



## DEBATE PACK

Number CDP-0011, 22 January 2019

# General debate on Holocaust Memorial Day 2019

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## Summary

This debate pack has been compiled ahead of the general debate on Holocaust Memorial Day to be held in the Commons Chamber on Thursday 24 January 2019. The subject was determined by the Backbench Business Committee.

The debate will be on the motion: That this House has considered Holocaust Memorial Day 2019.

Holocaust Memorial Day, 27 January, has taken place in the UK since 2001. Each year, the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust chooses a different theme to enable audiences on Holocaust Memorial Day to learn something new about the past. Every theme is relevant to the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and to each subsequent genocide. This year's theme: Torn from home.

Torn from home encourages audiences to reflect on how the enforced loss of a safe place to call 'home' is part of the trauma faced by anyone experiencing persecution and genocide. 'Home' usually means a place of safety, comfort and security.

HMD 2019 will include marking the 25th anniversary of the Genocide in Rwanda, which began in April 1994 and the 40th anniversary of the end of the Genocide in Cambodia, which ended in 1979.

The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

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# 1. Press notices

## [UK Holocaust Memorial to reaffirm Britain's commitment to stand up against antisemitism, prejudice and hatred](#)

### **Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government and UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation**

**4 Dec 2018**

The [Mission Statement](#) for the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation vows that the national Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre will reaffirm Britain's commitment to stand up against antisemitism, prejudice and hatred in all its forms.

Released alongside the [final designs for the Memorial and Learning Centre](#) proposed for alongside Parliament, the Mission Statement affirms that the Memorial will be 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 to be vigilant and responsive whenever and wherever those values are threatened.

The Memorial, proposed for Victoria Tower Gardens alongside the Houses of Parliament, will be 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 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.

The Foundation is firmly committed to working with other institutions across the UK supporting Holocaust commemoration and education. Visitors will be encouraged to explore other resources, including Imperial War Museum London's new Holocaust Galleries which are due to open in 2021.

Opening alongside new Second War Galleries, IWM's reinterpreted Holocaust Galleries will present critical insights into the Holocaust as well as integrate the devastating events of the Holocaust into the broader history of the Second World War, revealing why this often overlooked dimension is so important.

UK Holocaust Memorial co-Chair the Rt Hon Ed Balls said:

The proposed Holocaust Memorial will stand as a national place of remembrance of the lives lost and the communities torn apart in the wake of decisions made in another parliament, not so far away in time or distance from our own.

There is no better place than Victoria Tower Gardens, just metres from our own Parliament, to remind ourselves of the value of democracy and the need to keep the lessons of history at the heart of our institutions and the decisions our elected politicians make every day.

Holocaust learning and education is absolutely fundamental if we are to create engaged and vigilant citizens to hold their elected representatives to account. The UKHMF is firmly committed to working closely with the Imperial War Museum and leading organisations across the country to deliver this vital work.

UK Holocaust Memorial co-Chair the Rt Hon the Lord Pickles said:

The Holocaust had a huge impact on Britain – we are the nation of Kindertransport and liberation; of post-war survival and reconciliation. However, it is important to ensure that our examination of the past is honest and unblinking. We will properly explore aspects of the Holocaust that are less flattering to the United Kingdom.

At the core of the proposed Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre is a commitment to learn from this darkest chapter in our history, to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to explore the universal lessons of the Holocaust as a reminder of where hatred, intolerance and prejudice can lead if left unchecked.

Complementing the many high-quality and committed institutions already engaged in Holocaust education and commemoration, the new Memorial and its exhibition will broaden and deepen understanding of the Holocaust across the whole nation.

Secretary of State for Communities the Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP said:

The United Kingdom Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre will stand in its exceptional and symbolic location as a national centre for remembrance and education at the very heart of our national life.

Our country stands together against the hatred, ignorance and bigotry that led to the Holocaust and other genocides. By placing the greatest example of where democratic institutions elsewhere failed to protect its citizens next to our own Parliament, we are making a strong commitment to stand up whenever our shared values are threatened.

The design for the UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre, proposed by a team led by architect Sir David Adjaye, with Ron Arad Architects as Memorial Architect, and Gustafson Porter + Bowman as Landscape Architect, has been developed over the past year in consultation with local residents, Holocaust survivors, communities of a range of faiths and backgrounds and key experts from landscape design to Holocaust education.

The final scheme as released today proposes a sensitive yet impactful memorial, well integrated into the green space of the Gardens, with a multipurpose courtyard space that leads to a unique underground space set aside for a world leading exhibition on the Holocaust and its impact on Britain.

In September 2018, the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation hosted a public exhibition. The second exhibition, taking place this week, outlines the design alterations and modifications made following extensive

public consultation and stakeholder engagement ahead of the Memorial's formal planning submission in the coming weeks.

