



Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities

UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre



The Government, with cross-party support, propose to construct a new national Memorial to commemorate the 6 million Jewish men, women and children who were murdered in the Holocaust, together with all other victims of Nazi persecution. The Memorial will be accompanied by a Learning Centre in which the history of the Holocaust will be told from British perspectives.

Locating the Memorial in Victoria Tower Gardens, in the heart of Westminster, will give the Holocaust the prominence it deserves. Proximity to the Houses of Parliament will underline the importance of ensuring that lessons from the Holocaust are not forgotten as we take decisions today.

The Holocaust Memorial Bill will remove a statutory obstacle preventing construction of the UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre in Victoria Tower Gardens. Construction of the Memorial and Learning Centre would begin as soon as possible following Royal Assent and subject to the outcome of the planning process, with the aim of opening in 2027.

Design of the Memorial

The UK Memorial and Learning Centre, including the associated landscape improvements to Victoria Tower Gardens, have been designed by Adjaye Associates, Ron Arad Architects and Gustafson Porter + Bowman. An entrance pavilion and courtyard at the southern end of Victoria Tower Gardens will provide the immediate setting for Ron Arad's memorial consisting of 23 bronze fins.



Visitors will pass between the fins and descend via one of eight staircases or a glass lift to reach the Threshold space and from there enter the underground Learning Centre.



Victoria Tower Gardens

Landscape improvements to Victoria Tower Gardens will ensure that this important and well-used green space is more attractive and accessible than ever before.



All the mature London Plane trees will be protected; additional planting and improved drainage of the grassed area will increase the overall attractiveness of the gardens.

Alongside the river embankment wall new raised boardwalks will be constructed, helping to make seating more accessible and making it easier for everyone to enjoy views of the Thames.



New pathways will link existing memorials and monuments within the gardens and additional seating will enhance the visitor experience. The new development will take only around 7.5% of



the current area of the gardens and the playground will be improved: the objective is to make sure that all current uses

can continue after the Memorial is constructed.

Learning Centre



Jewish refugee children, who are members of the first Kindertransport from Germany, arrive in Harwich, 2 Dec 1938
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Instytut Pamięci Narodowej

Within the Learning Centre, a powerful audio-visual exhibition will set out the events of the Holocaust from unique British perspectives. The exhibition, which is being developed with input from leading academics, will aim to give an honest account of how British people and the British Government responded to the growth of antisemitism, the demands of Europe's Jews for refuge, and the reality of persecution.

The Learning Centre will address the history of subsequent genocides, presenting difficult questions about why the lessons of the Holocaust appear not to have been learned.



German military band marching past Lloyds Bank on The Poller, St Peter Port, Guernsey, c.1940-1945
WWM HQ 23066



A sign posted by the British army at the entrance to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, May 1945
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Madalae Fraser

Visitors

We expect up to around half a million visitors each year will enter the UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre. Entry to the Memorial and Learning Centre will be free, with timed pre-booked ticketing to manage the flow of visitors and to avoid queues developing.

Visitors are expected to arrive via existing public transport to Westminster, with some organised pre-booked education groups arriving by coach. The marginal increase in coach traffic will be managed by providing a dedicated coach bay on Millbank with a maximum permitted waiting time. This will allow passengers to board and alight coaches whilst minimising disruption to traffic and existing users of the footway.

Security

The UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre will have entry security arrangements similar to the many other public buildings in Westminster. We are working with security experts, Government agencies, and the Metropolitan Police to develop the necessary level of security measures. Victoria Tower Gardens will continue to be freely accessible to all.

Risk of Flooding

A detailed Flood Risk Assessment prepared as part of the planning application concluded that Victoria Tower Gardens is heavily protected by the Thames River flood defences, significantly reducing the risk of flooding on site. The UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre will include rainwater attenuation measures and improvements to the surface water drainage within Victoria Tower Gardens to mitigate flood risk. The chance of the Memorial and Learning Centre flooding is extremely remote, but early warning and evacuation arrangements will be put in place to prepare for such an unlikely event.

Planning Consent

A planning application was submitted to Westminster City Council in December 2018. In November 2019 the application was called in for determination by Ministers, and special handling arrangements were put in place to ensure a functional separation between the Minister and advisers responsible for making the application and those persons responsible for making the decision. Following a public inquiry chaired by an independent inspector, the designated Minister decided in July 2021 to grant planning consent.

In April 2022, following a statutory challenge, the High Court quashed the decision to grant planning consent. The Court found that section 8 of the London County Council (Improvements) Act 1900 was an obstacle to construction of the Memorial. With the Holocaust Memorial Bill, we are seeking

Parliament's agreement that the 1900 Act should not prohibit construction of the UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre. Subject to approval of the Bill, and to obtaining planning consent when the designated Minister re-takes the decision, we aim to open in 2027.

Construction

The construction phase of the UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre is expected to last around 3 years. We aim to make phased closures and re-openings of different sections of the park to ensure that as much as possible of Victoria Tower Gardens is kept open throughout the construction phase.

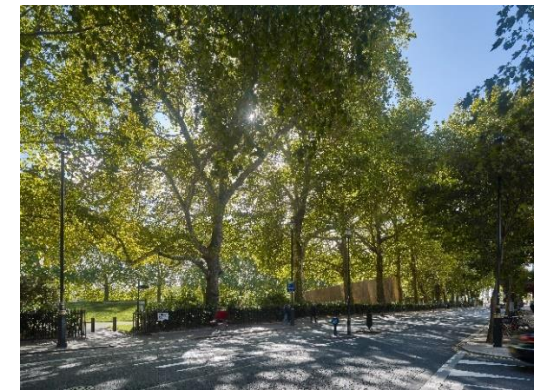
Cost

Estimated overall project costs of £102.9 million (plus contingency) for construction and £6 -8 million per annum for operations were published in the NAO's report of July 2022.

Charitable donations of £25m towards construction costs are expected, with charitable donations also contributing to annual running costs.

Programme Management

The Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, is responsible for delivering the Holocaust Memorial programme. The UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation, jointly chaired by Rt Hon Ed Balls and Rt Hon Lord Pickles, provide advice to the Government across all aspects of the programme.



Contact us

If you have any questions, please contact:

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