



"Their Story is Not Yet
Told"

A Last Opportunity to Speak Out



Executive Summary

Almost sixty years have passed since the end of WWII, and we have yet to complete the documentation of testimonies and the writing of memoirs by survivors, the youngest among them already in their 70s. Many of them, who have not spoken until now but rather buried the past deep within themselves in order to provide an healthy home for their children, have of late begun to write their memoirs of the Shoah out of a sense that time is running out. Within a decade few survivors will remain among us to tell their personal story – the individual who struggled for his/her life every day anew, while maintaining human dignity and moral values. This is unquestionably the **last opportunity to enhance documentation** on the Holocaust from the eye-witness perspective.

The survivors feel a great need to tell their story – a fact demonstrated by the thousands of survivors that approach Yad Vashem each year asking for help in documenting their testimony or to speak directly to youth about their experiences (something Yad Vashem is currently unable to fulfill through lack of funds).

Yad Vashem's work with psychologist, Moshe Harel, has confirmed our belief that it is vital for survivors to have the opportunity to tell their story – whether through written memoirs, audio testimony, or live seminars. This opportunity allows survivors to feel that they have indeed made a difference to a new generation, and that not all of their suffering was in vain.

More than any other undertaking relating to the Holocaust, working with survivors to record their deeply personal stories is both unquestionably important and increasingly urgent. It is our duty to help survivors fulfill their wish of 'a last opportunity to speak out', whether that be by recording and publishing their memoirs or providing forums for them to give verbal testimonies to youth. By facilitating encounters with youth, **Holocaust education is imbued with a sense of empathy and understanding** – thereby ensuring its continuity for another generation.

At the same time it remains a priority to publish contemporary diaries written by victims of the Holocaust. These personal records of daily life prior to, during, and after the Holocaust (for the few who survived) provide individual and unique perspectives on life during this cruel and horrific time.



Researchers are reliant upon these works to enhance the other forms of documentation available, in order to gain a holistic appreciation of life in this era.


Yad Vashem hereby proposes to act as the facilitating and implementing body, working with survivors and their families to ensure their story is told – before it's too late. However, Yad Vashem recognizes and respects the difficulty of the Court's allocation task and accepts that it may not be possible at this time to fund our proposal in its entirety. If this were the case, please note that the proposal has been built modularly in order to allow for substantial results to be seen from partial funding, although it remains Yad Vashem's goal to tell the story of as many survivors as possible, before it is too late. This program is time-limited and must be completed in the next few years.

Objectives

- Help survivors tell their stories before it's too late through:
 - ❑ Publishing survivors' memoirs in various languages including English and Hebrew;
 - ❑ Assisting every survivor wishing to do so to create a written record of their experiences in the Holocaust;
 - ❑ Filming video testimonies given by survivors;
 - ❑ Running seminars for youth in which survivors will tell their story;
- Publish contemporary diaries written by Holocaust victims and survivors;
- Translate the publications mentioned above to foreign languages in order to tell their story to a global audience

The Project

With the passage of time, as the generation of Holocaust survivors grows older, the legacy of the Holocaust is being passed onto the next generation, and with it the responsibility for the preservation and dissemination of its lessons. An effective way to do this is, in addition to the historical narrative, to tell and re-tell the story of the Holocaust from as many individual perspectives as possible. This is also the desire of the survivors themselves to record their experiences in a durable manner that will convey their personal message even after they have passed away. It is a basic



human need to know that one's life has made a difference, particularly if that life were severely damaged by an event such as the Holocaust. Therefore this program is aimed at helping individual survivors to leave their mark, thereby making a difference for today's and tomorrow's generations.

Additionally, rather than subsiding with time, the necessity of recording and publishing material relating to the Holocaust has become ever more urgent. The trend towards Holocaust denial is regrettably growing stronger, and must be combated not only by presenting historical facts, but also by giving voice to the first-hand witnesses, in order to clearly prove that these horrendous events occurred. Nothing is more powerful than eyewitness reports to refute Holocaust denial and trivialization, on the one hand; and engender empathy with the victims and survivors, thus strengthening Holocaust remembrance, on the other. In its mission to preserve and disseminate information about the Holocaust and make it available to as wide an audience as possible, Yad Vashem will intensify its efforts to videotape survivor testimony; train and utilize survivors in educational seminars; and publish diaries and memoirs in a number of languages. These will be effective tools for bringing the Holocaust to the attention of a broad global audience, today and in future generations. Furthermore, this eyewitness material, which is invaluable to world of Holocaust research, will be accessible to the community of researchers worldwide.

It is important to note that the testimonies recorded by this program will be previously unrecorded and unpublished testimonies, thereby augmenting the current library of survivor testimonies available.

Publication of Diaries, Albums, & Special Documents

Among the many documents safeguarded in the Yad Vashem Archives are an assortment of diaries and albums. These personal records of daily life prior to, during and after the Holocaust provide individual and unique perspectives on life during this cruel and horrific time. Yad Vashem wishes to publish an assortment of these unique diaries. Each one is a distinctive, first person record, which will augment the mass of recorded testimony and, in keeping with Yad Vashem's educational philosophy, will contribute toward personalizing the Holocaust.

Published diaries are a proven educational tool – they build empathy between the reader and diarist. Telling the story through the eyes of a teenager in Holocaust, for example, will bring it to life and



help maintain its relevance for a new generation. Albums are another very evocative means of portraying the Holocaust – giving each victim a face and an identity.

Yad Vashem wishes to publish two new diaries/albums from its archives each year, along with five translations of existing publications. The languages each publication is translated to will differ according to what is deemed appropriate. Yad Vashem will utilize its network of educational institutions and teachers to distribute the diaries to a wide audience.

Publication of Memoirs

We have lived through an era in which we could listen to survivors speak and bear witness to the atrocities they faced in Europe between 1939 and 1945. It has been an era in which witnesses could assist historians by attempting to fill some of the gaps in both the personal and general history of the period. As this era comes to an end, it is imperative to create a durable record of these witness testimonies and disseminate them throughout the world. Yad Vashem believes that most memoirs fall into one of two categories:


The Janusz Korczak Series – This series, intended mainly for youth, is also suitable to the general public, and comprises the memoirs of survivors who were children during the Holocaust. The young readers are able to identify with the writers and are exposed to the period through the personal story.

Testimonies Series – The memoirs of survivors whose personal stories incorporate a description of the historical events that they witnessed.

The publications will also include photographs that were saved by the survivors. It is intended to publish 10 memoirs every year in their original language, and additionally to translate another 10 memoirs into appropriate foreign languages each year.

