

We Write This Letter to Humanity in Sorrow and also in Hope

By Don Sutherland

The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum recently sent a letter to members from 33 Holocaust survivors. The letter addressed the rising threat confronting the world's Jewish people, the importance of "memory and education," and determination to overcome the latest challenges.

Excerpts from an Open Letter from a Community of Holocaust Survivors:

In our youth, we were proud Jews in our communities throughout Europe. Eventually, that meant escape or certain death. We wanted to flee, but no one would take us. We longed for freedom and security, but there was no Jewish state. Today, the State of Israel is the guarantor of a Jewish future, but it is under horrific assault by Hamas terrorists. Today, men, women, and children are again targeted as Jews. Today, we witness the worst killing of Jews since the Holocaust.

This is not what we expected in this final chapter of our lives, as we contemplate our legacy, the future of Holocaust memory and education, and the future of our people. We write this letter to humanity in sorrow but also in hope. We know pain few can comprehend, having seen our families and communities obliterated. We are living proof that the unthinkable is always possible.

We are also living proof of resilience. That we can rebuild as our fierce determination demonstrates. We must be realistic about the dangers, but we must never despair...That is why memory and education become more important with each passing year... We promised our loved ones we would never forget and never give up. Especially at this darkest of moments, that remains our promise and our challenge to humanity.