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Lord Blencathra. “Locus Standi”

- I have a flat about 300 yards away from VTGs
- I have lived in the area for about 30 years
- I drive in my chair through VTG s twice a day coming to and from the Lords
- If this project is a popular and successful as the promoters claim then my street and property will be affected.

Why I oppose this project

- The above ground design is a discredited cast off rejected by Canada
- The “fins” fail to get across the message of 6 million Jews murdered.
- The learning centre is an old-fashioned learning idea, out of sync with the way young people learn things, post Covid.
- It is far too small for its purpose and contrary to what the Holocaust Commission recommended.
- It fails to deliver 24/7 rebuttal information on the calls for a new Holocaust against Jews.
- It is an insult to Jews and the Holocaust since the architect Adayje is now discredited.

3

The Adjaye Design for Ottawa.



Does it look familiar M L s?

The same 23 fins but this time called “foils” and made from concrete.

This time the wiggly bits are supposed to represent scars. I cannot find any explanation as to why the fins proposed for VTGs are flat, but I suppose it is a blessing that they are not wiggly like this.

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This is what Ottawa actually built



Seen from above it is the shape o the Star of David.

It covers 0.8 of an acre and is next to their Imperial War Museum.

Justification for the ugliness of the Fins by the architect, Mr. Adjaye,

“disrupting the pleasure of being in a park is key to the thinking of the memorial.” BBC 12th Feb 2019



What an appalling justification for a bad design in the wrong place.

Everyone knows that these 23 giant bronze fins are a grotesque, ugly monstrosity.

Adjaye justifies them on the grounds that the gaps between the fins symbolise the 22 countries affected by the Holocaust and other specious architectural gobbledegook, but he cannot claim that they enhance the visual beauty of this Grade 2 listed park.

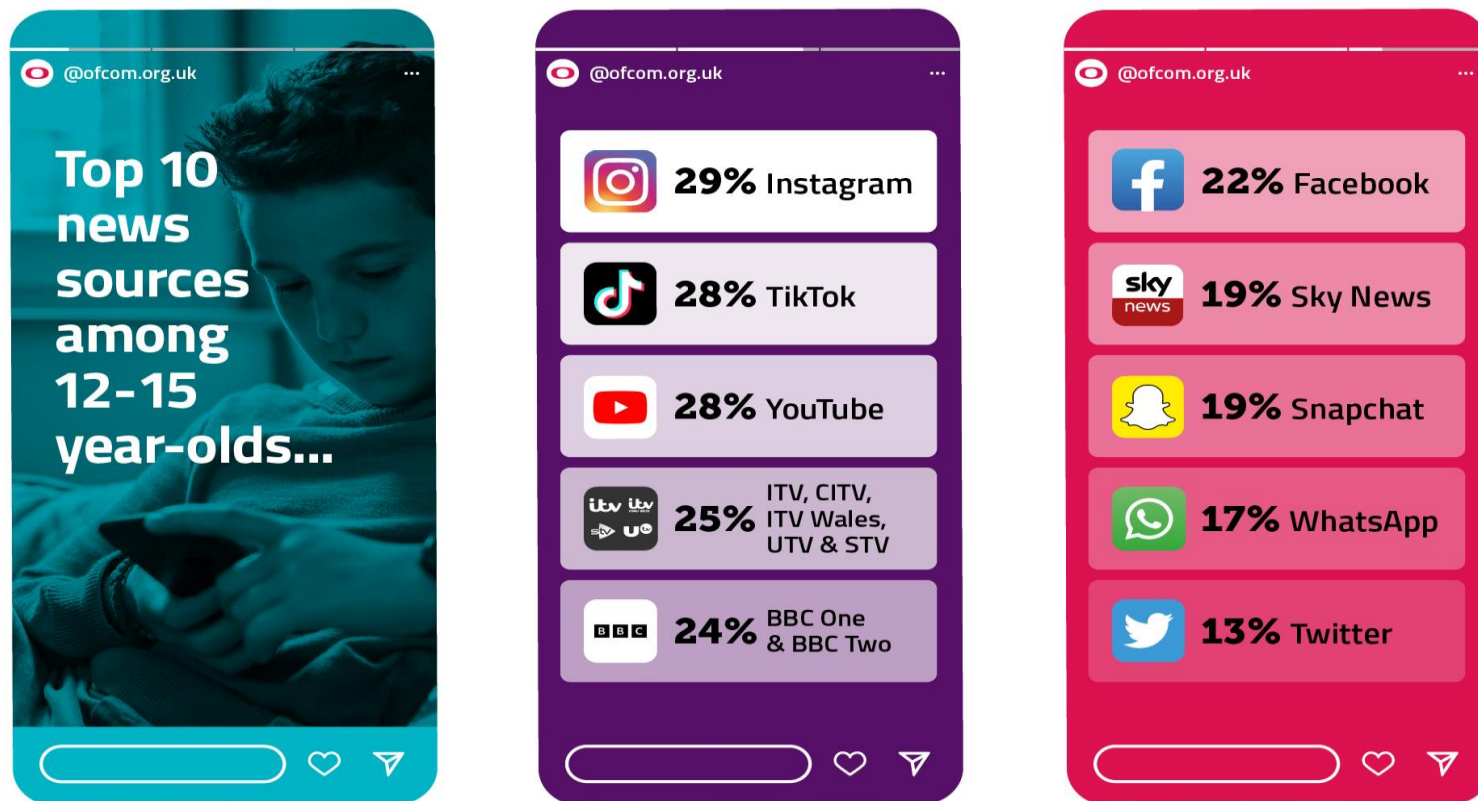
Key to the thinking should be educating people of the evils of National Socialism as practised by Hitler and the Nazi regime.