Following feedback from the first exhibition, more information has been provided on the following aspects of the scheme:

- Plans for the interior of the Learning Centre and a mission statement to outline plans for a world-leading and unique exhibition that will serve as a national centre of remembrance and education.
- Plans to improve the setting of the Buxton Memorial to the abolition of slavery while maintaining views of this important memorial, in addition to the landscape design that will link together the garden's existing memorials commemorating the efforts and effects of social injustice.
- Following public comments, plans to retain 100% of the children's play area and create a new café kiosk and consult the local community on new play equipment.
- More detail on ticketing travel and transport strategies including coach parking. The expectation being that through a pre-booked ticketing strategy in the first 2 years, there will be no queues to the memorial. Traffic will be carefully managed, with limits on coach drop off times and dedicated parking spaces beyond the immediate area.
- The measures taken to preserve the Victoria Tower Gardens for the use of all, including a strategy to boost tree health and to enhance and improve the gardens through sensitive landscaping and planting, befitting an historical and cherished London park.

### **Further information**

The UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre's exhibition will be open to the public from 12pm-7pm Wednesday 5 December to Friday 8 December and from 10am-4pm on Saturday 9 December.

See the UK Holocaust Memorial Commission's report [Britain's Promise to Remember](#).

### **[Kristallnacht 80 years on](#)**

#### **Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government and UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation**

#### **9 November 2018**

To mark the 80th anniversary of Kristallnacht, the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation has today (9 November 2018) released a short film with exclusive testimony from 6 British survivors of the Holocaust.

On the 9 and 10 November 1938, Jewish communities in Germany and throughout Nazi occupied territories faced widespread state-sponsored violence against their businesses, homes and places of worship. The pogrom became known as Kristallnacht (in English, crystal night) after

the smashed glass that littered the streets on the morning of the 10 November.

Over the course of the evening an estimated 30,000 Jewish men were arrested and incarcerated in concentration camps, including Dachau and Buchenwald.

The UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation set out in 2015 to record the testimony of British survivors of the Holocaust. In interviews with broadcaster Natasha Kaplinsky, survivors recall their experiences of Kristallnacht and the aftermath of the violence on their daily lives, their families and their wider communities.

UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation co-Chair Ed Balls said:

“Kristallnacht was a moment where prejudice turned into violence, and it is right 80 years on, that we examine this vicious escalation of the Nazi campaign against Jewish communities in Europe.

“By understanding the steps that lead up to the Holocaust, we are can remain vigilant to any attempt to create divisions and stir up hate in our society today.”

UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation co-Chair Lord Pickles said:

“The Foundation was set up to increase the visibility and scope of Holocaust education in the United Kingdom, securing the legacy of the British Holocaust survivors who have dedicated their lives to educating the future generation on where prejudice, intolerance and hatred can lead.

“Our hope is that the short film released today, with moving testimony from men and women who recall the impact of Kristallnacht on their own communities, is a small step in achieving these aims.”

### **The aftermath of Kristallnacht**

Kristallnacht was a turning point in the Nazi persecution of the Jewish communities in their territories. The events of the pogrom, widely reported in the international press, lead to a wide range of responses.

British Jewish community organisations and charities, including World Jewish Relief, rallied the UK government to allow the transport of children from Germany and Austria to the United Kingdom. Less than a month after the shocking events of Kristallnacht, on 2 December 1938, the first group of children arrived on British shores to be placed with foster families. Ultimately, 10,000 child refugees entered the country in what came to be known as Kindertransport.

## **Public consultation marks next stage in development of UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre**

**Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation, and The Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP**

**4 September 2018**

A public exhibition and consultation of the latest designs for the new UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre has been launched today (4 September 2018) by the Secretary of State for Communities the Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP at a reception attended by the Shadow Foreign Secretary Emily Thornberry and the UK Holocaust Memorial co-Chairs Ed Balls and Lord Pickles.

In 2016 Prime Minister Theresa May launched a design competition for a Memorial and Learning Centre in Victoria Tower Gardens, adjacent to Parliament in Westminster.

The winning scheme proposed by the team led by architect Sir David Adjaye impressed the jury with a sensitive and impactful design that preserved the green space of the Gardens and respected the UNESCO World Heritage views.

The consultation launched today, running until Saturday 8 September in Central London, will ask for views on the proposed designs for the Memorial and Learning Centre before a planning application is made later this year.

The exhibition will be an opportunity for people to see the designs for themselves. It is crucial that as many people as possible – from a range of different communities – have a chance to be heard before a formal planning application is submitted later this year.

