

UKHMF Inquiry
Java Pathak – Speaking Note

Name: Jaya Pathak

Address: [REDACTED]

Representing: I am a Regional Ambassador for the Holocaust Educational Trust

Qualifications: Currently a university student

Proposal: I support the proposed development

Questions: I am happy to answer any questions.

Statement bullet points

- I speak to you as a Regional Ambassador for the Holocaust Educational Trust in complete support of the Memorial.
- Holocaust remembrance is more vital than ever and there are three reasons for this:
 - 1) We are seeing a concerning rise in antisemitism and other forms of discrimination across Britain and other countries.
 - 2) We are similarly seeing a worrying rise in Holocaust denial, seeping into the mainstream through social media networks.
 - 3) We have seen atrocities taking place, not just in our recent history, but at this very moment that this Inquiry is going on.
- Minority groups in our country and across the world are subject to racism, prejudice and discrimination every day.
- It appears that the lessons from the Holocaust have yet to be learnt, and this problem needs to be addressed.
- I first heard from a Holocaust survivor when I was 17 years old- it changed my life.
- Having the opportunity to hear from and work alongside Holocaust survivors is a privilege I know that my generation are very fortunate to have.
- As Holocaust survivor and Nobel Laureate Elie Weisel said ‘When you hear from a witness you become a witness’.
- I am now a witness to the truth.
- We must face the reality that survivors will soon no longer be able to share their testimonies.
- We have a duty to continue to educate others about where hatred can lead to when left unchecked.
- We have a duty to solve the issue of how we can effectively share their testimonies with future generations.
- This Memorial is the solution.
- We must reassure survivors that we will keep their legacies alive by having a permanent reminder of our history, open and accessible to everyone.
- My role as a Regional Ambassador for the Holocaust Educational Trust has given me the opportunity to travel the world and see some of the best Memorials that exist.
- I have personally experienced the effects of a what a truly powerful Memorial can do.

- I have visited Yad Vashem- the World Holocaust Remembrance Center in Israel, the Polin museum in Poland and the memorials to the Holocaust on the banks of the Danube in Budapest- near the Hungarian Parliament.
- Each presents the history of the Holocaust from its country's individual narrative.
- A Memorial provides an invaluable chance to educate people from diverse backgrounds in an accessible way, reaching out to a wide audience of people who aren't just living in the UK, but who also come to visit.
- Those who visit these memorials leave feeling inspired to create positive change in our society and are a testament to the worth of such memorials.
- I have developed a profound understanding of the Holocaust in ways that cannot be done through textbooks and documentaries.
- I have seen the difference these memorials can make on someone's understanding of history and the concept of atrocity.
- It is the capacity to educate people through the Learning Centre that is especially vital.
- It will allow those of us who don't have the access to further learning the chance to understand the history of the Holocaust and its vital lessons for today.
- It will give people the tools to fight antisemitism and hatred, as well as allowing us to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust.
- The history of the Holocaust isn't just the history of European Jewry, it is our shared history.
- The location of the Memorial and Learning Centre next to Parliament, amongst prominent memorials commemorating the struggle against slavery, inequality and injustice, is crucial.
- It will serve as a permanent reminder of the role of British decisions in the lead up to, during, and aftermath of the Holocaust.
- Globally, we can find such Memorials and Learning Centres at the heart of many democracies around the world, for example the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum sits in Washington DC and several memorials sit in Berlin near the Reichstag.
- As a leading international force in the fight against prejudice and discrimination of all forms, it is time for Britain to give an equivalent space for the memory of the Holocaust in our capital city.
- To be able to have a Memorial built without damaging the green space, and instead working to care for the environment too, is an additional benefit.
- Growing up, working and studying in London, I appreciate the value that such memorials bring, and there is nothing comparative to this proposed Memorial that exists.
- We can always learn more.
- We said never again after the Holocaust, but it has been again and again.
- Education is the most important tool in ensuring that we learn from the past. The Holocaust is a part of British history, it is not a foreign tragedy.
- As an ethnic minority born and raised in the UK, I know the importance of critically reflecting on the role of Britain and the importance of this to the Jewish community and to other minority communities who were persecuted by the Nazis.
- Will we tell our survivors that they will be remembered and that their testimonies will live on? The honourable answer is a British one – yes, and the way to do this is to create this Memorial and Learning Centre next to Parliament.