

MY ADDRESS TO THE WESTMINSTER PLANNING OFFICE HEARING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WESTMINSTER HOLOCAUST EDUCATIONAL MEMORIAL CENTRE BESIDE THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT IN VICTORIA TOWER GARDENS, LONDON SW1. Wednesday, October 7th, 2020

INTRODUCTION;

This Statement may echo previous speakers but will not duplicate them. It will focus on the principle *strategic* reasons for this ‘once in a generation’, noble and worthwhile proposition, rather than focusing on all the operational matters that this Westminster Planning Hearing will be asked to consider. Contributed by Judith Adda, lifelong Londoner, Member of a southern Hebrew Congregation, Editor of a local multi-faith publication and the proud holder of a business Award from Field Marshall Michael Vincent, former Chief of the UK Defence Staff and Malcolm Rifkind, former Secretary of State for Defence.

- Jewish people have made major contributions to Britain in the last thousand years in helping to advance the welfare of this nation in Parliamentary law-making, through no less a personage than Benjamin Disraeli, the twice-elected Jewish/Christian Prime Minister of the 19th century, via all the Arts, in medicine, education and by the Jewish founding of many of Britain’s largest, most successful companies. We have therefore ‘earned our spurs’ and the right to support the establishment of a Holocaust Education Memorial Centre in Westminster, right next to the Houses of Parliament.
- Following yesterday’s eloquent presentations from the 4 outstanding architectural and design teams, not only will this sympathetically-designed building be a shining example of Britain’s courageous stand against the most heinous crimes committed against the Jewish people in the history of Humanity, but will also demonstrate to the world, Britain’s staunch determination to always do what is *right*.
- For the sake of transparency, I am the daughter of Jewish child refugees whom Britain plucked from the jaws of the Nazi murder machine, I have a personal interest in seeing this Holocaust Educational Memorial Centre come to fruition, right in the heart of Westminster.
- Together with my extended family, I and tens of thousands of Jewish citizens are blessed to be leading useful, law-abiding, peaceful lives in Britain and would not be here today if this country had not welcomed my parents’ generation, fleeing, via the life-saving Kinder-transports, from the horrors of Europe just prior to World War II. At least 30 of my older immediate relations perished in the Nazi atrocities & this crime against Humanity should be better represented in Britain to ensure future education and understanding.

A Westminster Holocaust Educational Memorial Centre will stand as both a memorial to Britain and a warning to the rest of the world of the tyranny of Dictatorship to educate on the following points;

- Hundreds of thousands of British Jews would not be here today if Britain had not decided to bravely stand alone at the start of World War II to heroically prevent the Nazi juggernaut from invading this country.
- The world is a poorer place for the millions of Jewish people and their children whom the Nazis denied their most basic human right to life – to live in peace.

- This country is a richer place for having taken in Jewish child refugees who grew up to enhance British society by becoming the Doctors, Scientists, Teachers, Members of Parliament, Law-makers, Artists, Writers, Entrepreneurs and Nation-builders of today.
- Britain is a richer place for having stood up against the mass murder perpetrated against the Jewish people and our weekly Sabbath prayers for the well-being of the Royal family and the advancement of this nation well-reflect our appreciative acknowledgement to Britain.
- But there is also a public and educational interest in seeing this Holocaust Memorial Centre established beside the world-renowned Houses of Parliament to enhance the historic environment of Westminster.
- Standing beside Westminster's Mother of Parliaments, admired worldwide and close to the statues of those great Parliamentarians Sir Winston Churchill and Oliver Cromwell, the Holocaust Memorial Educational Centre will send an important, *permanent* signal of Britain's unfaltering determination to always stand on the side of Truth and do what is right and decent.
- The establishment of the Westminster Holocaust Memorial Educational Centre standing beside the Houses of Parliament in Victoria Tower Gardens will reinforce the unequivocal message, both tangibly and even more importantly - intangibly, to the United Kingdom and to the whole world of: "NEVER AGAIN."

It is my humble view that the strategic establishment of this Holocaust Educational Memorial Centre, so sympathetically designed to enhance and blend in but nevertheless make a bold statement of universally important purpose, rather than harm Westminster's Victoria Tower Gardens and its surroundings, outweighs all other operational matters which have been so persuasively but, in my opinion, mistakenly put forward earlier during this planning hearing.

With all due respect to the views expressed *against* this learning facility yesterday and today, all the persuasive arguments against the establishment of this Holocaust Educational Memorial Centre in this location were and are entirely misplaced, as the current, alarming rise in worldwide anti-Semitism has clearly identified the urgent need for stronger, more impactful teaching, a more contemporary approach to learning the lessons of history and a more sophisticated educational medium in which to remind us all and teach the younger generations of the terrible events of the Holocaust in Europe and what led up to them. I say to you today, with the undeniable conviction of the 6 million voices of those who were tortured, those who were experimented on and those who were systematically murdered of 80 years ago, which all rise up and scream out with all their might that all the arguments, so forensically put forward, against the establishment of this Holocaust Educational Memorial Centre, are entirely erroneous, outdated and totally wrong.

Therefore, and these are my final few remarks in conclusion - let me clarify that I completely agree with the views put forward by Mr. Christopher Katkowski, Mr. Zak Simons, Ms Massey and Ms Patak, especially by Mala Tribich today and all 4 of the eloquent architectural and design teams' presentations to build this Holocaust Educational Memorial Centre so sympathetically to its surroundings in Victoria Tower Gardens, right beside the Houses of Parliament, at the heart of our hard-won and ancient British Democracy.

Sited beside the important memorials to Women's Suffrage for which I helped to campaign and the Emancipation from Slavery, it *IS* therefore the most appropriate place to educate everyone and

drive home the need for increased vigilance of man's inhumanity to man which can so easily result from the dangers of Dictatorship.

All visitors without exception, from wherever in the world and from whichever walks of life they will come from, will emerge changed forever from this Holocaust Educational Memorial Centre in the future, convinced more than ever that rigorous Parliamentary debate, respect for the law and Democracy is the only way forward for the British people and for the whole of Humanity.

Thank you for affording me the opportunity to make my voice and my views heard at this hearing.

JUDITH ADDA Wednesday, October 7th 2020