Assisting Survivors Create a Written Testimony

Thousands of survivors approach Yad Vashem each year for assistance (professional and financial) in writing their memoirs. Yad Vashem wishes to encourage survivors to tell their stories before it is too late by supporting these efforts to write testimonies, although it is not appropriate to formally



publish all these efforts. It is proposed to distribute \$3,150 to all applicants that will enable them to create a durable written record of their testimony. This money will enable survivors to write and type their manuscripts, have the manuscripts reviewed by a professional editor, and for 50-100 copies to be produced. This process will be managed and overseen by Yad Vashem publishing and archival specialists.


All testimonies created with the support of this program will be stored in the Yad Vashem archives along with other archives, where they will be accessible to researchers and stored for generations to come – thus preserving the legacy of the survivors who wrote them. Some of these memoirs will also be formally published in various languages by Yad Vashem Publications. It is estimated that 100 testimonies will be recorded in this manner per year.

Filming Video Testimonies

In order to preserve the historical memory of the Holocaust it is incumbent upon us to record the personal account of those who have yet to tell their story, before they one day pass from living memory. Today, the high point of any Holocaust program is an encounter with a survivor. As a survivor recounts his/her experiences before, during and after the Holocaust, the listener develops empathy, understanding and identification. Through filming video testimonies, future generations will have the opportunity of listening to the first-hand stories, thus intensifying their identification with a destroyed world and strengthening their commitment to Jewish continuity, identity and community.

There are an estimated 100,000 Holocaust survivors living in Israel. To date Yad Vashem has filmed 4,500 testimonies from Israelis and the Spielberg Foundation (who is no longer filming testimonies) filmed an additional 8,000. Therefore, an estimated 90% of Holocaust survivors in Israel are yet to film a video testimony of their experiences.

Yad Vashem has been approached by many survivors who still wish to give a testimony of their experiences, and we believe it is our duty to ensure their testimony is collected before it's too late This project represents a final effort to make video recordings of survivor testimonies. In spite



of decades of efforts, time is rapidly running out, and an effort should be made to tape 10,000 additional stories over the next five years.

Survivor Testimony Seminars

First-hand testimonies and encounters with individual survivors are central in passing on the history and the memory of the Holocaust to future generations. Now that the generation of survivors is slowly disappearing, we find ourselves witnessing the last years in which such encounters can be used and the opportunity to connect between the generations has to be seized before it is too late. Survivor testimony can contribute to the building of bridges between the generations as the students can relate to the life of the survivors after the Holocaust and connect it to today. Thus the Holocaust does not remain as an event of the past, a closed chapter that is disconnected from the students' world.

Yad Vashem is establishing a mechanism to incorporate survivor testimony into the majority of its educational youth seminars and workshops. The first stage of the program is to work with survivors to assist them develop their public communication skills, which will enable them to tell their stories in an interesting and binding manner. In these workshops survivors practice how to tell their story in public, how to relate to different audiences, and how to convey their experiences to youngsters. Yad Vashem intends to run 3 of these training workshops per year one of which will be in Russian for survivors that recently immigrated to Israel from the Former Soviet Union).

Yad Vashem holds approximately 1,100 seminars for youth and soldiers each year. Each of these seminar days is five hours and includes a lengthy workshop and a tour of Yad Vashem. The survivor testimonies, as given by the survivors that attended the training workshop, will be an integral part of the seminar day. The type of testimony will be specifically chosen to suit the workshop topic and the age group. Each seminar caters for up to thirty students or youth. **Funding for this program has been secured only for 2004, and therefore this proposal requests the support of this program from 2005 – 2009.**



Budget

Please note, that this program is inherently scalable. Reduced funding would therefore still allow Yad Vashem to record survivors' testimonies, all be it on a smaller scale.

Please further note that Yad Vashem has not requested overheads expenses for this project. Yad Vashem will endeavor to recruit these funds from other sources.

Item	Cost per year US\$	Total Cost US\$ (5 years)
Publication of Diaries in Hebrew (\$15,000 x 2 per year)	\$30,000	\$150,000
Publication of Diaries in foreign languages (\$15,000 x 5 per year)	\$75,000	\$375,000
Publication of Memoirs in original language (\$10,000 x 10 per year)	\$100,000	\$500,000
Translation & Publication of Memoirs in foreign languages (\$15,000 x 10 per year)	\$150,000	\$750,000
Assisting survivors to create a written testimony (\$3,500 x 100 per year)	\$350,000	\$1,750,000
Filming video testimonies (\$500 x 2,000 per year)	\$1,000,000	\$5,000,000
Survivor Testimony Training Seminars (\$12,750 x 3 per year)	\$38,250	\$191,250
Survivor Encounters with youth and soldiers (\$64 x 1,100 encounters + \$1,000 coordination x 12 months)	\$82,400	\$412,000
Total Cost	\$1,825,650	\$9,128,250
Removal of 10% overhead (will be sought from other sources)	\$182,565	\$912,825
Total Funds Requested	\$1,643,085	\$8,215,425

Detailed budgets are available upon request.



Appendix 1

Yad Vashem's Publications Division

Yad Vashem provides a base for researchers and writers studying the history of the 20th century and in particular Holocaust history. Many first-rate scholars are attempting to explain what happened, and why – more than 50 years after the cataclysmic events. Yad Vashem publications include many new historical contributions and groundbreaking research, as well as original documents.

Holocaust research involves teams of historians working in cooperation with social psychologists, sociologists, theologians, writers and artists who are intensely involved in the Holocaust, and who are motivated to leave a legacy for future generations. Yad Vashem's Publications Division presents contemporary research of the Holocaust from many perspectives as well as publishing survivors' memoirs reflecting individual experiences. These individual documents, including diaries, photographs, and various works of art that were preserved, help us to comprehend this complex and unbearably fascinating picture.

Details about the organization requesting allocation of funds

Name of the organization

Yad Vashem, Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority

Address of the organization

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+972 2 644 3429

Website

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Details of Proposed Project

Project Name

"Their Story is Not Yet Told" – A Last Opportunity to Speak Out

Estimated Costs

\$8,215,425

Estimate of Administrative Expenses (in percentages if necessary)

0%

Duration of program

5 years

Unique Aspect of Program

This project will augment current efforts to collect survivor testimonies (in all its forms), thereby allowing for more to be collected before the generation of survivors passes away. It is the survivors' own desire to tell their story, and Yad Vashem's responsibility to facilitate this process before it's too late.

This project will be implemented in coordination with the survivor organizations in Israel, primarily through the Center of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors in Israel.

