiled, on 1 May 2019. This follows comprehensive consultation and discussion with local residents, Holocaust experts, survivors and other victim groups, Westminster City Council, Historic England, Royal Parks and statutory consultees.

The proposed design changes to the Entrance Pavilion and Memorial Courtyard are considered to enhance the scheme and improve views towards Victoria Tower and the Palace of Westminster, in particular from the southern end of Victoria Tower Gardens where a new view from the playground has been provided.

The proposals involve significant works of landscaping which would act to enhance the wider offer of Victoria Tower Gardens. The proposals will result in almost completely new gardens being provided back to the community with the following significant improvements to Victoria Tower Gardens provided by the proposed development that will deliver better quality open space and enhance the land as public open space.

See the [latest images of the new designs](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-holocaust-memorial-design-revealed).

After an international competition, with 92 entries in total and 10 finalists, Adjaye Associates, Ron Arad Architects and Gustafson Porter + Bowman were selected unanimously as the winning team, by a jury including the then Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the Mayor of London, the Chief Rabbi, experts from architecture, art and design, and both first and second-generation Holocaust survivors. The [announcement](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/adjaye-associates-and-ron-arad-architexts-win-uk-holocaust-memorial-international-design-competition) was made on 24 October 2017.

At Budget 2018, the Chancellor announced £1.7 million funding for educational projects in schools to mark the upcoming 75th anniversary of the liberation of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camps in 2020, as part of our continuing commitment to remember the victims who perished and pay tribute to the survivors of the Holocaust.

The 2 recipients of the British Heroes of the Holocaust award are:

**Joan Stiebel MBE** (23 April 1911 – 25 January 2007): Joan Stiebel was responsible for making travel arrangements to bring 1,000 underage Jewish Nazi concentration camp orphans to the United Kingdom. The children came to be known in the press as the ‘Boys’, and her involvement with them continued throughout her lifetime.

**Lady Rose L. Henriques CBE**, née Loewe, (1889-1972): Henriques was the daughter of James Loewe, a community worker and scholar in the Stoke Newington area of London. The couple worked on a number of joint enterprises together. From 1914 until 1948, they were the joint wardens of the St George’s Jewish Settlement in Stepney, later known as the Bernhard Baron St George’s Jewish Settlement. When the war ended, Henriques went to Germany where she worked alongside a number of Jewish welfare groups at the former Bergen-Belsen concentration camp and then at the nearby displaced persons camp.

**Annex K**

**Prime Minister Boris Johnson's speech at the Holocaust Memorial Day service 2020.**

**Published 27 January 2020**

From:

[Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/prime-ministers-office-10-downing-street) and [The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP](https://www.gov.uk/government/people/boris-johnson)

Delivered on:

27 January 2020 (Speaker's notes, may differ from delivered version)

Last week Mala told me her story, including the scene that awaited Ian and our British forces when they liberated Bergen Belsen almost 75 years ago.

I am lost in admiration for Mala’s courage and endurance and her unwavering determination to ensure that we remember.

As she said to me, the Holocaust is unique, because it was the industrialised murder of a race, of 6 million Jews, of whom 1.5 million were children, along with millions of other targets of Nazi persecution.

As Prime Minister, I promise that we will preserve this truth forever.

I will make sure we build the National Holocaust Memorial and Education Centre, so that future generations can never doubt what happened, because that is the only way we can be certain that it never happens again.

And I feel a deep sense of shame that here in Britain – in 2020 – we seem to be dealing with a resurgence of the virus of anti-semitism - and I know that I carry responsibility as Prime Minister to do everything possible to stamp it out.

As we resolutely proclaim “never again”, it is right that we should also ask what happened to our resolve in the genocides that followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

And as I stand here, in the presence of many of Britain’s Holocaust survivors, I feel a special obligation towards the sanctity of their testimonies, because nothing can compare with hearing directly from a survivor.

I will do everything I can as Prime Minister to ensure these testimonies are shared as widely as possible, encouraging the use of technology so the tangible, palpable, irrefutable reality of this experience is preserved as something not just for this generation but for every generation.

In doing so, we will ensure that Britain never forgets the truth of the Holocaust.

In the name of all those who perished, may their memory be a blessing for ever.

Published 27 January 2020