The exhibition reveals further details of the Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre proposed design and improvements to Victoria Tower Gardens, including:

- The architects' proposals to retain 85% of the green space of Victoria Tower Gardens, through a streamlined design with a separate entrance pavilion to the Memorial and Learning Centre.
- Measures taken to improve the health of trees in the Gardens by improving the drainage of paths.
- Improvements to be made to the surroundings and green space of the Gardens, while retaining their character. This includes the creation of a gentle slope to improve views of the river and Parliament, new seating and pathways along the river bank and better filtration for the green areas to limit issues of flooding in winter.
- Plans to improve access to the existing memorials – allowing visitors to appreciate them in a new way, particularly the Buxton Memorial to the abolition of slavery which could get improved lighting, and, if possible, a reinstated water fountain.

- The renewal of the café area to the south of the Gardens, and plans to consult the local community on improvements to be made to the children's playground.

The proposed design for the Memorial and Learning Centre consists of 23 bronze fins to the southern end of the Gardens. Visitors will walk through an entrance pavilion then across a courtyard where they will enjoy spectacular views of Parliament's Victoria Tower.

The Learning Centre, accessed by pathways set between the fins, is an integral part of the Memorial. Visitors will leave with an improved understanding of the Holocaust and its impact on Britain. It's a chance to reflect, remember and learn.

The content of the Learning Centre is still in development but is expected to focus on Britain's relationship with the Holocaust. It is important that we celebrate the ways we intervened for the safety of the Jewish communities in Europe, but also what more could have been done to protect individuals and families.

## 2. Press and blog articles

*Please note: The Library is not responsible for either the views or accuracy of external content.*

### [Who Will Write Our History? by Roberta Grossman documentary to be screened in 45 countries simultaneously](#)

**UNESCO**

**21 January 2019**

On 27 January, International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, the documentary film *Who Will Write Our History?* will be screened at UNESCO's Headquarters (Paris, 7 pm local time) and, simultaneously, at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC, the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles (USA) the Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw (Poland), and in 300 cinema theatres, museums, UNESCO Field Offices and United Nations Information Centres spread over 45 countries.

### [German Jewish History Award goes to Hilde Schramm](#)

**Deutsche Welle**

**21 January 2019**

The daughter of Hitler's war production minister Albert Speer has been honored for the foundation she started to support Jewish women's projects. The former politician used her inheritance to fund it over 20 years ago. The awards ceremony in Berlin's parliament was meant to coincide with International Holocaust Remembrance Day on January 27.

### [Holocaust victims funeral a reminder to 'confront racism'](#)

**Rebecca Wearn, BBC News**

**20 January 2019**

The UK's Chief Rabbi has urged an end to rising anti-Semitism, at a funeral for six unknown Auschwitz victims whose remains were donated to a museum.

### [The final testimony: film tells stories of last Holocaust survivors](#)

**Harriet Sherwood, The Guardian**

**18 January 2019**

BBC *The Last Survivors* features some of the last people still alive in the UK who can offer first-hand testimony of Holocaust horrors

### [Events to Mark Remembrance Day at HMC](#)

#### **The Jewish News**

**17 January 2019**

The Holocaust Memorial Center (HMC) will host programs to commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day on Sunday, Jan. 27, including a presentation by a Holocaust survivor, a docent-led tour of the museum and the screening of new documentary film about the Warsaw Ghetto, *Who Will Write Our History*.

### [Germany to compensate hundreds who fled Nazis as children on the 'Kindertransport'](#)

#### **National Post**

**17 December 2019**

Germany has agreed to one-time payments for survivors, primarily Jews, who were evacuated from Nazi Germany as children, many of whom never saw their parents again, the organization that negotiates compensation with the German government said Monday.

### [Britons make 170,000 antisemitic Google searches a year, study finds](#)

#### **Nick Hopkins, The Guardian**

**11 January 2019**

Seth Stephens-Davidowitz, the author of the report – titled *Hidden hate: what Google searches tell us about antisemitism today* – said: “We have found that searches looking for information on the Holocaust being a hoax rise about 30% every year on Holocaust Memorial Day”.

### [Aviv Geffen, other stars, record songs from Holocaust survivors' writings](#)

#### **The Jerusalem Post**

**24 December 2018**

A host of Israel's biggest music stars, including Israeli rock musicians Aviv Geffen, Ninet Tayeb and Noa Kirel, will be recording a series of songs based on the writings of those caught in the Holocaust, ahead of this year's Holocaust Memorial Day.

Entitled “*Shem Olam 2019*,” the project is dedicated to “breathing new life into compositions of Jews from the Holocaust,” and will focus on putting various letters, poems and other written compositions to music and recording them as songs by leading Israeli musicians.

[MP Ian Austin rejects claims Holocaust Memorial plans were 'railroaded' through](#)

**Lee Harpin, The Jewish Chronicle**

**29 October 2018**

Mr Austin, the MP for Dudley North, was elected as joint chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on the National Holocaust Memorial alongside Conservative MP Bob Blackman, at the inaugural meeting.

[MPs reaffirm commitment for £100m Holocaust memorial centre in Westminster](#)

**Jewish News**

**23 October 2018**

Politicians from both Labour and Conservative continue to push through plans for memorial which drew opposition from Jewish peers.

