



Association of Jewish Refugees  
SERVING HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS  
AND REFUGEES NATIONWIDE  
[www.ajr.org.uk](http://www.ajr.org.uk)

October 2008

### **HRH The Prince of Wales to attend the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary Kindertransport Celebration**

The Kindertransport committee of the Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR)<sup>1</sup> is delighted to announce that HRH The Prince of Wales will be attending the Kindertransport Celebration on Sunday 23 November at the JFS, Kenton in North West London.

The Celebration commemorates the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Parliament's decision<sup>2</sup> to admit 10,000, mainly Jewish, children as refugees from Nazi-occupied Europe.

The gathering<sup>3</sup> will take place at JFS, which was instrumental in helping evacuate many Kinder from London to Ely, near Cambridge, at the beginning of the war

It is very much hoped that as many Kinder as possible and their families will participate in this unique event, probably the last one to be held in the company of such a large number of Kinder.

Sir Martin Gilbert will give the keynote address titled, 'The British Government, The British People and the Kinder' and will also tell about his recent visit to Lady Thatcher to talk about her recollections of the Jewish girl she and her family gave a home to in 1939.

Home Office Minister, the Rt Hon Tony McNulty MP, will represent the British government and the programme will also feature Edwina Currie in conversation with Bertha Leverton OBE, the founder of the Kinder Transport Reunion as well as addresses from the Chief Rabbi Sir Jonathan Sacks, Lord Greville Janner and Lord Richard Attenborough.

Also included is a service of Remembrance, presentations, lunch and a panel discussion. The day will end, after tea, with a rousing Klezmer concert.

In the days leading up to the Celebration, the Kinder will also make commemorative visits to the Imperial War Museum, the Kinder Monument at Liverpool Street Station, where most of the Kinder arrived, and the Bevis Marks Synagogue.

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<sup>1</sup> The Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR) provides an extensive range of social and welfare services and grants financial assistance to victims of Nazi persecution living in Great Britain.

<sup>2</sup> Following the debate in the House of Commons on refugee policy on 21 November 1938, the British government agreed to allow unaccompanied children under the age of 17.

<sup>3</sup> This is the third reunion; previous gatherings were in 1988 and 1999.

Chairman of the Kindertransport committee, Erich Reich, is calling on Kinder and their families to come and take part in the event. Mr Reich said, “We are celebrating one of the single most important decisions ever taken by the British government. Thanks to its intervention some 10,000 children, myself included, were saved from certain death. We believe this occasion will prove to be an exceptional celebration in the company of some of those young children who arrived on these shores so many years ago.”

People interested in attending are asked to contact the AJR on 020 8385 3070.

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Notes:

<sup>1</sup> The Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR) provides social and welfare services and grants financial assistance to Jewish victims of Nazi persecution living in Great Britain.

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