

30<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Dear Members,

Eighty years on from the end of the Holocaust, antisemitism persists at alarming levels in our society. The Holocaust itself - the murder of six million Jewish men, women and children - is increasingly subject to denial and distortion.

Remarkable Holocaust survivors, many of whom came to Britain after the war to rebuild their lives, have spent decades travelling the country to share their testimonies with young people. Their aim has always been clear: to ensure the lessons of the Holocaust are never forgotten. Their message is powerful - the antisemitism that led to the murder of their mothers, fathers, siblings, friends and loved ones must never be allowed to go unchecked again.

Sadly, survivors will not be able to continue this mission for much longer. It is for this reason the construction of the new Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre in Victoria Tower Gardens is so vital.

Mala Tribich MBE, a Holocaust survivor, recently reflected: "I was liberated in Bergen-Belsen by the exceptional British Army in 1945 and London has been my home for most of my life. It feels entirely fitting that a memorial should stand in the country that so many survivors are grateful to and have called their home. My brother and fellow survivor Sir Ben Helfgott MBE campaigned passionately for this national Holocaust Memorial and dreamed of seeing its opening - it saddens me that he did not live to see it come to pass. It is my hope I will be able to attend the opening and remember Ben and all the family we lost."

This Memorial and Learning Centre, to be built beside Parliament, is our opportunity to secure the legacy of those who bore witness. It will stand as a permanent reminder of where anti-Jewish hatred can lead when left unchallenged. It will educate future generations about Britain's connection to the Holocaust - both the proud and the painful. And its location will serve as a powerful symbol to Parliamentarians of their responsibility to uphold democracy, reminding us all that remembrance is not a passive act, but a national commitment to learn from the past.

More than ten years since this Memorial was first proposed, now is the time to act. Many survivors like Mala still dream of being present at its opening. Tragically, others - like Sir Ben Helfgott and Lily Ebert MBE - will never have that chance.

We owe it to the survivors. We owe it to the victims. And we owe it to future generations to pass the Bill and build the UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre.

Yours sincerely,

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