



Department for Levelling Up,  
Housing & Communities

**Baroness Scott of Bybrook OBE**  
*Parliamentary Under Secretary of  
State*  
**Department for Levelling Up,  
Housing and Communities**  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

28<sup>th</sup> February 2024

My Lords,

On Friday 2 February, I had the privilege of initiating a debate in the House to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. This was a profoundly solemn experience during which many noble Lords spoke movingly about their own experiences or encounters with people directly affected by the Holocaust.

A number of questions and concerns were raised during the debate which I was not able to answer. I thought it would be helpful for me to write and respond to these points.

Lord Dubs and other noble Lords asked whether it would be possible to bring to London an exhibition related to the Kindertransport which is currently in the German Bundestag. I wanted to reassure the House that we are working to ensure this happens in time for the London plenary meeting of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance in December.

Additionally, a concern was raised during the debate, by Lord Austin (among others), on the importance of ensuring that the focus of Holocaust Memorial Day remains sharply on the Holocaust itself. I would like to reassure my Lords that in the Government's view the central focus for Holocaust Memorial Day must remain the Holocaust – the murder of six million Jewish men, women, and children, and the only example in history of a systematic, state-orchestrated attempt to eliminate an entire people. Keeping the uniqueness of the Holocaust clearly in mind, it is right also that we should reflect on the Nazi persecution of the Roma, disabled, political opponents and Jehovah's Witnesses. Holocaust Memorial Day also provides an opportunity to reflect on more recent genocides, not least because it was only in the light of the Holocaust that the crime of genocide was defined.

The status and importance of Holocaust Education was raised by many noble Lords, including Baroness Fox and Lord Gold. I want to reiterate that the Holocaust is the only historic event which is compulsory within the national curriculum for history at Key Stage 3 (for children aged 11– 14). While we are aware that this applies only to those schools engaged with the national curriculum, we have anecdotal evidence that the Holocaust is

taught in many academies and independent schools. We strongly believe that young people should be taught the history of the Holocaust as it provides a good example of where hatred and intolerance can lead. We remain committed to funding Holocaust education.

In addition, we recognise the importance of tackling antisemitism in the education setting. This is why we have announced a further £7 million of funding over the next three years to help tackle antisemitism. This funding is to help ensure that support is in place for schools, colleges, and universities to understand, recognise and deal with antisemitism effectively.

We are extremely fortunate in this country to be blessed with a number of organisations dedicated to remembrance and teaching and learning about the Holocaust. Collectively, and with our support they make a real difference. I will deposit copies of this letter in the libraries of both houses.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jane', is centered within a faint, light blue circular watermark. The watermark contains the text '© 2019 The Holocaust Education and Research Centre Ltd.' around its perimeter.

**BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK OBE**