[Ed Balls and Lord Pickles defend Shoah memorial plans after peers' criticism](#)

**Jewish News**

**4 October 2018**

Two senior political heavyweights have lambasted eight Jewish peers for deriding the Government's planned new Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre opposite Parliament.

[Why a new memorial to the Holocaust is essential](#)

**Ed Balls and Eric Pickles, Evening Standard**

**3 September 2018**

We are building a Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre next to Parliament to make sure we never forget the persecution and murder of the Jewish people of Europe and all other victims of Nazi persecution. We've got to be brave at times like these, when it's clear that our British values of tolerance and equality are coming under threat.

## 3. Parliamentary material

### 3.1 Debates

#### [Kindertransport Commemoration](#)

**HL Deb 27 Nov 2018 cc513-534**

**Lord Dubs:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the decision to allow Kindertransport children to come to the United Kingdom.

#### [Religious Intolerance and Prejudice](#)

**HL Deb 17 Oct 2018 cc497-558**

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** That this House takes note of the challenges posed by religious intolerance and prejudice in the United Kingdom.

### 3.2 Ten-minute rule motion

#### [Holocaust \(Return of Cultural Objects\) \(Amendment\)](#)

**Theresa Villiers (Chipping Barnet) (Con):** That leave be given to bring in a Bill to prevent the Holocaust (Return of Cultural Objects) Act 2009 from expiring on 11 November 2019.

13 Mar 2018 | Debates on bills | House of Commons | 637 c753

**Commons Library Briefing Paper:** [The Holocaust \(Return of Cultural Objects\)\(Amendment\) Bill 2017-19](#)

**Bills before Parliament 2017-19:** [Holocaust \(Return of Cultural Objects\) \(Amendment\) Bill 2017-19](#)

### 3.3 Oral questions

#### [Engagements](#)

**Bob Blackman (Harrow East) (Con):** Yesterday, London students heard from the renowned holocaust survivor Hannah Lewis, who described the horrors of Europe's darkest hour. As we celebrate the festival of Hanukkah, does my right hon. Friend agree that there could be no better place for the national holocaust memorial and learning centre than alongside this Palace of Westminster, to stand as a permanent memorial to the horrors of the ultimate of antisemitism?

**The Prime Minister:** I commend Hannah for the contribution she is making and has made over the years in bringing home to people the absolute horrors of the holocaust. I commend the work of the Holocaust Educational Trust, which does important work up and down our country. I absolutely agree with my hon. Friend that there is no better place for the holocaust memorial and learning centre to be than right next to our Parliament. What is important is that this is not just a

memorial; it is a learning centre and it will be educating young people and others about the horrors of man's inhumanity to man.

05 Dec 2018 | Prime Minister's questions - Supplementary | Answered | House of Commons | 650 c891

### [Topical Questions](#)

**Ian Austin (Dudley North) (Lab):** Does the Secretary of State agree that the establishment of the new all-party group on the national holocaust memorial, which is chaired by the hon. Member for Harrow East (Bob Blackman) and me, is very much to be welcomed? Is it not fantastic that so many Members from both sides of the House came together, at a time when antisemitism is on the increase, to establish this group and that we want to commemorate here in Parliament history's greatest crime and support the establishment of this memorial, right here in Westminster, at the centre of not just our political life but our national life?

### **James Brokenshire, Housing, Communities and Local**

**Government:** I absolutely recognise and commend what the hon. Gentleman said on how collectively we challenge antisemitism and stand up for the values of this country. I pay tribute to him for the personal contribution that he has made on this issue, and equally, I reflect on the statue of Frank Foley, which the hon. Gentleman was instrumental in bringing into effect. It recognises Frank Foley's contribution in saving the lives of thousands of Jews fleeing from persecution in Germany, and we must never forget the contribution that he and others have made.

05 Nov 2018 | Topical questions - 1st Supplementary | Answered | House of Commons | 648 cc1229-1352

### [Engagements](#)

**Bob Blackman (Harrow East) (Con):** Very sadly, my constituent Gena Turgel lost her life last week, aged 95. Gena survived the Krakow ghetto, Auschwitz-Birkenau and Buchenwald, and she became known as the bride of Belsen when she married her liberator. Will my right hon. Friend join me in celebrating the life of Gena, who dedicated her life to informing young people about the horrors of the holocaust, and in ensuring that, although a light has gone out, her legacy lives on?

**The Prime Minister:** I am happy to join my hon. Friend in paying tribute to Gena Turgel and to the work she did over so many years. She was one of the first survivors to go into schools to share her story. I have seen, as I am sure other hon. and right hon. Members have, the impact on young people of a survivor of the holocaust going into schools to explain what happened. It is moving, and she showed considerable determination and strength. Her example is truly humbling.