Latest Financial Reports of the organization

Attached

Type of assistance

Documentation

Letters of Recommendation

Attached

Names, Addresses and affiliation of all person and organizations associated with or endorsing the proposal

Mr. Noah Flug, Chairman, Center of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors in Israel,⁴
Emile Botta St. P.O.Box 7218 Jerusalem, Israel

Professor Yehuda Bauer, Institute of Contemporary Jewry, Hebrew University, Mt.
Scopus, Jerusalem, 91905, Israel

Project Summary

Almost sixty years have passed since the end of WWII, and we have yet to complete the documentation of testimonies and the writing of memoirs by survivors, the youngest among them already in their 70s. Many of them, who have not spoken until now but rather buried the past deep within themselves in order to provide an healthy home for their children, have of late begun to write their memoirs of the Shoah out of a sense that time is running out. Within a decade few survivors will remain among us to tell their personal story – the individual who struggled for his/her life every day anew, while maintaining human dignity and moral values. This is unquestionably the **last opportunity to enhance documentation** on the Holocaust from the eye-witness perspective.

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היזשור - הזשור
YAD VASHEM
50TH ANNIVERSARY
1953 - 2003



Marshalling the
Documentary Evidence of
the Holocaust




Marshalling the Documentary Evidence of the Holocaust

The Shoah was a singular event. For Jews, it is imperative that it never be forgotten – and for everyone else also. Yet even so traumatic an event as the systematic murder of a nation cannot escape the fate of all human events: that they one day pass from living memory. No matter how significant the event, 80 years later the witnesses are gone, and their children, who grew up in the shadow of the events, are departing. The personal, familial recollections grow hazy, and rather than being central to family identity, they become vague snippets of remote folklore; another generation or two even that will be gone.

It is the known and accepted desire of the survivors (and the oft-recorded desire of victims) for the memory of this horrific event to be preserved beyond this generation, in order that their suffering would not have been wholly in vain. A key means to preserve a living memory is through the documentary evidence. The only tool capable of reaching a global and heterogeneous audience is via the Internet, and therefore this project proposes to **create the Global Archives of the Holocaust online**. The archive will also act as a tool in providing credible information on the Holocaust, thereby combating Holocaust denial.

Yad Vashem has been collecting documentary evidence since 1946, and its archives have by far the world's largest collection of documentary evidence of the Holocaust, with more than 60,000,000 pages of documents, 300,000 photos, and



40,000 testimonies collected since the first day after liberation until today. Other institutions have also been collecting documentation, and in the case of the USHMM, Israel State Archives, Masua, and Morshet, there is close coordination and exchange of materials with Yad Vashem. In light of this **Yad Vashem will coordinate all the document sharing activity, and utilizing its technological infrastructure will ensure that all unique documents from these archives, and others around the world, will form an integral part of this global online archive.** In this way, Yad Vashem's program will ensure the creation of a global archive that will avoid unnecessary duplication.

The initiation of this project is supported by the Claims Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (US\$200,000 were provided for this purpose each year for 2003 and 2004). These funds have provided initial support to start the cataloguing process, although there is still much work to be done. While the process of collecting documentation is not yet completed, the closest the world has to a corpus of documentary evidence of the Holocaust is at Yad Vashem.

Regrettably, the material is not easily accessible to the general public. The documents, arranged in 800,000 files, are only partially catalogued: perhaps 150,000 of them. Potential users cannot even know what they might be able to find in non-catalogued files. The testimonies are mostly catalogued, but only in Hebrew; only some are transcribed, and only very few of the recordings are digitized. Potential users, if they read Hebrew, can know which testimonies exist and what are they about, but even they can then access the testimonies only at Yad Vashem, in Jerusalem. Non-Hebrew readers cannot even use the catalogue. The photo collection is in the best shape, being almost completely scanned, and mostly catalogued though not all in English.



We propose to marshal this evidence of history's worst crime by putting the collections on the Internet, with an English-language catalogue. We will utilize the technological infrastructure already created for Yad Vashem's database of Holocaust victims, the first stage of which is scheduled to go online in June 2004. Funds for this stage are not requested within this proposal. We will encourage other institutions to join us in this project, so as to place before the world as complete a corpus of evidence as possible.

The ultimate goal of the project will be to create the Global Archives of the Holocaust, easily accessible to anyone who has access to the Internet, and easily navigated by anyone who reads English. However, Yad Vashem recognizes and respects the difficulty of the Court's allocation task and accepts that it may not be possible at this time to fund our proposal in its entirety. If this were the case, please note that the proposal has been built modularly in order to allow for substantial results to be seen from partial funding, although it remains Yad Vashem's goal to build the comprehensive global archives of the Holocaust. In this particular case, each type of archive (photo, testimony, lexicons etc) are unique entities, making gradual uploading of the archives feasible and still beneficial.

Segments:

I. Putting the photo archives online:

- Checking, editing or creating English-language catalogue items for each photo as required. Cost: \$1 per photo X 300,000=\$300,000.
- Creating photo-related segment of existing Web user-interface: \$50,000.



- Technical support, and management of the process, each 10% of the process: $35,000 \times 2 = \$70,000$.

Total cost: \$420,000. Timeframe: 1 year.

II. Putting the testimonies online:

Yad Vashem has about 25,000 typed testimonies (mostly from 1945-1960), 7,000 audio recordings (mostly from 1960-1990), and 10,000 video testimonies (1987-2007). These testimonies are in many languages.

- Creating 40,000 English catalogue items (mostly translation, some writing and editing – these include synopsis of testimonies). Cost: \$5 per record $\times 40,000 = \$200,000$.
- Scanning typed testimonies: $\$1 \times 25,000 = \$25,000$.
- Transcribing recorded testimonies (audio and video): $\$20 \times 15,000 = \$300,000$.
- Digitizing audio testimonies: $\$20 \times 7,000 = \$140,000$.
- Digitizing video testimonies: $\$100 \times 8,000 = \$800,000$.
- Creating testimony-related segment of existing Web user-interface: \$50,000.
- Technical support, and management of the process each 10% of the process: $152,000 \times 2 = \$304,000$

Total cost: \$1,819,000. Timeframe: 3 years.

Yad Vashem and the Shoah Visual History Foundation in Los Angeles are seeking the correct method to connect or integrate their collections of testimonies. Additional institutions should be encouraged likewise to participate.



