



ILLINOIS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM
& EDUCATION CENTER

Confronting Hate Toolkit





Introduction

The mission of Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center is expressed in our founding principle: **Remember the Past, Transform the Future.** With that goal in mind, we work to teach current generations to fight hatred, prejudice, indifference, and genocide in today's environment. Through world-class exhibitions, programs, and professional development opportunities, the Museum inspires individuals and organizations with a universal wake-up call to action: Take history to heart. Take a stand for humanity.

In 2019, Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center received a 90% increase in inquiries from schools and individuals looking for support as they grapple with hate incidents. This toolkit is designed to share practical tools and resources that can be used immediately.

History has shown us the dire consequences when hatred and prejudice are met with silence and indifference. Often beginning with words, hatred can accelerate quickly when left unchecked. We must take seriously these early warning signs and take action to intervene. YOU have the power to build safe, inclusive, and caring school communities, and we are here to help you navigate challenges. Let's take a stand, together.

Susan Abrams
Chief Executive Officer

Wendy Singer
Director of Education



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Recommended Books, Tools, and Resources You Can Do on Your Own

Quick Tips for Administrators

- Report incidents to your local law enforcement and the ADL.
www.adl.org/reportincident
- Create an environment where students and teachers can feel comfortable to discuss concerns.
- Hold a community forum where parents can discuss emerging issues.
- Implement an anonymous online reporting system where students can safely share safety concerns.
- Additional Resources for Administrators:
 - Southern Poverty Law Center: Responding to Bias at School
A detailed 2012 guide for school administrators to respond to individual incidents of bigotry. www.splcenter.org/sites/default/files/tt_2019_hate_at_school_report_final_o.pdf
 - National Association of School Psychologists: A list of resources for school safety, crisis support, grief, and violence prevention. www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis

Quick Tips for Educators

- Report incidents to your administration.
- Support students in creating a club at school that embraces diversity and inclusion.
- Create classroom environments where students feel comfortable to discuss incidents and current events.
- Additional Resources for Educators:
 - United States Holocaust Memorial Museum - Lesson Plan: History of Antisemitism and the Holocaust
www.ushmm.org/m/pdfs/USHMM-lesson-plan-history-antisemitism-holocaust.pdf
 - Echoes and Reflections - Lesson Plan: Contemporary Antisemitism
echoesandreflections.org/unit-11/
 - Facing History - Current Events in your Classroom: Teaching Ideas, Activities, and Strategies for Middle and High School Students.
www.facinghistory.org/educator-resources/current-events
 - The Learning Network: 10 Ways to Talk to Students about Sensitive Issues in the News
<https://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/03/23/10-ways-to-talk-to-students-about-sensitive-issues-in-the-news/>
 - Confronting Implicit Bias: Through Exemplary Educator Preparation
www.nea.org/assets/docs/23840%20Confronting%20Implicit%20Bias%20Thru%20Exemp%20Teacher%20Prep-v2.pdf

Quick Tips for Students

- Talk to your parents, friends, teachers, and administrators.
- Start a club at school that embraces diversity and inclusion.
- Write letters to elected local and national figures so they are aware of what is happening in your community.
- Report incidents to your parents, teachers, and administration.
- Additional Actions for Students:
 - Start your own student vigil with Together We Remember. Transform remembrance of the past into a powerful movement for peace in the present. togetherweremember.org/
 - Join the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center Teen Leadership Board. Email education@ilhme.org.

Quick Tips for Parents:

- Report incidents to your local law enforcement and the ADL.
www.adl.org/reportincident
- Attend School Board Meetings to raise concerns about incidents in your school community.
- Start conversations with your children about events and incidents.
- Additional Resources for Parents:
 - The National Child Traumatic Stress Network: Talking to Children about Hate Crimes and Anti-Semitism
www.socialwork.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/publication-images/talking_to_kids_about_hate_crimes_and_anti-semitism.pdf
 - ADL: Talking to Young Children about Bias and Prejudice
www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/talking-to-young-children-about-prejudice
- Hold a community meeting with local leaders: teachers, parents, administration, and community policing.

Recommended Books with Themes of Empathy and Activism

- *The Courage to be Kind* by Jenny Levin & Rena Rosen - **Ages 4+**
- *I Am Human: A Book of Empathy* by Susan Verde - **Ages 4+**
- *Wishtree* by Katherine Applegate - **Ages 8+**
- *The Insignificant Events in the Life of A Cactus* by Dusti Bowling - **Ages 10+**
- *Inside Out and Back Again* by Thanhha Lai - **Ages 10+**
- *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio - **Ages 10+**
- *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson - **Ages 10+**

Recommended Films with Themes of Empathy and Activism

- *Inside Out* - **Ages 6+** - Beautiful original story about handling big feelings.
- *Wonder* - **Ages 10+** - Earnest emotional book adaptation has strong messages.
- *Bully* - **Ages 12+** - Powerful documentary addresses critically important issues for kids.
- *Greenbook* - **Ages 13+** - Crowd-pleasing drama explores race, class, and friendship.