It is right that Gena Turgel is going to live on in the national holocaust memorial and in the accompanying education centre, which will house her testimony for generations to come. We must never forget what Gena taught us. We must fight hatred and prejudice in all its forms.

13 Jun 2018 | Prime Minister's questions - Supplementary | Answered | House of Commons | 642 c893

### [Engagements](#)

**Bob Blackman (Harrow East) (Con):** The whole House will be well aware of the excellent work done by the Holocaust Educational Trust, particularly the brilliant Lessons from Auschwitz project. However, at the moment, the Polish constitutional court is considering a draft law that would make it illegal to refer to “Polish death camps” and to the role of Polish citizens during the holocaust. Will my right hon. Friend take this up with her counterpart in Poland to ensure that families of victims and survivors’ words are heard—that history cannot be rewritten?

**The Prime Minister:** I say to my hon. Friend that I understand the Government have already raised this issue with the Poles. What we should be doing is ensuring that nobody forgets the holocaust—nobody forgets the horrific inhumanity to man that was shown through the actions taken by the Nazis in the holocaust. The Holocaust Educational Trust does very important work. The education centre and memorial that is going to be placed here at Westminster will be a long-standing memorial to people, and will also do the important job of educating people about the past to ensure that we never see such horrific crimes being committed again.

21 Feb 2018 | Prime Minister's questions - Supplementary | Answered | House of Commons | 636 c160

### [Anti-Semitism and Holocaust Denial](#)

**Iain Stewart (Milton Keynes South) (Con):** What steps his Department is taking to tackle anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial.

**Sajid Javid, Housing, Communities and Local Government:** Anti-Semitism and holocaust denial are completely unacceptable in a civilized society, and this Government have taken a strong lead in tackling both. We have adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of anti-Semitism, and we are planning a striking new national memorial beside Parliament.

**Iain Stewart:** Does my right hon. Friend agree that the work of the Holocaust Educational Trust is as important ever, given the worrying levels of organised hatred and intimidation both at home and abroad?

**Sajid Javid, Housing, Communities and Local Government:** I agree wholeheartedly, and I am very pleased to praise the work of the Holocaust Educational Trust. I was also pleased to announce in Speaker’s House last week that we are giving £144,000 of support jointly to the Holocaust Educational Trust and the Union of Jewish Students to tackle anti-Semitism, prejudice and intolerance on our university campuses.

22 Jan 2018 | Oral questions | Answered | House of Commons | 903436 | 635 cc18-9

### 3.4 Written questions

[Members: Correspondence](#)

**Sobel, Alex:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, with reference to the letter to him of 27 September 2018 from Marom UK on Marom Budapest and its community centre Aurora, what response he has made to that letter.

**Mark Field, Foreign and Commonwealth Office:** FCO officials met the Board of Deputies of British Jews on 9 January. The Board of Deputies made representations on behalf of the Marom organisation about the Aurora building in Budapest. A substantive response reflecting the outcome of the meeting was sent on 15 January 2019, that underlined that the UK remains committed to strengthening international co-operation across Europe to tackle antisemitism and ensure that the lessons of the Holocaust are never forgotten.

We welcome Hungary's stated commitment to address and eliminate antisemitism and all forms of racism.

17 Jan 2019 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 208346

[National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service](#)

**Bottomley, Sir Peter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, if the Minister will make representations to the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation on the potential merits of the Foundation engaging with (a) a variety of members of the Jewish community and (b) representatives of the Buxton memorial against slavery to increase support for that Memorial.

**Mrs Heather Wheeler, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government:** The UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation has engaged extensively with all interested parties, including through two public exhibitions of the proposed designs. The Foundation's plan is to enhance the setting of the Buxton Memorial.

10 Jan 2019 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 204362

[Victoria Tower Gardens](#)

**Bottomley, Sir Peter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, if he will meet Lords and Commons Members to discuss their concerns about building in Victoria Tower Gardens.

**Mrs Heather Wheeler, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government:** Many discussions with Members of the Lords and Commons have taken place since January 2016 when the Government announced its intention to site the Memorial in Victoria Tower Gardens. Ministers will meet with the APPG on the UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre in the coming months. Planning concerns should at this stage be directed to Westminster City Council who will be considering the planning application.

10 Jan 2019 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 204360

[National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service](#)

**Bottomley, Sir Peter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, whether entry to the National Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre is planned to be free of charge.

**Mrs Heather Wheeler, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government:** While the entrance to the learning centre will be controlled by a ticketed system to avoid queues, no decision has yet been taken on charging policy.

10 Jan 2019 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 204359

[National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service](#)

**Leigh, Sir Edward:** To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, which body will have responsibility for maintaining the Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre once that centre is built.

**Jake Berry, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government:** We propose to establish a new arm's length body to construct the Memorial and Learning Centre and to prepare for its operation. Further consideration will be given to the long-term status of the operating body prior to opening.

