

There are many factors, which convince me to give my full support for this planned Holocaust memorial and educational centre in Victoria Tower Gardens.

As a Londoner with Jewish origins, I am mindful that now more than ever, as a global capital, we need a fitting Holocaust memorial.

The Victoria Tower gardens have been carefully chosen to provide easy access and a central location, in an important and historical part of London. It is an area well used to visitors and the increase in traffic will not pose a problem for this site, well served by transport.

The chosen location will also strengthen the association of Victoria Tower gardens with the heart of our British civic and democratic life, political and ecclesiastical, situated in Westminster.

The proposal preserves the existing character and use of the gardens, allowing residents of the area to continue to enjoy and benefit from the open space. The scheme aims to enhance and improve the landscaping and views of the Thames and surrounding areas, whilst bringing this important historical monument to central London.

The memorial and educational centre will ensure the gardens become a vibrant living space with better facilities, instead of an open space with often overlooked memorials to the past. 93% of the green space will be retained.

Existing memorials will also be better brought to our attention. The increased footfall will help shine a light on these important stories from our shared past which are all too often overlooked.

The Burghers of Calais by Rodin, The statue of **Emmeline Pankhurst** And The **Buxton memorial** which celebrates the abolition of slavery, are educational milestones which enhance our understanding of history and define the values of our society. These together with the Holocaust memorial and educational centre will ensure that a visit to the gardens becomes an important cultural lesson.

History does not stand still and if there is one significant event in the last century that must be remembered, it is the Holocaust. We must learn from our past mistakes and the culpability of past actions like slavery, now form part of the zeitgeist.

The scheme by Adjaye associates and Ron Arad and Gustavson Porter and Bowman respects the integrity of the park and the historical symbolism of this location.

It is of a high quality in both aesthetic and materials used, and endeavours to sympathetically embed itself into the gardens and minimise visual intrusion.

The visible elements of Bronze fins intelligently act as both a reminder of the enormity of the historical impact of the holocaust whilst guiding visitors into the memorial courtyard and basement educational part of the structure, minimising the above ground area affected.

The content in the learning centre will help visitors to draw meaning and purpose out of tragedy and is a hugely important lesson for the coming generations. It provides substantial public benefit and no substantial harm to the environment.

The Holocaust must form part of our collective memory particularly in light of the deniers, who seek to ferment conspiracy theories and play on ignorance of the facts.

As the Rt Hon James Brokenshire said " The memorial will be a place of reflection and education ... and act as a commitment for all of us to stand up whenever our shared values are threatened." How fitting that this memorial, the most important memorial to be built in the 21st Century in Britain, will hopefully stand close to the mother of all parliaments and the seat of our beloved Democracy.

Britain played a significant part in bringing to an end World War 2. Our nation understood that freedom must be fought for and racism must be fought against and this memorial and attendant education centre, will underline the values of our nation.

My years of involvement as Chair of the Friends of the Mental health Foundation, have taught me that resilience comes from facing ones fears, acknowledging ones past and learning from past mistakes.

It is only with the education centre, that this memorial ensures that we all take the steps required to make a better future, taking meaning from what was undoubtedly one of our darkest hours.

The scheme is a clarion call for all civilised nations to be up-standers, not bystanders. It inspires us all to be better for a brighter future.

IT IS THE RIGHT TIME

IT IS THE RIGHT PLACE

IT IS OVERDUE

I HOPE AND TRUST THAT THIS PLANNING

APPLICATION WILL BE APPROVED and thank you for allowing my voice to be heard.