

Dear Ahmed

It was a pleasure meeting with you in Paris this week, and conversing with you. I am very impressed by the penetrating and crucial questions you are asking about antisemitism. I hope that you will be able to visit us in Jerusalem as we discussed and continue the conversation we began in Paris. Since we received a message that you are also collecting written information, I would like to take this opportunity to put some of the ideas I mentioned in writing. I am also sending you some links to relevant material we have at Yad Vashem.

As I am sure you know, Yad Vashem is much more than a museum. It includes the International School for Holocaust Studies, International Institute for Holocaust Research, the Archives with more than 200 million pages of documentation, the Library with over 170 thousand published titles, and Hall of Names, where we gather information about the victims of the Holocaust. In addition our Communications Division is active in all kinds of media, new and old, reaching out to the general public about Yad Vashem, the Holocaust and related issues. <https://www.yadvashem.org/>

It is clear to us at Yad Vashem and many of our colleagues around the world that the struggle against antisemitism requires a "toolbox" approach. In other words it needs to include issues of legality, education, "policing" the internet and social media, building bridges between religious and ethnic groups, and other aspects. Within this we see education as the long term and deepest tool, and we believe it is the area in which we can be most effective. The following comes under "best practices."

We understand that education about the Holocaust is not sufficient alone to combat antisemitism but it is most certainly a necessary and important component. We conduct some 80 international seminars about the Holocaust each year that go on for between one and three weeks. They are mostly for educators, but also we hold seminars for media people, librarians and archivists, religious groups, and even young politicians and diplomats. The seminars teach about the Holocaust and expose the participants to educational tools. Although much of the material presented in the seminars is similar, there are components that are tailored to the specific groups.

The educational work at Yad Vashem is not only onsite at Yad Vashem but includes sending our educators abroad, often in coordination with the graduates of our seminars, and of course outreach through the Internet and social media. We are active on six continents and conduct our activities in many languages. Many millions of users each year enter our website, which is in eight languages, including Farsi, and Arabic, and contains a wide range of material, including online exhibits and access to much of our data. We are also active on Facebook, Instagram, You Tube (24 million have viewed our films) and Twitter, since it is clear that these platforms are crucial today for reaching people, especially younger people. We have developed exhibitions on demand that can be downloaded and printed locally in the local language, and with our help, tailored to local needs. Six years ago we developed a MOOC (Massive Online Open Course) with Tel Aviv University about the Holocaust that is hosted by a Future Learn, an online teaching platform in the UK, and the course is university accredited. So far over 100,000 people have taken the course (for or without university credit).

<https://www.youtube.com/user/YadVashem>

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/holocaust-part-1>

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/holocaust-part-2>

Several years ago we understood from the grassroots that teachers need material about current antisemitism. As a result we developed a workshop for educators about antisemitism that uses various placards as triggers for discussion. The goal of the workshop is to help teachers understand why teaching about antisemitism is important and the method used in the workshop can be used

with local examples in the classroom. We also found that we needed to develop some basic and objective historical information about Israel and the conflict here, because it comes up in discussions of antisemitism and many people actually know very little about it. In our teaching unit Echoes and Reflections, that has been created in partnership with the Anti-Defamation League and the Visual History Archive at USC, we also teach about historic and contemporary antisemitism, and we have created short films about this subject.

<https://echoesandreflections.org/>

<https://www.yadvashem.org/education/educational-videos/video-toolbox/hevt-nazi-ideology.html>

<https://www.yadvashem.org/education/educational-videos/video-toolbox/hevt-antisemitism.html>

<https://www.yadvashem.org/education/educational-videos/video-toolbox/hevt-what-is.html>

As the Echoes and Reflections material indicates, we believe that to address current antisemitism it is vital to know about historical antisemitism as well. We have developed a MOOC about antisemitism that went online last year: "Antisemitism - from its Origins to the Present." This course is in six parts, the first three about historic antisemitism and the latter three about contemporary antisemitism. Some 50 scholars and experts appear in the course from different countries and religious groups. The course does not provide simple answers to complex questions, but discusses the complexities at length. So far some 15,000 people have taken the course. Soon the course will also be hosted in the US on the Coursera platform.

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/antisemitism>

<https://www.yadvashem.org/education/online-courses/the-holocaust.html>

Since last year Yad Vashem has partnered with the Israel Democracy Institute to explore the issue of hate speech online and try to develop guidelines for dealing with it. Academics, representatives of the various platforms, information technology experts and legal experts have worked together to address this issue. One of the outcomes is that we at Yad Vashem are discussing the idea that the thousands of staff members at the various platforms who intervene when hate speech is identified, should take our course on antisemitism. We believe that anyone dealing with this issue, from computer engineers through the people actually deciding what should be removed, need to have a lot of knowledge to do their job effectively. We believe we can help them learn about antisemitism.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. And of course, I hope we will meet again soon in Jerusalem.

Wishing you success in your project

Rob

Dr. Robert Rozett

Senior Historian, Yad Vashem International Institute for Holocaust Research

IHRA Academic working Group

[www.yadvashem.org](http://www.yadvashem.org)