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## Jews in the D

jews and racial justice

# Holocaust Memorial Center Speaks Out

In a statement, the center called to “extinguish flames” of hatred.

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**T**he Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills released a statement urging the community to speak up when faced with injustice.

The center released the unsigned statement June 3 in response to protests across the country after a Minneapolis police officer killed resident George Floyd on May 25.

“Every day at HMC we teach the lessons of the Holocaust — that hate has terrible and long-lasting consequences. That it is not enough to stand by and do nothing. That every individual, family and community can make a difference in our world. As Elie Wiesel famously said, ‘I swore never to be silent whenever and wherever human beings endure suffering and humiliation,’” the statement reads.

The HMC called on people to “extinguish [the] flames” of hatred.

“How many photographs have we seen of bystanders watching passively as books were destroyed and synagogues burned during Kristallnacht?” it reads. “If only people had stood up for their Jewish neighbors, protested the Nuremberg laws, refused to buy newspapers filled with hate-spewing propaganda! Why didn’t more people do something?”

HMC wrote that they hope people will stand up themselves,



and not wait for others to do it for them.

“We cannot rewrite history. But have we learned the lessons of history? What will each of us do now, today, to ensure the safety of others? The safety of the Other?” it says. “It is not someone else’s job to make it better. What will I do today? What will you?”

In response to the *Jewish News* request for an interview, HMC provided another unsigned statement, sent through public relations firm Marx Layne and Company.

“At the Holocaust Memorial Center, we engage, educate and empower people of all backgrounds by teaching about the senseless murder of millions during the Holocaust,” the second statement reads. “Our message is that each of us must respect and stand up for the rights of others if we are to prevent future genocides and hate crimes. We empower individuals to react to contemporary issues like the killing of George Floyd and the events of the past weeks by taking action. We all can be upstanders, not bystanders, when we see hatred and prejudice in our own communities.”