



Association of Jewish Refugees

SERVING HOLOCAUST REFUGEES

AND SURVIVORS NATIONWIDE

www.ajr.org.uk

PRESS RELEASE

January 2012

AJR COMMEMORATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

Members of the Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR) will gather on Monday 23 January 2012 at the Belsize Square Synagogue, London NW3 to commemorate the annual Holocaust Memorial Day.

Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg, whose grandfather was the Rabbi of the Frankfurt Jewish community will lead the service and recite psalms and the traditional Jewish mourning prayer, *Kaddish*. He will also speak on the theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2012: *Speak Up, Speak Out*.

As part of the service, AJR members will light six memorial candles to remember the lives of the six million Jewish people murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators during the Holocaust.

The service will also include an address from Felicitas Weileder, an intern from Action Reconciliation Service for Peace, a German volunteer organisation with which the AJR works closely.

Guests are kindly invited to a reception with light refreshments at the conclusion of the service.

Speaking ahead of Holocaust Memorial Day, AJR Chairman, Andrew Kaufman, said: "At a time when prejudice, intolerance and the hatred of others are sadly commonplace, this year's Holocaust Memorial Day should inspire us to think what we can do to challenge racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism. As the crimes committed in the Holocaust become more distant, there is a tendency to trivialise or diminish their significance but by speaking up and speaking out we can all act to ensure that neither the perpetrators' deeds nor their victims are forgotten.

For AJR members, Holocaust Memorial Day is also a time to remember and honour the memory of their loved ones who perished in the Holocaust and to reach out and inform people about the experiences of the Holocaust refugees and survivors who rebuilt their lives in Great Britain."

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For further information please contact Michael Newman:

Tel: 020 8385 3074

Fax: 020 8385 3080

Email: mnewman@ajr.org.uk

Website: www.ajr.org.uk

Notes:

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

The AJR has produced the ground-breaking audio-visual testimony archive, *Refugee Voices*. This collection of 150 filmed interviews creates a legacy of the experiences of the refugees and will advance and enhance Holocaust research for future generations. *Refugee Voices* enables Holocaust researchers and scholars to watch up to 450 hours of film and read fully edited and transcribed accounts. For the first time, researchers will also be assisted by time-codes that, together with a summary sheet and key words section, direct users to specific sections of the films. Details of Refugee Voices are at www.refugeevoices.co.uk

In conjunction with the Jewish Museum in London, the AJR produced the exhibition, *Continental Britons - Jewish Refugees from Nazi Europe*, which relates the remarkable and compelling story of the Jewish refugees who fled Nazi persecution in the German-speaking countries before World War II and came to Britain. The exhibition can be seen online at <http://www.ajr.org.uk/continental-britons>

Through a unique survey entitled the AJR has recorded the Continental background, journey to Britain, reception and subsequent experiences and lives of some 1,500 Jewish children of the Kindertransport. *Making New Lives in Britain* can be seen at <http://www.ajr.org.uk/kindersurvey>

The AJR is part of the UK delegation to the [Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research \(ITF\)](#), which brings together governments and non-governmental organisations to raise awareness of the Holocaust and places political and social leaders' support behind the need for Holocaust education, remembrance, and research both nationally and internationally.