III. Putting the main archives online:

150,000 of 800,000 files are catalogued in Hebrew, the rest not at all. The work so far has been facilitated by support from the Claim Conference (total \$400,000 over 2 years), but at the present rate the task will require decades. Currently, the entire process of cataloguing an archival file takes some 3 hours of labor, divided among a number of archivists with various skills. The backlog is of many hundreds of labor-years. We propose to overcome this backlog by what can best be described as industrial cataloguing: setting up a temporary system for mass cataloguing, so as to garner the benefits of a large-scale, partially mechanized and rationalized project (rather like the digitizing of more than 2,000,000 records of individual Holocaust victims in 5 months, as done by Yad Vashem for the Volcker Commission in the first half of 1999).

The components of industrial cataloguing are:

- Creating the environment: Setting up a physical site, formulating procedures, recruiting and training more than 100 cataloguers.
- Scanning the file for online cataloguing, editing, translation (to English or Hebrew), and quality control.
- Writing synopsis and other vital data (dates, places, keywords).
- Editing, translation, quality control.
- **Aggregate cost per file: \$10 X 800,000= \$8,000,000.**
- Creating document-file-related segment of existing Web user-interface: \$50,000.
- Technical support, and management of the process, each 10% of the process: 805,000 X 2 = \$1,610,000.



Total Cost: \$9,660,000. Timeframe: 3 years.

Total for the entire project: \$11,899,000

Please note that Yad Vashem has not requested overheads expenses for this project. Yad Vashem will endeavor to recruit these funds from other sources.

Final product: A user-friendly online archive of the documentary evidence of the Shoah.

This will be a partial fulfillment of the last request of David Graber, who perished in the Warsaw Ghetto in 1942, after burying the canisters of Oneg Shabbat, the clandestine documentation project of the ghetto:

“I would love to see the moment in which the great treasure will be dug up and scream to the world proclaiming the truth. So the world may know all.... But no, we shall certainly never live to see it, and therefore do I write my last will. May the treasure fall into good hands, may it last into better times, may it alarm and alert the world to what happened.... It is our collective wish that after the publication a special place be awarded this material [...] in Eretz Yisrael, so we can rest quietly and freely.... May history be our witness.”

Details about the organization requesting allocation of funds

Name of the organization

Yad Vashem, Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority

Address of the organization

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Details of Proposed Project

Project Name

Marshalling the Documentary Evidence of the Holocaust

Estimated Costs

\$11,899,000

Estimate of Administrative Expenses (in percentages if necessary)

0%

Duration of program

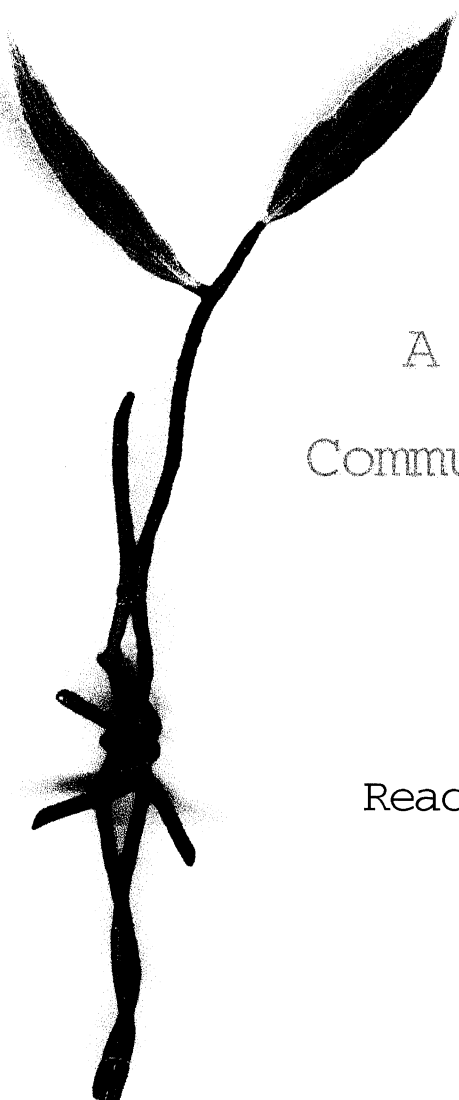
3 years

Unique Aspect of Program

Will create the world's only universally accessible, and most comprehensive, online archive of the Holocaust in coordination with other bodies and archives from around the world, including Israel State Archives, Masua, Morshet, and USHHM. The archive will also act as a tool in providing credible information on the Holocaust, thereby combating Holocaust denial.

Latest Financial Reports of the organization

Attached



A Virtual Learning
Community for Holocaust
Studies

Reaching out to a Global Audience



Executive Summary

The need for Holocaust education courses, materials, and support networks is currently far greater than the resources available worldwide. The solution to this deficiency is to create a resource that is not bound by geography or physical space – i.e. a virtual environment.

The Need:

In the last decade, educators throughout the world have shown a growing interest in dealing with the topic of the Holocaust and in response, Holocaust education activities have been greatly expanded. However, the vast majority of teachers and students do not have an opportunity for direct interaction with Yad Vashem or other Holocaust institutions. **Moreover, the upsurge in Holocaust denial, Holocaust ignorance, and antisemitism in recent years only emphasizes the need to reach audiences and communities who have had little exposure to the topic.** In addition, many educators involved in Holocaust education, are calling out for a sophisticated mechanism to maintain contact with Holocaust experts and institutions, to continue their education, and share their pedagogical experiences with their peers.

Yad Vashem, has personally received requests from thousands of teachers, students, and researchers, for an online, credible resource for Holocaust education materials and tools.

In addition, it is known and accepted that survivors feel a great need to preserve the memory of the Holocaust, and that time is running out for them to personally ensure this goal is fulfilled. It pains survivors to see that in their lifetime, a mere 60 years after these terrible events, that the majority of youngsters in the world are ignorant or misinformed about the Holocaust. These same survivors understand that education is a key mechanism in halting and reversing this worrying trend, combating Holocaust denial and ignorance. It is incumbent upon organizations like Yad Vashem to take on the mantle of responsibility and devise mechanisms for preserving the memory of the Holocaust for a new generation. This virtual learning community for Holocaust studies does just that.

The Vision:

In light of this declared need, it is incumbent upon us to devise an appropriate response to the need, so that, through international cooperation, we will reach out everywhere. The remote communication technologies enabled via the Internet, provide an appropriate mechanism, and are now a universally accepted, and sometimes preferred, means of communication. We believe that we must utilize this tool for mass communication by creating the **Virtual Learning Community for Holocaust Studies.**

The Virtual Learning Community for Holocaust Studies will be developed around two main areas: the **Virtual Classroom** and the **Learning & Teaching Resource Center.** These activities will rest on an immense database of source and research material, which Yad Vashem intends to upload to the Internet. It is not sufficient to merely post information about the Holocaust on the Internet; this subject in particular requires a mediator (educator) to guide people through their learning journey. Visitors to the community will be in contact with the large staff of researchers, educators and information specialists, from various institutions like Yad Vashem, the US Holocaust Memorial Museum and others.



