“Get it all on record now — get the films — get the witnesses — because somewhere down the track of history some bastard will get up and say that this never happened.”

- Dwight D. Eisenhower 1945

Dear Commissioner Corcoran:

On behalf of the 96 Jewish and Christian signatories and organizations representing over 45 million congregants/members globally, we cannot endorse the revisionist Holocaust Standards as submitted for adoption by the Florida Holocaust Task Force, because they fall dismally short of a comprehensive program to prevent the rise of antisemitism in Florida K-12 classrooms.

Unfortunately, Holocaust revisionism is a growing threat to the Memory of the Six Million men, women and children who were murdered under the German Nazi regime and its collaborators around the world.

General Eisenhower’s statement is a sobering reminder of that threat. Sadly, his prophetic words are echoing in our generation. We saw it most recently with the statements made by former Spanish River High School Principal, William Latson, when he told a parent; “not everyone believes the Holocaust happened.”

As reported in Yahoo News on May 17, 2020, antisemitic incidents reported in 2019 spiked to the highest level in at least 40 years, with a record 2,100 acts of assault, vandalism and harassment against Jews reported across the United States, including in Florida. “Ninety-one such incidents were reported in the state in 2019.” (Florida Reports Anti-Semitic Incidents: Anti-Defamation League | St. Pete, FL Patch)

Moreover, a recent article by Jeff Jacoby in The Boston Globe, titled; “The Problem with Holocaust Education,” reported on a study published by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany. In a survey conducted of basic Holocaust knowledge among Americans under 40, it concluded that there was, “a worrying lack of basic Holocaust knowledge.”

For example, “Sixty-three percent of millennials and Gen Z-ers did not know that 6 million Jews were murdered by Nazi Germany. When asked if they could name any of the more than 40,000 concentration camps, ghettos, or extermination sites into which Jews were forced, 48 percent were unable to identify even one. More than one in five (22 percent) could not be sure that they ‘have definitely heard about the Holocaust.’”
Additionally, Jacoby reported, “When the states were ranked according to the level of respondents’ knowledge, some of the lowest-scoring were those that have required Holocaust education for decades. Among those in the bottom tier, include Florida. Forty-five percent of those millennials and Gen Z-ers surveyed did not know what Auschwitz was.”

These results are dismal, despite the 27 years since the implementation of the “funded” Florida Holocaust Education Mandate. The Florida Holocaust Task Force boasts that: “Florida has always been the standard-bearer in Holocaust Education” across the country since its inception. With due respect, Holocaust ignorance remains widespread and at an all-time high in Florida, and antisemitism is growing, especially on K-12 campuses across the state. This is unacceptable, considering that the taxpayers of this state rightfully expect more accountability and transparency in the programs and the resources provided to implement them.

We are witnessing a type of Holocaust revisionism that is growing more pervasive in the United States in general, and in Florida specifically. We addressed this growing threat in our PJTN white paper published in 2019 titled: *Indoctrination in U.S. Public Education: Dismantling of our Constitutional Republic.* This document was published for then U.S. Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos. We have submitted it to governors, state legislators, education commissioners, and school board members. I would be happy to send you a printed copy upon request.

Today, Holocaust revisionism is being subtly applied by educators, who intentionally “water-down” the history of the Holocaust by connecting it with “other groups.” This insidious agenda is why our children do not see the Holocaust as an event that specifically targeted the Jewish People. As Dr. David Patterson eloquently stated in his statement, “Reflections on the Concerns Expressed to Commissioner Corcoran with Regards to the Proposed Holocaust Education Standards” (see attached); “The term Holocaust does not refer to every evil perpetrated by the Nazis between 1933 and 1945. It is, in German, die Judenvernichtung or ‘annihilation of the Jews’ [Emphasis added], the Final Solution to the Jewish Question, not the Gypsy Question, the Communist Question, the Handicapped Question, or the Homosexual Question. The Nazis called it ‘the Jew War’, or “the War against the Jews.”

