



MUSEUM
OF JEWISH
HERITAGE

A LIVING
MEMORIAL
TO THE
HOLOCAUST

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 7, 2007

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EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP AND WEB RESOURCES LAUNCHED TO TEACH ABOUT DARFUR GENOCIDE

at the Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust

NEW YORK, NY – As the violence continues in the Darfur region, the **Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust** has reaffirmed its commitment to raising awareness about the crisis. The Education Department has created a new workshop for middle and high school students, **Thou Shalt Not Stand Idly By**. As an institution devoted to educating all who walk through its doors about the Holocaust and the universal lessons that can be learned from this unique period of history, the Museum feels a special responsibility to speak out about Human Rights violations.

The workshop's title refers to the Biblical phrase "Thou shalt not stand idly by the blood of your neighbor." The initiative utilizes artifacts, images, and written testimony from witnesses to the genocide in Darfur —most of whom are young adults and children — to teach about the crisis and to offer information about actions students can take. The Museum has also created a dynamic website page devoted to educating teachers, students, and the general public about the situation (www.mjhnyc.org/teach_teachers_i.htm). Visitors to the site can read background information, download videos, get recommendations for books, and launch their own letter writing campaigns.

Elizabeth Edelstein, Director of Education, says, "Through this workshop, we are continuing the dialogue about genocide and social activism and encouraging students to apply what they have learned to their world today. It is our hope that they will leave the Museum with the desire to take action and to speak out against genocide."

The Museum started its campaign to raise awareness and increase pressure on the international community to take action in Darfur in March 2006 when it presented A Call to Action on Darfur, a day-long symposium and action fair. In December 2006 the Museum integrated into its Core Exhibition objects related to the crisis in Darfur as an example of an atrocity in current times. In January 2007 the Museum invited a representative of the Darfur Peoples' Association to speak to high school students as part of the Museum's student curriculum **Meeting Hate with Humanity: Life During the Holocaust**. The students in turn wrote moving letters to the children of Darfur.

For more information please visit www.mjhnyc.org/teach_teachers_i.htm. To schedule a school group tour and workshop, please call 646.437.4304 or email tbradshaw@mjhnyc.org.

The Museum's three-floor Core Exhibition educates people of all ages and backgrounds about the rich tapestry of Jewish life over the past century--before, during, and after the Holocaust. Current special exhibitions include *From the Heart: The Photojournalism of Ruth Gruber*, *The Other Promised Land: Vacationing, Identity, and the Jewish-American Dream*, and *Daring to Resist: Jewish Defiance in the Holocaust*. The Museum offers visitors a vibrant public program schedule in its Edmond J. Safra Hall. It is also home to Andy Goldsworthy's memorial *Garden of Stones*, as well as James Carpenter's *Reflection Passage*, Gift of The Gruss Lipper Foundation. The Museum receives general operating support from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and is a founding member of the *Museums of Lower Manhattan*.

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