

From the Chairman of the Council



Dear Friends,

As a child survivor of the Shoah, I have lived my entire life in the shadow of its terrible consequences and yet inspired by its eternal legacy. Clearly, the Holocaust has always been close to my heart and I have devoted myself to spreading the Jewish and universal values that may be learned through Holocaust remembrance and education. For decades, this has forged within me strong, deep ties to Yad Vashem, the world's pre-eminent center of Holocaust commemoration for the Jewish people and the global community.

I have been privileged for many years to witness first hand Yad Vashem's activity in Israel and around the world, and have thus come to profoundly respect and admire the tireless dedication of its devoted staff and faithful circle of supporters.

Last November, my appointment to the honored position of Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council, just as we marked 70 years since "Kristallnacht," was especially meaningful. In the months since my appointment, I have gained an even deeper understanding of the vast scale of Yad Vashem's educational activities and outreach programs throughout the world, and I am convinced with greater certainty than ever that, in the light of increasingly menacing anti-Zionism and antisemitism worldwide, Yad Vashem must continue to play a central role in the strengthening of Jewish identity and the fostering of universal human tolerance.

Yad Vashem has established itself not only as a champion against xenophobia and prejudice, but also as the natural heart and home for survivors of the Holocaust and the next generations. My own life experiences, and those of my fellow survivors, resound within the walls of Yad Vashem. Its documents and exhibits reaffirm and echo our stories. It is to here that the Jewish people turn to remember our slain brothers and sisters, our destroyed communities and our cultural and religious heritage ravaged in the flames of the Shoah. Your continued support will facilitate Yad Vashem in spreading its message from Jerusalem: Teach about the tragic past in order to shape a better future for the Jewish people and the whole of humankind.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Israel Meir Lau". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rabbi Israel Meir Lau
Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council