



## The Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center

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The Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center (HHREC) is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization based in White Plains, New York that serves area schools, synagogues, colleges, churches and civic centers in Westchester and the greater Hudson Valley area. **Our Mission is to enhance the teaching and learning of the lessons of the Holocaust and the right of all people to be treated with dignity and respect. We encourage students to be Upstanders by speaking up and acting against all forms of bigotry and prejudice.**

HHREC was selected by the NYS Commissioner of Education (NYSED) to revise and update all curricular resources to teach the Holocaust and other genocides in order to meet the 1994 mandate. This new online [educator resource about the history of the Holocaust](#) was published in 2025.

### HHREC Teacher Education Programs

- Since 1994, HHREC has brought the lessons of the Holocaust, genocide and human rights crimes to **more than 3,000 teachers**, and through them to **hundreds of thousands of middle and high school students** in Westchester County, the greater Hudson Valley area and New York State.
- The [HHREC Educators Program Committee](#) is comprised of teachers who work with the HHREC staff to develop programs, plan professional development, and design curriculum that enrich teachers' knowledge about the Holocaust and human rights issues.
- HHREC offers [Professional Development Conferences](#), full day Institutes for educators who teach grades 7-12 in English, Social Studies or Interdisciplinary Teams. The day may include a keynote speaker and Holocaust and human rights workshops.
- The HHREC [Summer Educators' Tour](#) educational trip to Germany and Poland offers teachers an opportunity to learn about the Holocaust. The program is designed to offer insight into the history of the Jews in these countries, trace the origin and progression of the Holocaust, and visit memorial sites through a series of interactive workshops and guided tours with experts in the field.

## HHREC Student Programs

- HHREC [Human Rights Institutes](#) attract students from Hudson Valley area middle schools and high schools, as keynote speakers and interactive workshops cover important topics including the universal declaration of human rights and the importance of youth leadership in confronting prejudice and discrimination.
- The HHREC [Living History Project](#) offers an opportunity for students to participate in an intergenerational program connecting high school students with the children and grandchildren of Holocaust survivors.
- The [Ben Ferencz Writing and Creative Expression Competition](#) enables students to explore, analyze and use varied means to communicate their comprehension of human rights violations and/or responses to evil that demonstrate moral courage.
- The HHREC [Twin With a Survivor Program](#) provides students the opportunity to make personal connections to extraordinary models of human courage and resilience who exemplify continued commitment to the Jewish community.

## HHREC Speakers Bureau

- The **HHREC Speakers Bureau** offers a unique resource for educators. Speakers include [Holocaust Survivors](#) and [GenerationsForward](#) second and third generation speakers. In the past academic year 29 speakers appeared at area schools to share their stories with approximately 25,000 students.
- In the past academic year, over 1,000 people from around the world attended the **HHREC Memory Keepers Story Hour** on Zoom that featured HHREC *GenerationsForward* Speakers.

## HHREC Events and Presentations

- HHREC and Westchester Jewish Council present the [Annual Westchester Countywide Yom HaShoah Holocaust Commemoration](#) at the [Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center Garden of Remembrance](#) to commemorate the approximately six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust by Nazi Germany and its collaborators.
- HHREC partners with Iona University to offer annual [Kristallnacht \(Night of Broken Glass\) Commemoration](#) and [Yom HaShoah \(Day of Holocaust Remembrance\) Commemoration](#) events.
- [HHREC Presentations and Workshops](#) provide educators and communities with a clear understanding of the symbols and language associated with hatred, especially antisemitism and support teachers interested in integrating these themes into their classroom instruction modules.

## The HHREC Library and Exhibits

- **The HHREC Anna & Nicholas Elefant Library** in White Plains, NY offers a unique education resource about the Holocaust and human rights for area teachers, and includes over 5,000 volumes of books curated by HHREC.
- Hudson Valley area teachers have adopted books from our library to include in their curricula to help them educate their students about historical reference points and lessons about the Holocaust, including the [Annotated Book Lists for Young Readers](#).
- **HHREC Exhibitor Panels** offer a unique educational resource that help tell stories of the Holocaust. These illustrations are provided on loan to schools, synagogues, colleges, churches and civic centers, and include [13 Driver's Licenses](#), [Agi Keleti: The Jewish Olympian's Story of Survival and Triumph](#), [Call Me Stefan](#), [Cartoonists Against the Holocaust](#) and [The Courage to Remember](#).
- [Testimony of the Human Spirit](#) is a four-part documentary film that interweaves personal accounts of six Westchester residents. Teachers can access this film and stream it at no charge.

## HHREC Partnerships

HHREC engages with community partners to collaborate on events, programs and activities that support our respective missions. Major partner organizations we have worked with include:

- Association of Holocaust Organizations
- Clark Center at Manhattanville University
- Community of Holocaust Education Centers (USHMM)
- Hillels of Westchester
- Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh
- Iona University
- Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County
- Kupferberg Holocaust Center
- Nonprofit Westchester
- Purchase College, State University of New York
- Westchester County Government
- Westchester Business Council
- Westchester Jewish Community Services
- Westchester Jewish Council

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