As the main Internet portal for Holocaust Studies, this enterprise will serve a **vast network of international partners** who will both use and contribute to the content and tools of the learning community, and maintain an ongoing dialogue (See Appendix 2 for a list of our international partners). The Virtual Learning Community, which will guide learners through their ongoing educational experience on the Holocaust, must be based on the expertise, experience and infrastructure of a physical school. The International School for Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem has the experience and resources to facilitate such an endeavor. Therefore, Yad Vashem requests the support of the Holocaust Victim Assets Litigation against Swiss Banks for the establishment of the international **Virtual Learning Community for Holocaust Studies**. This community will not only facilitate the enhancing of Holocaust knowledge, but also be a vital tool in uprooting Holocaust ignorance and combating Holocaust denial.

However, Yad Vashem recognizes and respects the difficulty of the Court's allocation task and accepts that it may not be possible at this time to fund our proposal in its entirety. Please note, that in light of this fact, the proposal has been built modularly in order to allow for substantial results to be seen from partial funding. In this case, partial funding would allow for the virtual community to be developed, although fewer materials and tools would be able to be uploaded to the community.

Rationale -- Why Build A Virtual Learning Community?

By building a virtual platform for significant educational activities and public discourse, we will establish, with time, a central, high quality arena for the discussion of and contending with the Holocaust and its implications. **Importantly, this arena will facilitate access to reliable information related to the Holocaust, which is essential to countering Holocaust-denial forces.** This will be the main **Internet portal** for Holocaust Studies. The virtual learning community will be based on cooperation and dialogue and will operate continuously toward widening the circle of participants and interested parties and broadening the database of materials. The activities of the virtual community will rest on an immense database of source materials (documents, testimonies, photographs, Pages of Testimony containing biographical data on Holocaust victims, etc.), and on secondary material (research articles, lexicon entries, information on the Righteous Among the Nations, and more).

The Internet enables the transfer of a large amount of information to a large number of people virtually anywhere; by its nature, it also begets a plethora of sites and sources on the topic of the Holocaust, not all of which are necessarily reliable. This project will strive to establish a site that will reach new, expanded audiences and will contain reliable, verified information, alongside an abundance and variety of educational materials. The site will be layered: at its base will be a mass of source materials upon which will be layers of selected and processed material, adapted to the needs of various users and geared to study on a number of levels. The research results of groups or



individual users, and educational or research projects of community members and visitors will be added to the site and will be incorporated into the database.

The challenge is to design tools that will allow easy and open navigation, and to present a vast amount of material in a manner that will permit an educational process, i.e. the dissemination of information and knowledge and the grappling with fundamental universal issues pertaining to the topic of the Holocaust. These tools will enable independent learning, group activities and online dialogue connecting participants around the globe. The virtual learning community opens a window of communication between interested parties in which they can learn together, share views and understandings under the guidance of Holocaust experts. The structure of a formalized virtual learning community increases the opportunities for enhanced knowledge, based upon encounters with selected elements of the data packaged into educational units, access to existing research, and guided searches of the raw data.

Principles and Objectives

- Establish a virtual community that will **blaze new trails** in education in the Internet era and will redefine the role of the teacher as a facilitator or moderator.
- Establish an online resource that will provide the public with a reliable and comprehensive source of Holocaust information, appropriately presented. This will provide tools in the campaign against Holocaust denial.
- Enhance dialogue – The Holocaust touches on questions concerning the foundations on which human society rests and as such should be a focal point for an inter-cultural and international dialogue. The virtual community must build a framework in which this dialogue can take place.
- Facilitate cooperation: By creating the virtual learning community as the main Internet Portal for Holocaust studies, the project will build a network of Holocaust education institutions – each contributing and benefiting from the other. Inter-organization cooperation between various Holocaust education and commemoration bodies is far simpler via a virtual environment, which should result in unprecedented depths of cooperation and knowledge sharing.



- Present a large corpus of reliable, verified sources that will be the basis for deepening Holocaust remembrance and education. This body of information will also serve to counter-balance Holocaust denial websites.
- Active remembrance: Enlist teachers, students and the broad public in the moral task of perpetuating the memory of the Holocaust victims, of the communities that were destroyed and the world gone by. By joint efforts, members of the virtual community will strive to piece together the stories of individual victims or communities and contribute to creating a portrait of the victims and communities. Confrontation with the human fate during the Holocaust will help to identify and engender empathy with the victims, enhancing motivation and commitment to continued learning.
- Design Internet tools that will provide maximal access to sources on the one hand, and permit self-directed investigation that is not chaotic on the other hand. Instead of knowing nothing about everything, the community will enable its members to obtain tools for personal growth and learning.
- Create an interactive two-way learning experience by which the output of yesterday's learning experience for one group of students can become one of the inputs of tomorrow's learning experience for another group

Who will be the Virtual Learning Community's Members?

Just as in physical communities today there are members of all ages, educational backgrounds, and cultures, so too in this virtual learning community there will be a similarly diverse membership. The nature of the virtual learning community is such that it will satisfy the needs of the casual visitor who wishes to research the fate of one Holocaust victim, the needs of students and educators that join online courses and forums, and also the needs of the core community members that wish to build long-term relationships with Yad Vashem and other community members.

The core members of the virtual learning community will be educators from around the world, high-school and university students, and independent and academic researchers. Yad Vashem already has



a vast network of educational bodies around the world that would gladly cooperate in building such a community. (See Appendix 2 for list of our international partners).

The Virtual Learning Community for Holocaust Studies

The content supporting the virtual learning community will be based upon the unique pedagogical approach of Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies and will include specially adapted versions of the current courses and materials offered by the school, in addition to newly developed materials. The virtual learning community will be fully bi-lingual (Hebrew and English), with the option to add additional languages as it develops and grows.

The virtual learning community requires a significant investment in human resources in order to build it, ensure its continual evolution, and most importantly to moderate, interact with, and guide its community members. **An important foundation has been laid in recent years with the support of the Conference On Jewish Material Claims Against Germany for the International School for Holocaust Studies programs.** The staff members of the Virtual Community will include education experts, historians, editors, technical staff, and professional online moderators. Volunteers will form the core membership of the community and will assist in building a wider membership within their sphere of influence, and in some cases, take on active role in developing the community.