Minimizing the Holocaust in education to the level of just another genocide among many, creates a very real threat of dehumanizing Jews in the process. Most students in K-12 are bombarded with propaganda in textbooks, instructional materials, and especially “supplemental materials”, which are anti-Israel, condemning the Israeli government, and by definition, the Jews. Case in point was the concern of the Task Force about including “Zionism” in Holocaust Standards, their suggestion that the standards which we submitted were not placed in “historical” context and their removal of our K-5 standards, which accurately place the Jews in their historical context. The Task Force language, in fact, could be classified as “antisemitic”, as it overtly denies the Jews their ancient biblical homeland, once again, in historical context.

Antisemitism, in the form of Hitler’s attempt to annihilate the Jews and eradicate Judaism, was not the first time a world leader attempted such. The Jews faced a similar threat in Spain and Portugal, Persia and in Egypt. To deny these historical facts does an injustice in teaching students about the over 3,000-year threat the Jews continue to face. No “other groups” can make such a claim.
Finally, teaching children about their Jewish classmates and neighbors makes them real and understandable and therefore acceptable. We strongly advise that the Holocaust Standards include teaching that the Jews have always been an integral part of our American and world societies and an asset to our communities. Connecting children in K-5 to their Jewish friends helps build empathy through education so that when they begin to learn about the horrors of the Holocaust, they will already have a foundation of understanding.

In closing, we are respectfully asking you to please reconsider PJTN’s Holocaust Standards for adoption in K-12. The last 27 years have not proven successful in combating antisemitism in Florida. We suggest that we choose an alternative path that will teach the multifaceted nature of both the normalcy of American Jewish relations, and also of Jew-hatred, so as to assist our students in understanding that antisemitism is the sign of a deep-seated problem in our society. Without that perspective, our children will never come to connect Hitler’s rise to power with the 3,000-year history of unprovoked persecution targeted at the Jews, and how Hitler’s “Final Solution” to the Jewish Question was a modern-day continuum of that age-old hatred. That is Holocaust Education.

We await your positive response.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Cardoza Moore, Th.D. – President, Proclaiming Justice to The Nations
Michael S. Goldstein, General Counsel - Proclaiming Justice to The Nations
Steven M. Alembik – SMA Communications - Boca Raton, FL
Rabbi Manny Behar, Queens, NY
Rabbi Menashe Bovit, Floral Park, Son of Holocaust Survivor
Yechezkel Moskowitz, President – Amariah
Nachman Mostofsky, Executive Director, Amariah
Rabbi Joseph Fishof - Beth Ami Congregation in Boca Raton, FL
Rabbi Pesach Lerner - Coalition For Jewish Values
Sarah Stern – Endowment for Middle East Truth
Keith Flaugh, President – Florida Citizens Alliance
Rabbi Joseph Frager, MD – Brooklyn, NY
Marc Goldman – Boca Raton, FL
Rabbi Jonathan Hausman, Newton, MA
David Patterson - Hillel Feinberg Distinguished Chair in Holocaust Studies
Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies - University of Texas at Dallas
Laurie Moskowitz Hirsch, President - Irving I. Moskowitz Foundation
Michelle Terris – JEXIT, Inc.
Nivia Lucero – JEXIT, Inc.
Sofia Manolesco – JEXIT, Inc.
Karyn Basle JEXIT, Inc.
Dr. Shmuel Katz - Bal Harbour, FL
Rabbi Baruch Binyamin Melman, Stroudsburg, PA
Mark Silverberg, Executive Director, NEPA Federation
Corey Bearak, Attorney, Executive Board Northeast Queens Jewish Community Council
Karen Brill, Palm Beach County School Board – District 3
Dr. Sandra Alfonsi - PJTN Senior Academic Fellow
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Kathy Johnson, Cleveland, OH – PJTN Assistant Director of the Ohio Chapter
Marcie Rabinowitz, Tannersville, PA Holocaust Educator
Sammy Eppel – Research Fellow at Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism
Nancy A. Rossman – Orlando, FL
Ruth Rossman – Orlando, FL
Rabbi Yehuda Salkow, Scranton, PA
Barney Sidler, Boca Raton, FL – Holocaust Survivor
Rabbi Aryeh Spero, Canton, OH – Conference of Jewish Affairs
Beverly A. Goldstein, Ph.D. - State of Arizona Director Conference of Jewish Affairs
Rabbi Leonid Feldman - Temple Beth El – West Palm Beach, FL
Miriam Tyberg, Brooklyn, NY, Holocaust Survivor
Archbishop Dr. John Lupoli - World Council of Independent Christian Churches
Mort Klein, President – The Zionist Organization of America