7 **23 fins completely fail to get across the message of 6 million Jews slaughtered.**

Why is that 6 million figure important?

Never before has education about the eradication of 6 million Jews been more essential as we see frightening calls for a new Holocaust by people who do not believe the 6 million figure.

Instagram, TikTok and YouTube teenagers' top three news sources. 21 July 2022



- “Users of TikTok for news claim to get more of their news on the platform from ‘other people they follow’ (44%) than ‘news organisations’ (24%).⁴
- “Teenagers today are increasingly unlikely to pick up a newspaper or tune into TV News, instead preferring to keep up-to-date by scrolling through their social feeds.”



- **“UN report: Oxford analysis reveals up to half of Holocaust-related content on Telegram denies or distorts facts. 13th July 2022**
- Distortion and Holocaust denial is present on all social media platforms, but moderation and education can significantly reduce this, according to a landmark report today from UNESCO and the United Nations, supported by analysis by researchers from the Oxford Internet Institute. ‘



- UNESCO and the UN sought to measure the extent of this phenomena on social networks and commissioned OII researchers to identify and analyse almost 4,000 posts related to the Holocaust, on five major platforms: Facebook, Instagram, Telegram, TikTok and Twitter.



- **The Findings of Holocaust denial and distortion**

Telegram 50% distortion and denial in English messages

Twitter 19%

TikTok 17%

Facebook. 8%

Instagram 3%

With many of them Anti-Semitic



The researchers also identified that perpetrators have learned to evade content moderation, through use of humorous and parodic memes as a strategy intended to normalise anti-Semitic ideas and make them appear mainstream.

I did not know what anti-Semitic memes were,
but I found hundreds on the internet



Commenting on the UN report

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres said

The report shows how intimately linked its denial is to other forms of online violence, including those rooted in racism, misogyny, or xenophobia. Antisemitism, Holocaust denial and distortion, and other forms of religious bigotry and hatred are a seismograph. This report is an urgent wake-up call that must jolt us into action – to pursue truth, remembrance, and **education**, and together build a world of peace, dignity and justice for all.

Holocaust Memorial Day: 'Shocking' levels of denial remain.

Published 27th January 2019



Five per cent of UK adults (about 45 million) do not believe the Holocaust took place and one in 12 believes its scale has been exaggerated.

45% of those polled **(20 million people)** said they did not know how many people were killed in the Holocaust.

19% **(8.5 million people)** believed fewer than two million Jews were murdered.

