

PRESS RELEASE

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HUMANITY

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Holocaust Center for Humanity Unveils New Exhibit "Finding Light in the Darkness"

New exhibit features immersive elements and uses lessons of the Holocaust to inspire action



SEATTLE, WA – The Holocaust Center for Humanity today announced the opening of its new exhibit, designed to inspire visitors to speak out against hate and indifference in their communities. "Finding Light in the Darkness" is an immersive experience that connects history and personal survivor stories with present day actions of courage.

"Finding Light in the Darkness" features immersive components such as a virtual reality tour of the Anne Frank Annex with Oculus-donated equipment, an eternal light exhibit to reflect on the lives lost during the Holocaust, interactive liberation and post-war stories and survivor testimony embedded on screens throughout the Center. The exhibit opens on the Center's 30th anniversary.

"There is a clear need to teach our communities to work against hate and intolerance," said Dee Simon, the Center's Baral Family Executive Director. "In the last year, Washington's hate crimes went up 32 percent and our state had the third-highest reported hate crimes per capita. We invite all members of the community to join us, explore the museum, and emerge ready to take action to protect all vulnerable communities."

Through stories and artifacts from Washington state Holocaust survivors, the museum's exhibit engages and localizes this history for visitors and challenges them to consider how each person's actions make a difference. The Center has also created a space to highlight upstanding actions from local students.

Studies show the more Americans know about the Holocaust, the more likely they are to reject intolerance and racism. According to a survey commissioned by the Claims Conference, twenty percent of Americans who've never heard of the Holocaust think that it's acceptable to hold neo-Nazi beliefs. Of those who had knowledge of the Holocaust, only 3 percent said that it's acceptable to hold these beliefs.

"Our Center reaches 30,000 students every year," said the Center's Director of Education Ilana Cone Kennedy. "We see an opportunity and an obligation to educate and inspire students of all ages to confront bigotry and indifference using the lessons from the Holocaust. We want them to recognize that their actions, even the small ones, make a difference."

"Finding Light in the Darkness" hopes to use the lessons of the past to encourage visitors to make a positive impact on their present. Seattle-based practice Olson Kundig designed the new exhibit. Funding was provided by The State of Washington and 4Culture.

ABOUT THE CENTER

The Holocaust Center for Humanity is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that teaches the lessons of the Holocaust, inspiring students of all ages to confront bigotry and indifference, promote human dignity, and take action. Established in 1989, the Center works directly with teachers, students, and community groups across the Pacific Northwest to provide educational materials, curricula, and interaction with local Holocaust survivors who tell their stories to 25,000 students of all ages each year. In 2015, the Center's Henry and Sandra Friedman Holocaust Center for Humanity museum opened its doors to the public.

The museum is located at 2045 Second Avenue in Seattle's Belltown neighborhood. Open to the public Wednesdays and Sundays, and to school and community groups by appointment Mon-Fri.

Find out more at HolocaustCenterSeattle.org.

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