The virtual learning community, Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies, and other cooperating bodies will develop a mutually reciprocal relationship in which knowledge, pedagogical tools, and expertise will be freely shared.

In order to adapt the VLC to different needs, it will provide two main channels which will support each other: guided learning and self-directed exploration.

1. Guided Learning – the “Virtual Classroom”:

For many individuals, teachers and students, their first interaction with the Virtual Learning Community will be via one of the many courses, lectures, and seminars offered on the site. A variety of courses will be developed that will be suitable for educators from all over the world, students wishing to increase their personal understanding of the Holocaust, and for graduates of Yad Vashem's educators' seminars. Yad Vashem's extensive databases of information about the



Holocaust are the raw data from which these courses are built, and course participants will be taught within the framework of their course how to search for additional information using these databases.

Visitors to the community will benefit from unique contacts with the large staff of experts at Yad Vashem and colleagues from other institutions. The system will utilize advanced platforms and technologies in order to facilitate virtual learning sessions, from individual learning to international multi-party conferences.

The virtual classroom will include among other components:

- A wide variety of courses and recorded lessons, accompanied by a professional moderator (asynchronous distance-learning). Some courses will be designed for educators, while others will be suited to students
- Courses broadcasted live via videoconferencing to various sized groups around the world (synchronic distance-learning), with the participation and assistance of teachers and academics at Yad Vashem and other institutions
- Virtual seminars and workshops for educators at the Yad Vashem Learning Center site in conjunction with the learning centers of other institutions

In parallel to participating in one of these courses, community members are likely to also create, join, and build specialist ‘interest sub-communities’, which will facilitate knowledge exchange and discussions on a particular area of interest. These sub-communities, run via chat-rooms, will be moderated by site staff to ensure that this forum is utilized in an appropriate manner.

Through participation in online courses and sub-communities, members will be exposed to the vast resources available on the Learning & Teaching Resource Center, and it is expected that they will remain frequent users of this facility long after the end of their course.

2. Self-directed exploration – Learning and Teaching Resource Center:

In this area of the virtual learning community, members are presented with a number of resources intended to support and assist their personal ‘learning journey’ into the Holocaust. The center will give special attention to educators, providing pedagogical tools and resources ranging from ‘ready-



to-go' lesson plans to respected works of research, to support communities. The strength of this Resource Center is built on its unique combination of three central elements:

- **Content**
- **Experts**
- **Community**

Content

The content of the Resource Center will continually grow and evolve as community members become more involved in the two-way learning mechanism encouraged by this center. The Resource Center is not intended to be merely a library from which users can come to 'borrow' material, but rather it is hoped that each community member will share the result of their personal research so that, once moderated by Yad Vashem, it can form part of the content of the Resource Center in the future. In this way, the community as a whole will move forward in its understanding of the Holocaust as each member will have the opportunity to build on the work of other members.

Experts

Vital to this concept of developing content, is the input by Yad Vashem's expert staff. Moderators, editors, educators, and technicians will be constantly available to ensure that members find the information they seek, to work with members on a one-to-one basis as required to assist in their understanding, and to guide members to existing materials and tools that will be of use.

Community

The community element of this Resource Center is no less important. Utilizing the platform of the virtual learning community, groups of individuals can come together to express ideas in forums, jointly investigate areas of interest, share learning and teaching techniques, and explore the multiple perspectives that will result from the diverse nature of the group.

The Center will offer a wide variety of tools, including:

- Various "Learning Communities" and "Teaching Communities"
- Information Center
- Texts and Educational Activities Center
- Online exhibits



- Interactive guide for preparing educational activities
- Mechanism for creating and supporting student research groups, e.g. researching roots, research of Pages of Testimony, research of a community, and more
- Support for the preparation of Holocaust study tours and “in search of roots” trips

In order to support the virtual learning community selected databases of Yad Vashem will be incorporated. The funding to upload these databases to the internet has been requested via another Yad Vashem proposal to the Special Master, “Marshalling the Documentary Evidence”. These databases will be made available via a ‘search wizard’ interface that will guide and help the user to locate the particular data of interest. As with the other components of the virtual learning community, Yad Vashem technical and educational staff will be available for consultation.

In the first phase of development the following databases will be made available to the virtual learning community members:

Photos Archive

Giving as many victims as possible a name and a face is integral to Yad Vashem’s educational approach. Images of individuals, families, communities, and buildings are very emotive and truly bring to life the vibrancy of pre-Holocaust communities as well as the devastation of their destruction. Yad Vashem currently has 300,000 photos in its archives that could be uploaded to the Internet.

Historical Maps

Yad Vashem has many hundreds of important historical maps in its collection. The maps facilitate users understanding of the geographical implications of the era in which European borders were exceptionally unstable.

Righteous Among the Nations Lexicon

The personal stories of the Righteous Among the Nations are of the highest moral and inspirational value to Jews and non-Jews alike. These true histories demonstrate that even in times of war and the most repressive tyranny, men and women retain the inborn right and ability to act upon moral



precepts. Yad Vashem has compiled a 7-volume lexicon of the Righteous Among the Nations. Each volume contains an introduction, a summary of the series and the stories of rescue by the Righteous Among the Nations.

Testimonies

Testimonies, as collected by Yad Vashem, tell and re-tell the story of the Holocaust as it occurred for each individual. An investigation of these testimonies will find common themes, but the overriding impression is that of the uniqueness of each existence and life. Yad Vashem has about 25,000 typed testimonies, 7,000 audio recordings, and 8,000 video testimonies. Yad Vashem continues to collect testimonies, which will also be digitized and uploaded.

Ghettos Lexicon

The Ghettos Lexicon is the first project to prepare a comprehensive database based on the collection and concentration of all presently available information on Ghettos. The Ghettos Lexicon is intended for use as a basic reference on the ghettos during the Holocaust period. The lexicon will assemble information on the histories of approximately 1,000 ghettos that existed in Eastern Europe during the Holocaust.

Contemporary Diaries

Among the many documents safeguarded in the Yad Vashem Archives are an assortment of diaries and albums. These personal records of daily life prior to, during and after the Holocaust provide individual and unique perspectives on life during this cruel and horrific time. Yad Vashem wishes to produce and upload an assortment of these unique diaries. Each one is a distinctive, first person record, which will augment the mass of recorded testimony and, in keeping with Yad Vashem's educational philosophy, will contribute toward personalizing the Holocaust.