21 Dec 2018 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 203304

[National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service](#)

**Leigh, Sir Edward:** To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, pursuant to his Answer of 6 November 2017 to Question 111730, on what date the Government announced that it had decided that the Holocaust Learning Centre would be co-located in Victoria Tower Gardens with the Holocaust Memorial; and what form that announcement took.

**Jake Berry, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government:** On 14 September 2016 a press release from the Department of Communities and Local Government and the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation announced the start of an architectural design competition for the new Holocaust Memorial in Victoria Tower Gardens. The press release explained that design teams were invited to submit initial expressions of interest in the project, with shortlisted teams then submitting 2-part designs, the first fulfilling the minimum commitment of a striking new national memorial, and the second including the below-ground learning centre to be taken forward subject to technical, financial, planning or other constraints.

Following the successful conclusion of the design competition, a further press release on 24 October 2017 announced that Adjaye Associates, Ron Arad Architects and the landscape architects Gustafson Porter + Bowman had been selected to design the UK's new Holocaust Memorial and a co-located Learning Centre.

21 Dec 2018 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 203301

[National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service](#)

**Leigh, Sir Edward:** To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what the property was in Millbank that was offered to the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation as a site for the Holocaust Learning Centre in late 2016; and for what reasons the offer was not taken up.

**Jake Berry, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local**

**Government:** Millbank Tower was considered as a possible site for the Memorial and Learning Centre. The proposal was tied to the development of the wider site: to date, there is no evidence of redevelopment coming forward and occupational office leases have now been extended to 2022. Victoria Tower Gardens was preferred by the UKHMF Board as the outstanding candidate site for the following reasons:

its relevance as a commemorative garden of Britain's national conscience, already containing significant memorial sculptures, marking momentous historic events, with significance for the struggle for human rights, that remain relevant today and will do so in the future; it provides an iconic location adjoining Parliament, sitting along the riverfront immediately next to the House of Lords; it is visually prominent and adjacent to one of the most visited parts of London, within easy reach of a major tube station and many bus routes; the resonance of being next to Parliament and on the timeless banks of the Thames is exceptional; and under the shadow of Victoria Tower, the Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre would question the impacts of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides on our own Parliament.

21 Dec 2018 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 203298

[National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service](#)

**Bottomley, Sir Peter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, with reference to the news story entitled, Public consultation marks the next stage in development of UK Holocaust memorial and learning centre, published on gov.uk on 4 September 2018, what comparative assessment his department has made of the number of expected visitor numbers at the new centre and the average number of visitors to the Holocaust Galleries.

**Mrs Heather Wheeler, Ministry of Housing, Communities and**

**Local Government:** We expect around 500,000 visitors annually to the Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre. The design will allow up to 1

million visitors annually to be accommodated. This will not lead to unacceptable queuing in the Gardens.

Visitors will be encouraged to explore other resources, including the Imperial War Museum London's new Holocaust Galleries which are due to open in 2021. The UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation has welcomed the Imperial War Museum's support and is firmly committed to working closely with them.

11 Dec 2018 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 198155

#### [National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service](#)

**Bottomley, Sir Peter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, with reference to the document entitled, National memorial and learning centre search for a central London site, published by the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation in September 2015, which potential locations for the national memorial and learning centre were noted by the Holocaust Commission; and whether Victoria Tower Gardens was on that list.

**Mrs Heather Wheeler, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government:** The document, *National Memorial and Learning Centre: Search for a Central London Site*, was published by the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation as part of extensive efforts to identify a suitable location for the Memorial and Learning Centre, which also included a thorough search of Central London by property experts CBRE. A map included in the published document indicates the area of Central London which was the focus of the site search. More than 50 locations were considered; detailed information supporting the assessment of each site is commercially confidential.

The Foundation identified Victoria Tower Gardens as the most fitting site in terms of its historical, emotional and political significance and its ability to offer the greatest potential impact and visibility for the project.

The Government accepted the Foundation's advice and announced in January 2016 that Victoria Tower Gardens was the chosen location. An international design competition was launched in September 2016, seeking proposals for a Memorial and Learning Centre in Victoria Tower Gardens.

11 Dec 2018 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 198153

#### [Schools: Antisemitism](#)

**Siddiq, Tulip:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to the report of the the All-Party Parliamentary Group on antisemitism of 2015, what (a) guidance his Department has produced and (b) resources it is offering in support of teachers handling difficult conversations in the classroom setting.

**Anne Milton, Department for Education:** There is no place in any educational institution for hatred, harassment, discrimination or racism in any form.

The government's Educate Against Hate website ([www.educateagainsthate.com](http://www.educateagainsthate.com)), set up in January 2016, hosts a number of resources to support teachers in holding sensitive conversations with pupils. This includes guidance produced by the Board of Deputies of British Jews on antisemitism in schools, a toolkit on teaching controversial issues developed by Suffolk SACRE, and the government-funded Deliberative Classroom resource pack on religious freedom.