5% **(2.2 million people)** believed that there was no Holocaust.

The 22 gaps between the 23 Fins apparently represent the countries from which Jews were taken to be exterminated.

Completely irrelevant and confusing numbers.

Why not 1 fin representing the country which did it – Nazi Germany?

Why not 20 – the number of concentration camps,? or

Why not 6 – the number of large extermination camps?

Many numbers could be chosen but all irrelevant except – 6 million.

6 million Jews exterminated.

Over 2 million people in this country denying that it ever happened;

over 8 million believing that it was only 2 million murdered.

Any physical memorial needs to represent that 6 million figure time and time again and not some other obscure number no one has heard of before.

6 million Jews exterminated.

How to depict in a monument, 6 million Jews murdered?

We all saw the amazingly moving display of 888,246 ceramic poppies at the Tower of London in 2014 commemorating the dead of The First World War and that certainly got the message across about that extraordinary loss of life.

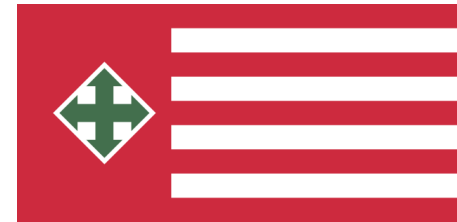
Is that a concept we can represent symbolically in a Holocaust monument?



Simplest and most moving



These are iron shoes on the bank of the Danube in Budapest symbolizing where up to 15,000 Jews stood when they were shot in the back of the head by the Nazi Arrow Cross organisation.



A further 424,00 Jews were deported and all told 565,000 Jews were slaughtered in various extermination camps.

Holocaust Monument in Gorlice, Poland

Gorlice, Poland

Called "Sidur Przechodniów" (Siddur of Passers-by), the new monument stands outside the entrance to the Jewish cemetery and is the permanent centerpiece of a broader project on Jewish heritage and history in Gorlice, which saw outdoor cinema, online events, and street art — including rain-activated murals.



23



It is in a Star of David shape which makes it relevant.

Imagine this as a 15' high bronze and say about 40 ' wide. That is in keeping with the Buxton Memorial. It would give 12 faces on which each one could have ½ million small bumps or indentations each representing a murdered Jew.

OR each bronze page could tell the story of the Holocaust, the concept by Hitler, how it started, the gathering of the Jews, the countries they came, the list of extermination and concentration camps and how it ended.

Alternatively, I would settle for just 6 fins where each side would have the story I have outlined or the bumps or indentations.

Where will Children take their “selfies?”

- Like every other monument in the world. - NOT in the learning centre but outside at the monument.
- If this proposed structure goes ahead then people and children will go back with a photograph and a key message about 23 fins.

UTTERLY IRRELEVANT

Unless everyone gets the message about 6 million Jews murdered and the calls for a new Holocaust then the whole project will fail.

An Amendment needed

I shall seek to move an amendment that any design for a monument in Victoria Tower Gardens must, somehow...illustrate...

6 million Jews slaughtered in the Shoah.

A symbol of Jewishness like the Star of David.

A Better, Bigger 24/7 Learning Centre Essential

A centre for learning is essential but this one is an out of date idea and not in keeping with the way young people learn thing now. It is also a ⅓ of the size suggested by The Holocaust Commission.,

Way back in 2015 eminent members of the committee believed that only a physical building could undertake the learning role. However, is an irrelevant old-fashioned concept which will fail in its objective of teaching young people about the Holocaust.

Covid changed how we work and learn. During Covid almost 90% of school lessons were on-line. Even after Covid we still have on-line learning and that is increasing exponentially.

Learning things visually from computers and iPads is the whole new way of education and if we are to make any impact on anti-Jewish hatred, then we have to fight back using the same technology which is spawning it.

Estimate of numbers of young people who might visit an underground learning centre in Victoria Tower Gardens.

