



Association of Jewish Refugees

SERVING HOLOCAUST REFUGEES
AND SURVIVORS NATIONWIDE

www.ajr.org.uk

PRESS RELEASE

January 2011

AJR COMMEMORATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

Members of the Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR) will gather on Monday 24 January 2011 at the Belsize Square Synagogue, London NW3 to commemorate the annual Holocaust Memorial Day.

AJR member and Kindertransport refugee Susi Bechhofer will speak about the recent discovery of letters written by her mother, Rosa, describing her perilous predicament in Nazi Germany. It is not known whether these letters were answered, so leaving an untold story, the theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2011.

Rabbi Stuart Altshuler, who recently took up his post at the Belsize Square Synagogue, will lead the service and recite the Jewish mourning prayer, *Kaddish*. 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.

AJR Chairman, Andrew Kaufman, said: "The theme for this year's Holocaust Memorial Day is a timely reminder that the experiences of Holocaust refugees and survivors must be recorded for posterity and studied in perpetuity. Like the AJR's own Refugee Voices project, these witness statements are critical as both an important cathartic experience for our members and as a means to study one of the darkest episodes in history.

As the AJR celebrates its 70th anniversary, for AJR members Holocaust Memorial Day is a time to remember and honour the memory of 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. *Untold Stories* should encourage us all to consider what we can do to ensure that the Holocaust is never forgotten."

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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.