We are also funding teacher training and accompanying resources provided by the Centre for Holocaust Education to support teachers in facilitating lessons and discussions about the holocaust.

02 Jul 2018 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 156639

#### [Centre for \*Holocaust\* Education: Finance](#)

**Siddiq, Tulip:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to the All-Party Parliamentary Group inquiry into antisemitism of 2015, what discussions he has had to date with the UCL Centre for Holocaust Education on renewing its government grant at the end of the current funding period.

**Nick Gibb, Department for Education:** In November 2017 the former Secretary of State, the right hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening) met Sir Trevor Pears from the Pears Foundation, which jointly funds the Centre for Holocaust Education (CHE), to discuss the work undertaken by CHE. Departmental officials meet regularly with CHE to monitor and review their work with the last meeting held in April 2018.

The Department has committed to extend the funding for the CHE until March 2020. Funding after that date will be considered as part of the Government's next spending review.

02 Jul 2018 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 156638

#### [World War II: Genocide](#)

**McFadden, Mr Pat:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what plans his Department has to raise with the Polish Government concerns about Poland's Holocaust law; and if he will make a statement.

**Sir Alan Duncan, Foreign and Commonwealth Office:**

The Foreign Secretary discussed this issue with the Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs on 15 February. Our Embassy in Warsaw and officials in London have also discussed it with Polish Government officials.

13 Mar 2018 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 130820

[Schools: Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month](#)

**Antoniazzi, Tonia:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether he plans to re-establish the celebration of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month in schools.

**Nadhim Zahawi, Department for Education:** We welcome the work of third sector groups in developing and promoting Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) History Month and are supportive of schools' involvement in the initiative.

It is for teachers to exercise professional judgement about how best to incorporate GRT history in teaching plans and school strategies. Teaching about the Holocaust is a mandatory part of the history curriculum at key stage 3 for maintained schools, and can provide a focus on all groups who were victims of this genocide. We and the Pears Foundation jointly fund the Centre for Holocaust Education to provide professional development for teachers to support this. Schools are free to teach about diversity among people of different races and cultures and about the impact of discrimination on individuals and communities in PSHE lessons. Our guidance on bullying also makes clear that schools should take measures to prevent bullying, which could involve talking to pupils about difference, potentially through dedicated events or projects.

06 Mar 2018 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 129731

[Antisemitism](#)

**12 Feb 2018 PQ 126747**

**Dodds, Nigel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what estimate he has made of the number of anti-Semitic attacks in the UK in each year since 2010; and what steps his Department is taking to tackle such attacks.

**Mrs Heather Wheeler, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government:** Statistics published by the Home Office and available on the website <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2016-to-2017> provide details on the number of hate crimes, although anti-Semitic attacks are not recorded separately. Figures published annually by the Community Security Trust show a disturbing increase in anti-Semitic incidents, with a total of 1,382 incidents reported in 2017.

That is why the UK became the first country to formally adopt the International Holocaust Memorial Alliance (IHRA) working definition of anti-Semitism. It provides a series of practical examples on how anti-Semitism manifests itself in the 21st century. In addition, Government has provided over £13.4 million (17/18) to ensure the security of Jewish faith schools, synagogues and communal buildings.

We believe the best way to tackle anti-Semitism is through effective implementation of the UK's strong legislation against racial and religious discrimination and racially and religiously motivated crime. We also have a strong relationship with the Jewish community which has been built on the solid work of the Cross-Government working group on tackling

anti-Semitism. This ensures that we are aware of any issues and concerns of the Jewish community and can respond quickly.

### 3.5 Early Day Motions

#### [Holocaust Memorial Day 2019](#)

##### **EDM 1961 2017-19, 9 Jan 2019**

That this House notes that on 27 January 2019 the UK will observe Holocaust Memorial Day marking the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, where an estimated 1.1 million people were murdered; commemorates the six million victims of the Holocaust; further notes that the theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2019 is Torn from Home; pays tribute to the commitment of Holocaust survivors and Kindertransport refugees who share their experiences with young people across the country; recognises the recent 80th anniversary of Kindertransport; acknowledges the importance of the Holocaust Educational Trust's work in schools across the UK and in particular the Lessons from Auschwitz project, which has so far given more than 37,000 students and teachers the opportunity to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau; welcomes the establishment of a permanent National Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre adjacent to Parliament; further pays tribute to the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust for organising this year's Holocaust Memorial Day commemorations; notes that a Book of Commitment will be placed in the corridor between the Members' Cloakroom and Members' Staircase between the hours of 14.00 and 16.00 from 14 to 16 and 21 to 23 January; and urges all right hon. and hon. Members to sign the Book and observe the day, so that the appalling events of the Holocaust are always understood by future generations and our shared commitment to challenging Holocaust denial, distortion and denigration is recognised.

