



The Freeman Family Foundation Holocaust Education Centre of the Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada is presenting its 15th Annual Holocaust and Human Rights Symposium for grade 9-12 students on **Wednesday, March 15, 2017** at the University of Winnipeg's Duckworth Centre.

Why teach about the Holocaust when other crimes against humanity are being perpetrated today and so many other stories of mass suffering abound throughout history? A clear and well-informed understanding of the Holocaust, the paradigmatic genocide, may help educators and students understand other genocides, mass atrocities, and human rights violations. Teaching about mass suffering only began after the Second World War, or, to be specific, after the Holocaust, the attempt by the Nazis and their collaborators to completely destroy European Jewry. In part due to our investigation of the Holocaust, a whole field of genocide studies has developed. As Dr. Linda Woolf of Webster University has stated, 'Mass violence, torture, violations of fundamental human rights, and the mistreatment of human beings is not a new aspect of humanity; documentation of such events spans the historical record. It is imperative that a greater understanding of the psychological, cultural, political, and societal roots of human cruelty, mass violence, and genocide be developed. We need to continue to examine the factors which enable individuals collectively and individually to perpetrate evil/genocide and the impact of apathetic bystanders as fuel for human violence.'¹

This year, we are pleased to present **Mr. Bill Glied** as our keynote speaker, a survivor of Auschwitz-Birkenau and Dachau concentration camps. Please see his bio attached to this email. As time passes, it is a rare opportunity for students to hear the first hand narrative of a Holocaust survivor. Present-day events only highlight the importance of Holocaust education. In the afternoon, we will be presenting **Ms. Nafiya Naso**, who will be speaking about the ongoing genocide of the Yazidi people in northern Iraq. In June of 2016 the United Nations recognized that genocide by ISIS against the Yazidis has occurred and is ongoing. Ms. Naso is a Yazidi refugee who arrived in Canada in 1999. She will be accompanied by a recent Yazidi refugee who has been witness to the very difficult current situation.

You have the option of attending either the morning program with our keynote speaker or both the morning and afternoon sessions. Registration is on a first-come first served basis.

The fee is \$7.00 per student, to cover the costs of the program. There will be a reduced fee of \$5 for those attending in the morning only. Please register early to ensure your students' participation. Registration has filled up for the morning for the last few years and we have had to turn people away.

If you have any questions, please contact **Roberta Malam, Holocaust Symposium Coordinator at 477-7460 or by email: holocaustsymposium2011@gmail.com**

Sincerely,

Belle Jarniewski
Chair, Freeman Family Foundation
Holocaust Education Committee

Roberta Malam
Holocaust Symposium Coordinator

¹ International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, Education Working Group Paper: The Holocaust and Other Genocides, 2010, https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/sites/default/files/the_holocaust_and_other_genocides_0.pdf