

March 23, 2021

Dear Governor Inslee:

My name is Yehuda Katsman, and I think it is necessary for students to learn about the Holocaust. The Holocaust was a horrific genocide in the world. Making it mandatory for schools to teach students about the Holocaust is very important because it gives students an opportunity to think about the Holocaust and ask questions about it. It enables people to have social awareness about what happened in the world that was so terrible. Some people don't know about what people went through to stay alive or try to save others. Some people don't even believe what happened in 1939-1945 (World War II) or they think that Hitler is their "hero".

My mom is a public school teacher. One of my mom's students was very upset and told her that she was working on a group social studies project, and one of the students in the group said, "Hitler is my hero." That was a disgusting thing for the other student to say because Jews worked so hard to stay alive. It's possible that this kid was just ignorant. Lots of students just don't know about the Holocaust and what really happened. Students might think the Jews did something bad to Germany. Or they might think Jews are bad in general and Hitler was the person that wanted to take care of it.

Learning about the Holocaust and all the factors about religion, social, and political situations is very important because it gives you an understanding that the killing of a lot of people was extremely terrible. This will make you aware that you have a responsibility to protect the people around you and that people go through a lot protecting themselves and their families so they don't die. It teaches people about the decisions and actions you use when in a crisis.

There is a Holocaust survivor named Steve Adler. At the end of Steve Adler's testimony video, he said that lots of people say "never again." Except what do they mean by "never again?" Lots of powerful people such as judges could have said, "don't do this". However, nobody said

anything like that. Steve gave us a very good lesson in life. He said, “never again being silent when speaking out can make a difference.” That was a lesson that lots of people should follow. Steve Adler said he goes to many schools and talks to multiple teachers and they all say that at their school, kids are getting singled out and we should always stick up for ourselves and others.

In conclusion, I think that it is very important that teaching about the Holocaust should be mandatory because some people don't know about the whole genocide or what even happened. Some people might still think that Hitler is their hero when they don't know that Hitler was bad. This is what is happening in our world right now. We really need to fix that by teaching everyone in schools about the Holocaust.

Sincerely,

Yehuda Katsman

References

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