#### [National Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre](#)

##### **EDM 1951 2017-19, 20 Dec 2018**

That this House regrets that the United Kingdom Holocaust Memorial Foundation (UKHMF) chose the day before the Christmas parliamentary recess to submit its controversial National Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre planning application to the City of Westminster; notes that the application is not yet available for consideration by interested people; further notes that the UKHMF has failed to respond fully and appropriately to successive Freedom of Information requests and has not, with the honourable exception of the present chairman Peter Freeman, talked to the save Victoria Tower Garden group of experts and local residents; calls on the Government and the UKHMF to reconsider options for a fitting National Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre that can be welcomed by all and that meets more of the sensible aims of the consultation in September 2015, including the possibility of the Memorial being placed on College Green with the learning centre developed at and with the Imperial War Museum; and asks that Victoria

Tower Gardens with its small memorials and children's playground be preserved as a quiet park.

### **Gena Turgel MBE**

#### **EDM 1436 2017-19, 20 Jun 2018**

That this House pays tribute to Gena Turgel MBE following her sad passing on 7 June 2018; remembers Gena for her determination to educate about her story of surviving the Krakow ghetto, Plaznow concentration camp, Auschwitz-Birkenau, Buchenwald and Bergen-Belsen, where she was eventually liberated and married one of her liberators, Norman Turgel; recognises her dedication and determination to share her testimony on behalf of the 6 million voiceless Jewish victims murdered during the Holocaust; commends Gena for spending many years speaking in schools across the country and at Holocaust Memorial Day events; and congratulates the work of the Holocaust Educational Trust which has reaffirmed its commitment to sharing Gena's testimony, ensuring that her legacy lives on so that people from every background can learn the lessons of the Holocaust and stand up to hatred, prejudice and antisemitism.

## **3.6 All Party Parliamentary Groups**

### **All-Party Parliamentary Group on Holocaust Memorial**

To promote holocaust memorial and education in Parliament; and to support the establishment of a holocaust memorial and learning centre.

Chair & Registered Contact: Ian Austin (Labour)

Co-Chair: Bob Blackman (Conservative)

### **All Party Parliamentary Group on the Prevention of Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity**

A cross-party group that aims to ensure that the UK does all it can to prevent genocide. Its focus is on cross-cutting issues and specific events rather than having a geographic or thematic focus such as the responsibility to protect (R2P).

Co-Chairs: Alison McGovern MP (Labour) and Tom Tugendhat MBE MP (Conservative).

#### **[Parliamentary group calls for Westminster Holocaust memorial to include atrocity prevention centre](#)**

24 Oct 2017

As the Government today announces the winner of the competition to design Britain's new £50m national Holocaust Memorial, the Co-Chairs of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Prevention of Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity have warmly welcomed it, and called for it to incorporate an atrocity prevention centre.

## 4. Further information

### [UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation](#)

UKHMF is an advisory non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

The UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation, funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government, was created to implement the recommendations of the Prime Minister's Holocaust Commission report - [Britain's Promise to Remember](#) - in 2015, including the delivery of the new Memorial and Learning Centre and the recording of British Holocaust testimony.

The Foundation is an advisory board to the Department for Communities and Local Government. It has cross-party political support and is chaired by Sir Peter Bazalgette.

### [Holocaust Memorial Day Trust \(HMDT\)](#)

HMDT is the charity that promotes and supports Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD).

HMD has taken place in the UK since 2001, with a UK event and over 7,700 local activities taking place on or around 27 January each year.

The UK played a leading role in establishing HMD as an international day of commemoration in 2000, when 46 governments signed the Stockholm Declaration.

The UK Government had responsibility for running HMD from 2001-2005, organised through the Home Office.

In May 2005 HMDT was registered as a charity (charity no: 1109348) and the Home Secretary appointed HMDT Trustees for the first time. The professional team started work in October 2005. The Department for Communities and Local Government has funded our work since 2007.

### [The National Holocaust Centre and Museum](#)

The National Holocaust Centre and Museum promotes an understanding of the roots of discrimination and prejudice, and the development of ethical values, leading to a greater understanding within society. The Centre uses the history of genocide as a model of how society can break down and emphasises how current and future generations must carefully examine and learn from these tragedies. The Centre promotes respect for human rights, equal opportunities and good citizenship, which has greater resonance than ever in our culturally diverse society.

### **International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA)**

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) is an intergovernmental body whose purpose is to place political and social leaders' support behind the need for Holocaust education, remembrance and research both nationally and internationally.

IHRA (formerly the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, or ITF) was initiated in 1998 by former Swedish Prime Minister Göran Persson. Persson decided to establish an international organization that would expand Holocaust education worldwide. An international forum of governments took place in Stockholm between 27 and 29 January 2000. The Declaration of the Stockholm International Forum on the Holocaust is the foundation of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

IHRA currently has 31 member countries, eleven observer countries and seven Permanent International Partners.

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