

PRESS RELEASE

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Press Contact:

Alli Lapps

Marketing & Communications Coordinator

Alli@HolocaustCenterSeattle.org

865-244-205

Dee Simon

Chief Executive Officer

Dee@HolocaustCenterSeattle.org

206-234-4891

HOLOCAUST

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HUMANITY

Educate. Inspire. Take Action.

Holocaust Center for Humanity
2045 Second Ave
Seattle, WA 98121
206.582.3000
HolocaustCenterSeattle.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

17 Museums Across the World Release Joint Statement Condemning Russian War Crimes in Ukraine

In response to the reports of mass graves and acts of brutality against Ukrainian citizens by Russian armed forces, 17 Holocaust Museums from 4 countries have raised their voices together to speak out. In a joint statement, the organizations condemn these acts as war crimes and support the International Criminal Court as it investigates charges of genocide by the Russian military against the Ukrainian people. This statement represents a global network of institutions which educate visitors about previous atrocities in Europe and beyond to work toward a future where “never again” is a reality for everyone.

The statement reads:

Museums are bearers of history. By housing the artifacts and documents of the past, we ensure that the truth, both noble and horrific, of what humanity has done remains shared and accessible.

We at Holocaust museums around the world have a particular mission. The stories we tell are ones of destruction and pain, and of the nobility of upstanders who risked their lives to do what was right and help others. We not only aim to educate, to honor our Survivors’ wishes that their stories are not forgotten, but to make a better future where the stories we tell are no longer repeated.

So it is with sorrow that we see yet another atrocity in Ukraine, 80 years after the ‘Holocaust by Bullets’ in which Jewish men, women, and children were shot and buried in shallow graves. We are angered by today’s stories of children with their hands zip tied and buried in shallow graves. We are angered by the horrific reports of rape and wanton destruction of lives by the Russian army. These are war crimes, and if we, as the bearers of history, do not speak out, then we have failed in our mission.

We call upon our governments around the world to do more to stop these atrocities and assist those who have been brutalized. We support the International Criminal Court's investigation of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide.

Signatories to the statement:

Susan Abrams • Illinois Holocaust Museum
Daniel Amar • Montreal Holocaust Museum
Erin Blankenship • The Florida Holocaust Museum
Marc Cave • The National Holocaust Centre and Museum, UK
Troy Fears • CANDLES Holocaust Museum
Mary Pat Higgins • Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum
Beth Kean • Holocaust Museum LA
Jack Kliger • Museum of Jewish Heritage
Mary Kluk • Durban Holocaust & Genocide Centre
Nina Krieger • Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre
Eli Mayerfeld • The Zekelman Holocaust Center
Tali Nates • Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre
Dee Simon • Holocaust Center for Humanity, Seattle
James Smith • Aegis Trust
Helen Turner • St. Louis Kaplan Feldman Holocaust Museum
Sarah L. Weiss • Nancy & David Wolf Holocaust & Humanity Center
Kelly Zúñiga • Holocaust Museum Houston

The statement was shared as a full-page ad in The New York Times on Sunday, April 10.

ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST CENTER FOR HUMANITY IN SEATTLE

The Holocaust Center for Humanity is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that teaches the lessons of the Holocaust, inspiring students of all ages to confront bigotry and indifference, promote human dignity, and take action. Established in 1989, the Center works directly with teachers, students, and community groups across the Pacific Northwest to provide educational materials, curricula, and interaction with local Holocaust survivors who tell their stories to thousands of students of all ages each year. In 2015, the Center's Henry and Sandra Friedman Holocaust Center for Humanity museum opened its doors to the public.

The museum is located at 2045 Second Avenue in Seattle's Belltown neighborhood. The Museum is open to the public. The Holocaust Center for Humanity has been providing virtual programs for the community and for students. **For more information, please visit www.HolocaustCenterSeattle.org.**