



WINTER 2023



DEAR COLLEAGUES, FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS

As 2024 begins, all of us, like the entire Jewish community and beyond, remain focused on the terrible events of 7th October 2023, the subsequent Israel-Gaza conflict, and the bewildering and unanticipated antisemitic response here in the UK, in mainland Europe, in the US and seemingly throughout the world.

If proof were needed about the importance of Holocaust education, it is with us here and now. However, like other charities and organisations within the Holocaust education sector, we are now facing an uphill task.

However first, let me share with you the good news of our progress through the last academic year.

Towards the end of the last academic year, the Chair of Holocaust Learning UK passed to me from Barbara Cohen. We are indebted to Barbara who chaired us through 5 years in which, in response to the Covid pandemic and associated lockdowns, we metamorphosed from a small, local north-west London and environs organisation providing in-person events to some 50 schools, to a nationwide, fully-fledged charity producing and distributing Holocaust education films to hundreds of schools and thousands of students throughout the UK and beyond.

Indeed, significantly, by the end of the academic year 2022-2023, the numbers of school registrations and students viewing Holocaust Learning UK films had exceeded all previous achievements. By the academic year end, in excess of 63,000 students had viewed one or more of our films: Janine's Story, Steven's Story or our Assembly Film.

APPOINTMENT OF OUR ADVISORY COUNCIL

Buoyed by this success, we were honoured and delighted to be able to appoint our Advisory Council: experts from within the fields of Holocaust education; teaching; community and national politics; faith; museum production; marketing and advertising. As we moved into the new academic year 2023-2024, the support and guidance of our Advisory Council proved invaluable and we are hugely grateful to all its members.



THE LAUNCH OF OUR LATEST FILM KINDERTRANSPORT

The new academic year was synonymous with the launch of our latest film Kindertransport. This innovative and moving explanation and exploration of the Kindertransport rescue mission is based on our filmed testimonies of Vera Schaufeld, MBE, Ann Kirk, BEM and Bob Kirk, BEM. It is accompanied by bespoke additional teaching resources, created for us by the Holocaust Educational Trust, and it is supplemented by extra film clips to support classroom discussion and engagement. Guidance for teachers on the use of these clips has been provided for us by Dr Alasdair Richardson, a member of our Advisory Council and Reader in Holocaust Education, Faculty of Education, The University of Winchester.

Our films, our teachers' resources, and the additional film clips, are freely available to view if you are registered on our website. If you have not registered and would like to do so, please [click here](#).



As many of you will be aware, the premiere of Kindertransport was planned for 18 October 2023 at JW3. Following the 7th October atrocity, we felt it neither appropriate nor indeed emotionally possible for us to host the celebratory launch evening we had planned.

Kindertransport has since nevertheless been marketed and distributed to schools, along with our Assembly Film, Janine's Story, and Steven's Story.

However, as noted above, our registrations are reduced. We know from informal contacts with teachers, and from discussions with other educational providers in this sector that teachers are anxious and worried about teaching the Holocaust in the current climate; of perhaps greater concern, some are hostile to the idea of doing so. We are doing our best via our links with the Holocaust Educational Trust to provide support and guidance for teachers, in an attempt to counter-act this trend.

Notwithstanding these challenges – in fact, in defiance of these challenges - we will be hosting our Annual Event at JW3 on 14 March 2024. We will be screening Kindertransport that evening, plus we are delighted that our speaker will be Dr Dave Rich, Director of Policy at the Community Security Trust and author of Everyday Hate- how antisemitism is built into our world and how you can change it.

Please look out for your invitation to book your (free) tickets to join us for the evening's events and reception (and do check your junk folder, just in case your invitation has gone astray). We look forward warmly to welcoming you.

Wishing you, your families and loved ones a very happy, and above all, peaceful 2024, from all of us at Holocaust Learning UK

Susan Krasner
Chair
Holocaust Learning UK

HELP US TO BUILD A BETTER, SAFER FUTURE FOR ALL. PLEASE DONATE TODAY.

Copyright Holocaust Learning UK 2020 ©
Company Registered in England and Wales no: 12062336
Registered Charity No: 1186871