

## Message from Holocaust Education Trust Ireland

Today we recall the dark days of the Holocaust. We remember six million Jewish people and millions of others who were persecuted and murdered. We think about their families who still bear the burden of memory. We remind ourselves in a world that is far from certain, that evil does not reside in one person or at one time.

In 1930s Europe, fear and uncertainty nurtured extremes unleashing a cataclysmic disaster on the world. The Holocaust did not emerge from nowhere. It was the result of fear and uncertainty. It was the result of seeds sown over many years. Seeds of hatred, mistrust, of antisemitism. Ultimately, the seeds of evil.

Those who perpetrated the Holocaust were, like their victims, men and women, sons and daughters, cherished family members. And yet, given fertile ground for hatred, they became killers and the world became a dark and dangerous place.

At times of great uncertainty, there is always a danger that extremists will triumph. It can emerge amongst any nations at any stage. Our vigilance and resolve to fight hatred and fear whenever it emerges will ensure that the Holocaust cannot, will not, and must not be repeated.

*Eibhlin Byrne, Chairperson HETI*



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