- Approximately 12 million schoolchildren aged 5 - 18 in UK
- If each child to make one visit, then = 1 million per annum
- In 2019 40,000 schoolchildren visited our Parliamentary Learning Centre in the Gardens.
- Even if that increased to 100,000, then only 8% of all children would visit the centre.
- Statistics suggest that children closer to London more likely to make journey to London.
- A physical centre in London will not reach over 90% of our schoolchildren especially those far from London

An old fashioned physical building will fail because...

- The proposed underground learning centre will not be high on the list of places children and tourists will want to visit.
- It will not have any physical artifacts, unlike the IWM, just the same posters and videos which are all on-line.
- Some schools in places in the UK where Jewish hate may be the greatest will never visit
- **But...only virtual and on-line education can get the message to millions of children rather than ten of thousands who might visit**

What will the learning Centre show?

- Slide 38 which the promotor showed to the Commons Committee said that the exhibition would be, ***“A powerful audio-visual exhibition will set out the events of the Holocaust, from British perspectives: historically, politically and***
- Why would young people or anyone for that matter want to visit a building to see the things they can get better on their mobile phones and iPads?
- How many busloads of children will come from Scotland or Wales or even the regions of England to look at a video show with nothing new in it.
- How many would visit the Natural History Museum, British Museum, Churchill War Rooms, or even in here if all they could see in these magnificent buildings were some posters and videos.

More funding & education for all

It is vital to extend education on the evils of the Holocaust, and the calls for a new Holocaust far beyond the thousands of school children who may visit it in any year.

That is why I will seek to amend the Bill to increase funding to £50 million per annum for 24/7 on-line education about the Holocaust and constant rebuttal of Jewish hate messages.

As the UN Secretary General said, we need...

UN Secretary General, António Guterres

.....an urgent wake up call to tackle Antisemitism, Holocaust denial and distortion, and pursue truth, remembrance, and **education**, and together build a world of peace, dignity and justice for all.

Lets also build something better which will work

This limited proposal for a video learning centre was out of date in 2015. Why should anyone visit a building with nothing more to show than what is on-line.

It is utterly irrelevant now since the future of Holocaust education is digital, virtual and on-line and it must be able to address the new phenomenon of the huge rise in current Jewish hate.

Friday December 29 2023

Antisemitic hate crimes soar since start of Israel-Hamas war

[Ben Ellery](#) Crime Editor. Thursday December 28 2023, 5.15pm, The Times

The British Transport Police (BTP) recorded an almost 1000 per cent increase in antisemitic offences in the month after October 7, freedom of information data has revealed. Islamophobic offences have also risen since the Hamas attacks.

The figures, obtained by the PA news agency, showed that Greater Manchester police recorded 74 antisemitic offences in the month following the Hamas attacks compared with 15 for the same period last year.

Summary of Blencathra Proposals

- A uniquely British monument in VTGs which incorporates a message about 6 million Jews murdered and has a Jewish element to it. This would require an amendment.
- An annual, index linked budget, starting at £50 million for continuous and up-dated teaching of the 1940s Holocaust and countering current anti-Semitism sweeping the UK.
- The annual budget would require an amendment to the Bill as it currently stands.

The Benefits of on-line learning

- Most young people get their news and views from social media.
- Only a fraction of school children would visit a physical building.
- The physical building will have nothing to see which cannot be better seen on-line.
- On-line can reach every person in the UK 24/7.
- On-line can be updated daily, counteracting new lies about the Holocaust and Jews.
- Thousands of schools in the UK would not be able to make the journey to London.

All of us in this UK Parliament have a pressing duty to get this right.

It was British soldiers who found and liberated Belsen.

Here is the sign they erected.



A prophetic message from a Military Observer - 1945

‘Why did I visit Belsen? Given the opportunity I went because I know that in a few years’ time only, clever people will say, “Nonsense! Don’t you realise that was just wartime propaganda?” I shall know how to reply. And the more who do the better for the peace of the world.’

‘Belsen Concentration Camp – the Final Degradation, by a Military Observer’ - April 1945



This is the result of
hatred of Jews in
1945 in Germany.

Belsen

This is the hatred of Jews in 2023 in the UK. What will we do now to stop it?



**My proposals will tackle both the
original Holocaust and the calls for a
new one**

and I commend them to the Committee