



## The Association of Jewish Refugees

SERVING HOLOCAUST REFUGEES AND SURVIVORS NATIONWIDE

[www.ajr.org.uk](http://www.ajr.org.uk)

March 2015

### Enemy Property Claims Assessment Panel

The Association of Jewish Refugees issued the following statement in response to the government's consultation on the future of the Enemy Property Claims Assessment Panel (EPCAP):

"Although The Association of Jewish Refugees has not completed its own consultation – among some of its members – our initial thoughts are that it would be greatly remiss of the government to prematurely close what has been a successful scheme.

While the number of applicants has slowed in recent years, the evidence from similar Holocaust-era restitution schemes in other countries is that there may well be descendants of Holocaust victims who belatedly become aware of the possibility of recovering family assets. To deny them their rightful inheritance would be a travesty of justice and an unnecessary stain on the British government's otherwise leading reputation in the field of post-Holocaust issues, and weaken our demands for countries that have not introduced legislation to rapidly address their moral failure.

In light of the establishment of the Prime Minister's Holocaust Commission and as the UK concludes its year as Chair of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), the AJR's strong recommendation would be to leave the scheme running, if necessary, in a dormant state and to launch a further international awareness campaign, perhaps through embassies."

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#### Notes:

The Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR) [www.ajr.org.uk](http://www.ajr.org.uk) is the national charity exclusively delivering social and welfare services, including financial assistance, to Jewish victims of Nazi oppression as well as their dependants and descendants living in Great Britain. The AJR also supports Holocaust education and research projects and initiatives to commemorate the Holocaust.

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](http://www.refugeevoices.co.uk)

The AJR is part of the UK delegation to the [International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance \(IHRA\)](http://www.ihra.org), 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.