



Association of Jewish Refugees

SERVING HOLOCAUST REFUGEES

AND SURVIVORS NATIONWIDE

www.ajr.org.uk

PRESS RELEASE

22 November 2011

STATUE COMMEMORATING KINDERTRANSPORT UNVEILED AT HOOK OF HOLLAND IN ROTTERDAM

A statue commemorating the last Kindertransport to leave Nazi-occupied Europe will be unveiled at the Hook of Holland on Wednesday 30 November.

The statue, designed by the internationally acclaimed sculptor Frank Meisler, has been supported by the Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR) and will carry the inscription: In recognition of Dutch heroism and gratitude for the safe passage of the Kindertransport.

Mr Meisler previously created the statues commemorating the Kindertransport at Liverpool Street station in London, at Gdansk in Poland and at Berlin's Friedrichstrasse station.

Chairman of the Kindertransport, a Special Interest Group of the AJR, Sir Erich Reich said: "It is little known that some Kindertransport was able to continue even after the start of the Second World War and this statue honours the heroic actions of the Dutch people who helped save the lives of Jewish children fleeing persecution. The statue is also a fitting memorial dedicated to all those who perished at the hands of the Nazis and will be a permanent reminder of the continuing need to fight intolerance, racism and anti-Semitism."

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Background information about the Kindertransport

A special interest group of the AJR, **Kindertransport** represents the children who fled Nazi-controlled Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia between 1938 and 1939 and prior to the start of the Second World War. As well as the monthly lunches at the Paul Balint AJR Centre, the Kindertransport management also arranges regular activities and outings and members receive the quarterly KT Newsletter.

Children up to the age of 16 were allowed to travel on a Kindertransport together with accompanying elder children.

It is estimated that the parents of ninety per cent (90%) of Kinder were murdered in the Holocaust.

World Jewish Relief (WJR) – under their previous auspices of the Central British Fund for German Jewry (CBF) – was established as a direct result and to support – in whatever way possible – the urgent needs of Jews both in Germany and Austria.

Following the devastation of Kristallnacht, the “Night of Broken Glass,” in Germany and Austria on 9th November 1938, WJR embarked on a rescue operation, which saved the lives of thousands of children. Within three weeks of Kristallnacht, the first 200 of these children were assembled in Germany, and travelled to the Hook of Holland, then to Harwich in the UK. In the nine months following, 10,000 unaccompanied - mainly Jewish - children travelled to the UK on the Kindertransport to safety.

Most of these unaccompanied children travelled to Liverpool Street Station in London where they met their volunteer foster parents for the first time, heralding the start of a new life. Records for every ‘Kind’ that arrived in the UK through the Kindertransport are available via the Jewish Refugees Committee, based at the Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR).

Notes on the AJR for Editors:

The AJR is the leading national charitable organisation 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 Charitable Trust 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

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.