Budget

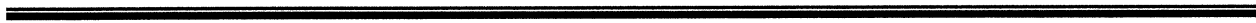
Please note the proposal has been built modularly in order to allow for substantial results to be seen from partial funding. In this case, partial funding would allow for the virtual community to be developed, although fewer materials and tools would be able to be uploaded to the community. The funding to upload the auxiliary databases to the internet has been requested via another Yad Vashem proposal to the Special Master, “Marshalling the Documentary Evidence”.

Please note that Yad Vashem has not requested overheads expenses for this project. Yad Vashem will endeavor to recruit these funds from other sources.

Item	Cost US\$ 2005	Cost US\$ 2006	Cost US\$ 2007 – 2014	Total Cost US\$
1. Establishing Virtual Classroom				
<input type="checkbox"/> Developing the strategy and scope of the virtual classroom, and building videoconferencing capabilities	\$100,000			\$100,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Develop content for online courses (synchronic, asynchronic, seminars)	\$250,000	\$250,000		\$500,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Creating the team (content experts, educators, professional moderators, technical staff)	\$200,000	\$200,000		\$400,000
2. Establishing Learning & Teaching Resource Center				
<input type="checkbox"/> Developing the strategy and scope of the Center, and building the technological platform	\$100,000			\$100,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Producing the content (pedagogical tools, online exhibitions, etc)	\$250,000	\$250,000		\$500,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Creating the team (content experts, educators, professional moderators, technical staff)	\$150,000	\$150,000		\$300,000
3. Ongoing Development of the Virtual Classroom				
<input type="checkbox"/> Team (content experts, educators, professional moderators, technical staff)			\$150,000 per year	\$1,200,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Technical support and infrastructure				
<input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing content development				
4. Ongoing Development of the Learning & Teaching Resource Center				
<input type="checkbox"/> Team (content experts, educators, professional moderators, technical staff)			\$150,000 per year	\$1,200,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Technical support and infrastructure				
<input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing content development				
Total Cost	\$1,050,000	\$850,000	\$2,400,000	\$4,300,000
Removal of 10% overhead (funds will be sought from other sources)	\$105,000	\$85,000	\$240,000	\$430,000



Total Funds Requested	\$945,000	\$765,000	\$2,160,000	\$3,870,000
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Appendix 1

The International School for Holocaust Studies

Established in 1993, The International School for Holocaust Studies develops and implements educational activities for different target populations and educational frameworks in Israel and abroad. It is the only school of its kind in the world. Over ninety staff members work together with thousands of teachers to create programs and tools that will promote an understanding of the Holocaust's dimensions, events and messages. The school takes part in an intergenerational dialogue and develops educational materials, methods, and directions that, by means of new technologies and teaching aids, awaken students to the complexities of the Holocaust as a historical event.

Holocaust education as defined and developed by the International School is multi-disciplinary, multi-faceted and multi-directional. It integrates the tools and methodologies of history, psychology, sociology, philosophy, theology, literature and the arts. Contemporary education about the Holocaust as implemented by the International School strives to focus on individuals. Instead of dealing with the extermination process and the Jews as passive victims, the story of individuals and communities is told: their lives before, during and after the Holocaust – if they survived; the decisions they faced at every turn. By learning about acts of overt and clandestine resistance and compassion, students also discover how the force of evil can be countered by individual action. Through this educational approach, false perceptions are transformed into reality-based insights and empathy, into understanding and identification that nurture moral guidelines for personal and social interaction and personal commitment from each individual to his community. It is our aim to develop a conscious preference for the democratic way of life and governance and a willingness to defend those basic and inherent values. Internalizing and identifying with fundamental ethical values will create a basis on which society and the individual's ability to function within it can be maintained. It will develop the sensitivity to violations of these values vis-à-vis others, and the willingness to react and respond accordingly.

The school's uniqueness stems from:

1. Its educational philosophy and pedagogical approach.
2. Its work in conjunction with the International Institute for Holocaust Research at Yad Vashem, which provides the school with a foundation of research and a scholarly infrastructure. These serve the school through their involvement in the development of educational materials and by providing their expertise in seminars and teacher-training courses.
3. Work in conjunction with the Yad Vashem archive – the largest archive in the world for Holocaust-related materials. The archive's holdings include many rare documents provided by survivors in the immediate wake of the war. Its computerization infrastructure is among the most advanced in the world.
4. A large number of professionals with expertise in various fields and disciplines, as well as in a broad range of languages, who devote their time and experience to Holocaust education.
5. An ability to rely on a unique museum infrastructure and on the museum's professional staff.



Since its inception, the school has occupied itself with Holocaust education in Israel and abroad, and has acquired vast experience with diverse learning communities. These include teachers, pupils, students, lecturers at the college and university level, and community leaders in various positions. The school's staff, moreover, has acquired extensive experience in producing educational programs and materials, often using the most recent technological advances as pedagogical tools. The school's educational activity is aimed at instilling the history of the Holocaust and its meanings to a wide range of audiences through the development of programs designed for diversified needs and interests and for disparate age groups.



Appendix 2

NGO Partners

1. Fritz Bauer Institute, Frankfurt, Germany
 2. House of the Wannsee Conference, Berlin, Germany
 3. Buchenwald Memorial Museum, Germany
 4. Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site , Germany
 5. Foundation for the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, Berlin , Germany
 6. The German Bundestag (Parliament), Berlin, Germany
 7. ConAct - Coordination Center German-Israeli Youth Exchange, Lutherstadt Wittenberg, Germany
 8. The Federal Agency for Civic Education, Germany
 9. The Niedersachsen Agency for Civic Education, Germany
 10. The Rheinland-Pfalz Agency for Civic Education, Germany
 11. The Bavarian Agency for Civic Education, Germany
 12. Frankenwarte Academy, Würzburg, Germany
 13. Action Reconciliation Service for Peace, Germany
 14. Topography of Terror, Berlin, Germany
 15. Ministry of Education, Nordrhein Westphalen, Germany
 16. Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France (includes 48 European nations, not including observer countries such as Israel, Japan, USA)
 17. EUROCLIO, European Standing Conference of History Teachers (they link to our website, we have published an article in their pedagogical magazine). Their central office is in The Hague, the Netherlands.
 18. Anne Frank House, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
 19. CDJC, Centre Documentacion Juive Contemporaine in Paris.
 20. Auschwitz-State Museum, Poland
 21. Association for Holocaust Associations (AHO)
 22. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington DC
 23. The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey
 24. New Jersey Commission on the Holocaust
 25. Florida Holocaust Museum, Tampa-St. Petersburg, Florida, USA
 26. Holocaust Museum Houston, TX, USA
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27. The Holocaust Center of Northern California, San Francisco, CA, USA
28. Georgia Commission on the Holocaust, Atlanta, GA, USA
29. Center for Holocaust Studies at Brookdale Community College, NJ, USA
30. ADL Braun Institute, NYC, NY, USA
31. Museum of Jewish Heritage in NYC, NY, USA
32. Holocaust Education Foundation, Virginia, USA
33. Imperial War Museum, London, UK
34. Beth Shalom, Nottinghamshire, UK
35. Cape Town Holocaust Center, South Africa
36. Pamatnik Terezin, Czech Republic
37. Figli Della Shoah (Children of the Shoah), Milan, Italy
38. Levande Historia, Stockholm, Sweden
39. Holocaust Museum, Belgium
40. Danish Institute for International Studies, Department for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Copenhagen, Denmark
41. Center for studies of Holocaust and religious minorities in Norway
42. Tkuma, Dniepropovsk, Ukraine
43. Russian Holocaust Research and Educational Center, Moscow, Russia
44. Holocaust Center, Moscow, Russia
45. Historical Commission on Nazi Crimes, Vilnius, Lithuania
46. David Organization, Zurich, Switzerland
47. Serbian Orthodox Church, Yovan Culibrk, Serbia
48. Jasenovac Memorial, Croatia
49. Hannah Arendt Association, Budapest, Hungary
50. Bolbes-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, Romania
51. University of Bucharest, Romania
52. IRIR, Bucharest, Romania

