



ISHAMI
FOUNDATION

UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre Supportive Statement

My name is Eric Murangwa Eugene. I am a survivor of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, a genocide education campaigner and advocate for peace and development through sport and storytelling. I am also the founder and Executive Director of a charitable organisation called Ishami Foundation.

The Ishami Foundation draws on genocide survivor experience to help us all connect to our common humanity and challenge polarisation in divided communities. We currently focus on communicating the lessons of the past through two strands of activity: sport and storytelling, and we use the power of sport and storytelling to build equality, tolerance and lasting peace in Rwanda and the UK.

We work with survivors, young people and vulnerable communities. Our activities empower participants by fostering respect, team spirit, critical thinking and resilience.

Why I am taking part in the Public Inquiry to support UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre?

My brother, Irankunda Jean-Paul, was killed aged 7 and was denied the chance to grow up and live his dreams and show the world what he could do. We were not able to bury him, his remains were lost and scattered. More than 85 members of my extended family were among the over a million men, women and children murdered during the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. Memorials in my home country Rwanda bear witness both to the victims buried there and to the others, like my brother Jean-Paul, whose body was never found. They serve as evidence of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. This is why I believe that memorials are essential and offer one of the crucial mechanisms the world needs to keep the memories alive and this is why I personally wanted to support the UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre project when I heard about it. Through personal and my organization activities I have been working in collaboration with different groups to support initiatives designed to mark the over one million victims of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda and to ensure that the victims are remembered at this prominent national place of commemoration and education.

Because we can't have memorials such as those we have in Rwanda everywhere in the world it is crucial that we are able to have different types of memorials that bear witness of what took place in Rwanda in 1994 and the UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre is one of the few which will

create a lasting tribute and legacy of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi outside Rwanda.

The Ishami Foundation which I represent is also pleased to support such an important and significant project as the UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre because it is in line with our philosophy of using stories and other means such as memorials as tools for raising awareness, education and keeping memories alive. Historical memorials truly matters and having a new UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre built at the heart of world's greatest city and next to the symbol of the home of British democracy will have a huge significance on how the UK and the world at large will remember and learn about the Holocaust and modern Genocides in the future. The UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre will indeed contribute significantly to the world commitments and obligation of making Never Again more than just a slogan.

Thank you and I strongly hope that the committee will consider approving the authorization to build such an important and unique national memorial at such and unique location.

Eric Murangwa Eugene MBE
Founder and Executive Director
Ishami Foundation