The list below represents members of the Jewish community who are philanthropists, doctors, lawyers, educators, etc., who are respectfully asking Commissioner Corcoran to adopt the Holocaust Standards as submitted by PJTN, Inc.

Elana Kirshbaum, Queens, NY Public School Teacher, Hebrew Day School Educator
Orrei Barash, Los Angeles, CA, Language Arts/History Teacher/7-12th grade
Barbara Light, Brooklyn NY, Jewish Activist
Carla Hassan, Brooklyn NY Concerned Jewish grandparent
James Loriega, Brooklyn NY, Educator
Helen Rock, Plainview, LI, Educator
Celia Haddad, Deal NJ, Jewish Community Activist
Peggy Epstein, Rockaway NY, Educator
Dr. Robyn Wolintz, Cedarhurst NY
Elisa Quadrucchi Mahopac NY, Jewish Activist
Nechama Kamelhar, Brooklyn NY, Educator
Allan Cohn, Brooklyn NY, Political Activist
Mitchell Zelman, Brooklyn NY, Political Activist
Sara Springer, Brooklyn NY, Educator
Pamela Hall, NY, NY
Chaski Naor, Brooklyn, NY, Synagogue Activist
Frayda Naor, Brooklyn NY, Synagogue
Karen Wagner, Queens NY, Educator
Irene and Michael Alter Roslyn, Long Island, Educators
Lilly Zhang Brooklyn NY
Raizy Weintrab, Brooklyn NY, Educator
Gitty Schonfeld Brooklyn NY, Synagogue Activist
Robin Karol, Smithtown Long Island
Ping Zhang Brooklyn NY
Johnny Zhang Brooklyn NY
Zi Tpang Zhang Brooklyn NY
Yu Zhu Zhang Brooklyn NY
Phil Orenstein, Queens Village, NY, Republican Leader and Activist, Queens Village Republican Club.
Alma Orenstein, Queens Village, NY
Ira Chazan, Hollis, NY, Jewish Communal Activist
Kathleen Free, Flushing, NY, Educator
Florence Barber, Bellerose, NY, Political Activist
Dan Barber, Bellerose, NY, Political Activist
Daniel Noble, Kew Gardens, NY, Synagogue
Mitchell Langbert, West Shokan, NY, Educator
Robert Golomb, Great Neck, NY, Educator
Mindy Golomb, Great Neck, NY
Joseph Concannon, Bellerose, NY, Political Activist
Arlene Ross, Forest Hills, NY, Community Activist
George Leifer, Forest Hills, NY
Leslie D. Hochhauser, Bethlehem, PA
Rebecca H. Hochhauser, Bethlehem, PA
Eric Spinner, New Hyde Park, NY
Rosanne Spinner, New Hyde Park, NY
Laura Schmitt, Jamaica, NY
Steven Schwartzberg, Jamaica, NY
Susan Singer, Baiting Hollow, NY
Ruth Gray, Great Neck, NY
Rochelle Kapplow, Glen Oaks, NY
Charles Albert, Bellerose, NY
Karen Smilowitz, West Hempstead, NY, Political Activist
Alan Smilowitz, West Hempstead, NY, Political Activist
Pearl Harris, Del Ray Beach, FL.
Jayne Laytin, New Hyde Park, NY, Synagogue Activist
Mark Laytin, New Hyde Park, NY