Government Institution Partners

1. Ministry of Education, Poland
2. Ministry of Education, Romania
3. Ministry of Education, Hungary



4. Ministry of Education, Slovakia
5. Ministry of Education Science and Culture, Austria
6. International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania

Details about the organization requesting allocation of funds

Name of the organization

Yad Vashem, Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority

Address of the organization

PO Box 3477, Jerusalem, 91034, Israel

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Secondary Email

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Details of Proposed Project

Project Name

A Virtual Learning Community for Holocaust Studies

Estimated Costs

\$3,870,000

Estimate of Administrative Expenses (in percentages if necessary)

0%

Duration of program

10 years

Unique Aspect of Program

The Virtual Learning Community for Holocaust Studies will create the only online educational resource, which is fully backed-up by a physical and world-renowned school for Holocaust studies. It will be a fully bi-lingual offering, aimed at teachers, students, and the general public worldwide.

This program addresses a great need of educators worldwide to have access to a credible source of materials and educational tools about the Holocaust. It will serve as a tool to uproot ignorance about the Holocaust and to combat Holocaust denial worldwide.

Latest Financial Reports of the organization

Attached

Type of assistance

Education and Commemoration

Letters of Recommendation

Attached

Names, Addresses and affiliation of all person and organizations associated with or endorsing the proposal

Mr. Noah Flug, Chairman, Center of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors in Israel, 4 Emile Botta St. P.O.Box 7218 Jerusalem, Israel

Professor Yehuda Bauer, Institute of Contemporary Jewry, Hebrew University, Mt. Scopus, Jerusalem, 91905, Israel

Project Summary

The need for Holocaust education courses, materials, and support networks is currently far greater than the resources available worldwide. The solution to this deficiency is to create a resource that is not bound by geography or physical space – i.e. a virtual environment.

The Need:

In the last decade, educators throughout the world have shown a growing interest in dealing with the topic of the Holocaust and in response, Holocaust education activities have been greatly expanded. However, the vast majority of teachers and students do not have an opportunity for direct interaction with Yad Vashem or other Holocaust institutions. **Moreover, the upsurge in Holocaust denial, Holocaust ignorance, and antisemitism in recent years only emphasizes the need to reach audiences and communities who have had little exposure to the topic.** In addition, many educators involved in Holocaust education, are calling out for a sophisticated mechanism to maintain contact with Holocaust experts and institutions, to continue their education, and share their pedagogical experiences with their peers.

Yad Vashem, has personally received requests from thousands of teachers, students, and researchers, for an online, credible resource for Holocaust education materials and tools.

In addition, it is known and accepted that survivors feel a great need to preserve the memory of the Holocaust, and that time is running out for them to personally ensure this goal is fulfilled. It pains survivors to see that in their lifetime, a mere 60 years after these terrible events, that the majority of youngsters in the world are ignorant or misinformed about the Holocaust. These same survivors understand that education is a key mechanism in halting and reversing this worrying trend, combating Holocaust denial and ignorance. It is incumbent upon organizations like Yad Vashem to take on the mantle of responsibility and devise mechanisms for preserving the memory of the Holocaust for a new generation. This virtual learning community for Holocaust studies does just that.

The Vision:

In light of this declared need, it is incumbent upon us to devise an appropriate response to the need, so that, through international cooperation, we will reach out everywhere. The remote communication technologies enabled via the Internet, provide an appropriate mechanism, and are now a universally accepted, and sometimes preferred, means of communication. We believe that we must utilize this tool for mass communication by creating the **Virtual Learning Community for Holocaust Studies**.

The Virtual Learning Community for Holocaust Studies will be developed around two main areas: the **Virtual Classroom** and the **Learning & Teaching Resource Center**. These activities will rest on an immense database of source and research material, which Yad Vashem intends to upload to the Internet. It is not sufficient to merely post information about the Holocaust on the Internet; this subject in particular requires a mediator (educator) to guide people through their learning journey. Visitors to the community will be in contact with the large staff of researchers, educators and information specialists, from various institutions like Yad Vashem, the US Holocaust Memorial Museum and others.

As the main Internet portal for Holocaust Studies, this enterprise will serve a **vast network of international partners** who will both use and contribute to the content and tools of the learning community, and maintain an ongoing dialogue (See Appendix 2 for a list of our international partners). The Virtual Learning Community, which will guide learners through their ongoing educational experience on the Holocaust, must be based on the expertise, experience and infrastructure of a physical school. The International School for Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem has the experience and resources to facilitate such an endeavor. Therefore, Yad Vashem requests the support of the Holocaust Victim Assets Litigation against Swiss Banks for the establishment of the international **Virtual Learning Community for Holocaust Studies**. This community will not only facilitate the enhancing of Holocaust knowledge, but also be a vital tool in uprooting Holocaust ignorance and combating Holocaust denial.

However, Yad Vashem recognizes and respects the difficulty of the Court's allocation task and accepts that it may not be possible at this time to fund our proposal in its entirety. Please note, that in light of this fact, the proposal has been built modularly in order to allow for substantial results to be seen from partial funding. In this case, partial funding would allow for the virtual community to be developed, although fewer materials and tools would be able to be uploaded to the community.