Explore Additional Resources

- Anti-Bias Tools and Resources from the ADL
www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/anti-bias-tools-strategies
- "Confronting White Nationalism in School: A tool kit" by the Western States Center
www.westernstatescenter.org/schools
- "A Guide for Administrators, Counselors, and Teachers: Responding to Hate and Bias at School" by Teaching Tolerance www.tolerance.org/sites/default/files/general/Responding%20to%20Hate%20at%20School%20ONLINE_3.pdf



Essential Tools and Resources You Can Do with the Support of the Museum

Visit the Museum

Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center is designed for visitors aged 3rd grade and older. Visits will educate audiences about the history of the Holocaust and inspire individuals to stand up for what's right – to turn powerful lessons of history into positive actions today. We are open 7 days a week and offer docent-led public drop-in tours and an all-new audio tour if you prefer to explore the museum at your own pace. For educators, we offer dynamic field trip options, including a virtual option, to fit your students' needs. Scholarships are available. Explore all options at www.ilholocaustmuseum.org/field-trip-options/.

Explore the Take a Stand Center

An immersive, four-gallery permanent exhibition, our Take A Stand Center includes the ground-breaking Abe & Ida Cooper Survivor Stories Experience, featuring interactive holographic technology; the Goodman Upstander Gallery, highlighting 40 change-makers working toward civil, social, economic, health, and environmental rights; the civics-focused Take A Stand Lab, exploring how to raise awareness, give, advocate, and participate; and The Act of Art Gallery, stimulating the idea of citizen artistry as a response to human rights issues. Visitors leave our Take a Stand Center inspired to learn more and to be more culturally aware, civically engaged, and empowered to move to action! www.ilholocaustmuseum.org/tas/

Attend a "Courageous Conversations" Professional Development Workshop

Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center offers a variety of full-day and evening professional development workshops for elementary, middle, high school, and college/university educators. One of our signature workshops is on the topic of courageous conversations. This workshop offers best practices for creating positive classroom atmospheres where challenging and productive conversations around topics such as racism, antisemitism, and bias can happen. Explore all upcoming workshops at www.ilholocaustmuseum.org/pages/for-educators/professional-development/upcoming-workshops. You can also request a Courageous Conversations workshop to come to your school or organization by emailing us at education@ilhmec.org.

Host a "Courageous Conversations" Parent Workshop

The Museum also offers professional staff to speak to local PTA or parent groups about how to have courageous conversations with one's own children on topics of hate incidents and difficult news. You can request a Courageous Conversations Workshop for parents in your community by emailing education@ilhmec.org.

Invite a Speaker to Your Next School Assembly

Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center's active Holocaust Speakers' Bureau is available to speak to audiences at the Museum and in the community. Sharing both the history and lessons of the Holocaust, our Speakers are able to make connections to the power and consequences of hateful words, choices, and actions. Our speakers deliver tailor-made messages of hope, acceptance, and the importance of doing the right thing despite unimaginable circumstances, thereby teaching audiences vital lessons that transcend age, language, and religion. Contact us to coordinate a speaking engagement for a member of our Holocaust Speakers Bureau at your school. We also refer speakers on contemporary topics and issues. Please email education@ilhmec.org for more information.

Bring a Teaching Trunk Into Your Classroom

Illinois Holocaust Museum's literature-based teaching trunk program provides K-12 educators with a wide array of resources for classroom units on topics including character education, human rights, the Holocaust, and genocide. Each trunk includes curriculum guides with grade-appropriate lessons employing award-winning fiction, non-fiction, historical reference materials, replica artifacts, DVDs, and teaching posters. The focus of each trunk has been carefully developed to address Illinois State and National Learning Standards, including Common Core State Standards. Trunks are shipped nationwide and are free of charge. Learn more and reserve your trunk today at www.ilholocaustmuseum.org/pages/for-educators/teaching-trunk-program/.



Empower Student Leaders

Our intensive Student Leadership Day programming engages students in 5th – 11th grades with captivating, world-class Upstander speakers, interactive programs, and the opportunity to create an action plan to take back to their school. Student Leadership Day inspires students to build leadership skills, explore their roles as citizens, and develop a deeper understanding of the Holocaust, genocide, and other human rights issues. Students leave with increased knowledge, and new tools and resources that emphasize the importance of standing up against injustice and bigotry. The program offers participants an opportunity to engage with diverse peers and participate in discussions about perspectives other than their own, increasing their self-efficacy, and potential for learning, allowing them to return to their communities with the tools and drive to promote greater acceptance and understanding. www.ilholocaustmuseum.org/pages/learn/student-programs/student-leadership-days.

Take a Stand for Humanity Today!

Questions?

education@ilhmec.org

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