

PRESS RELEASE

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HOLOCAUST
CENTER *for*
HUMANITY

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SEATTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT EMBARKS ON IMMERSIVE TRAINING *Law Enforcement and Society: Lessons of the Holocaust*



ABOVE: At the Henry and Sandra Friedman Holocaust Center for Humanity. Left to Right: Lieutenant Shanon Anderson, Training and Education Section; Hillary Bernstein, Pacific Northwest Director, ADL; Seattle Chief of Police Kathleen O'Toole; Dee Simon, Baral Family Executive Director, Holocaust Center for Humanity; Assistant Chief Lesley Cordner, Professional Standards Bureau; Chief Operating Officer Brian Maxey
RIGHT: Dee Simon, Baral Family Executive Director, Holocaust Center for Humanity (far right) guides tour for members of the Seattle Police Department, US Attorney's Office, and Kathleen O'Toole (far left). High resolution images available on request.

Presented by the **HOLOCAUST CENTER FOR HUMANITY** in partnership with the **Seattle Police Department** and the **Anti-Defamation League**, **Law Enforcement and Society: Lessons of the Holocaust (LEAS)** is a forum for professional development through an examination of the role of police in a democracy. The **Command Force** officers and directors of the **Seattle Police Department** recently participated in LEAS. By **October 2017**, every member of the **1,300+** **Seattle Police Department** will have received the training.

"I attended Lessons of the Holocaust training, and was very moved by it," said Seattle Police Chief Kathleen O'Toole. "As we reflect on our moral responsibility today, it is important and relevant to learn from the atrocities that occurred during that dark period in our world's history. I am grateful to the Holocaust Center for Humanity and the Anti-Defamation League for bringing this powerful training to Seattle, and for their continued friendship."

Seattle Chief of Police Kathleen O'Toole

LEAS fosters a positive, trusting relationship between police officers and the communities they serve. Presented in three parts, participants first tour the Center's museum exhibit to learn about the Holocaust.

The program highlights the tension between the role of police as maintainers of law and order and their role as front line defenders of democracy and individual rights.

"The program addresses how police perform as professionals. It asks that they consider their values and aspirations as members of the police force, and how closely they adhere to those values."

**Dee Simon, Baral Family Executive Director
Holocaust Center for Humanity**

LEAS draws on universal, timely lessons learned from the Holocaust to challenge law enforcement officials to examine their relationship with the public they serve, and explore issues related to the personal responsibility of officers to administer their authority ethically.

The program encourages officers to see themselves as defenders of the Constitution and guardians against a repeat of the horrors of the Holocaust.

During the daylong program police officers explore the changing role of their counterparts during the Holocaust and reflect on their professional and personal responsibilities today. Over 100,000 law-enforcement professionals around the United States have participated in LEAS since its introduction in 1999.

ABOUT THE CENTER: Connecting lessons of the Holocaust to a broad range of relevant themes for our time, from bullying to social justice, the Holocaust Center for Humanity has been teaching students to become engaged citizens and to speak out against bigotry and prejudice since 1989. The Center works directly with teachers, students, and community groups across the Northwest to provide educational materials, curriculum, and interaction with local Holocaust survivors who tell their stories to 20,000 students of all ages each year. In 2015, the Center opened its museum to the public. 15,000 students of all ages have toured the Center's exhibits during the 2015-2016 school year. *The Center's mission is to inspire teaching and learning for humanity in the schools and communities of this region through study of the Holocaust. Find out more at HolocaustCenterSeattle.org.*