

The International Conference for Education and the Holocaust (ICEH)

Final Country Project Implementation Report for 2015 teams



Supported by

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
and

The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Overview

The first *International Conference for Education and the Holocaust* (formerly the *Conference for International Holocaust Education*), now a bi-annual capacity building conference co-hosted by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and UNESCO, brought together teams of educators and civil society leaders from around the world at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C in 2015. Teams from Chile, Hungary, India, Lithuania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Rwanda, South Korea and Turkey participated.

During the Conference, participants attended sessions on Holocaust history, antisemitism and contemporary genocide, then worked in country teams to design educational projects to increase the visibility, impact, and depth of Holocaust and genocide education in their respective national or regional context. In 2015, the Museum and UNESCO provided each team \$3000 to support their projects.

Project Achievements

Chile, Hungary, India, Lithuania, Mexico, the Republic of Korea and Turkey had completed their projects. Every project utilized Holocaust history as a principal lens through which to initiate a dialogue applicable to historical events in their own countries, for example, learning about human rights issues in Chile, or the role of local Holocaust collaborators during the Holocaust in Hungary and Lithuania.

These projects reached at least 2,700 individuals and took place with the support of 44 different local and international organizations, in addition to the Museum and UNESCO.

Six participants from Chile, Mexico, Turkey, Hungary, India, and Namibia were recognized for their commitment to Holocaust education and given “fellowships” to return to the Museum in 2016 for 2-3 weeks to strengthen their project planning and implementation. Team members in all countries report that they continue to work on Holocaust education programs beyond the scope of the Conference. Teams in Mexico, Chile, India, Lithuania, Turkey, and Hungary for example, are seeking additional support from other agencies to keep working.

Namibia has been working with South Africa and the Museum to develop a plan to bring the *Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race* exhibition to both countries in 2018, and to create educational materials for use in medical schools. We are pleased to welcome back Namibia to the 2017 edition of the Conference this year, who will participate with South Africa as a bi-national team working on this project. Chile and Mexico teams designed a *cross-regional* initiative on Holocaust history awareness and teacher training, implemented in 2017 in both countries.

Detailed Country Project Reports

CHILE

The Team conducted teacher training seminars in Santiago during July 2016: *Education on Human Rights: Holocaust and Chilean Dictatorship* and *Theoretical Approaches and Comparative Pedagogy*, for 50 educators, together with the Museum of Memory and Human Rights and the Jewish Interactive Museum of Chile, Institute of History of the Catholic University of Chile and the Ministry of Education and supported by the Institute of History of the Catholic University of Chile and the Ministry of Education. Overall, the aim of the seminar was to highlight how educators could integrate both subjects into the national *Program of Citizen Training and of Human Rights*, implemented in Chile in August 2016. Due to an overwhelmingly positive response, this seminar will be offered again. The seminar was complemented by the creation of an online resource portal providing materials on the Holocaust and human rights



supported by the Chilean Ministry of Education. Chile is an active member of the UNESCO Latin American Network on Education about the Holocaust and Genocide.

Team Members continue to work on Holocaust education projects, including the design of a cross-regional Holocaust education project with the Mexico team, the *Dan Napolitano Latin American Regional Initiative: Pilot Project in Chile and Mexico* funded by an *International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance* grant.

HUNGARY



The team completed a series of seminars for the public and lessons for students centered around the concepts of collaboration and complicity found in the Museum's *Some Were Neighbors* exhibition. This included the development of traveling exhibitions made by students as well as discussions about social responsibility. Students were then trained as student guides for the exhibits. The project team also held events open to the public, the diplomatic corps, and the media to raise awareness

about the Holocaust and related contemporary political issues in Hungarian society, including the official opening of the student art exhibition at the Embassy of Canada.

The team presented their final event showcasing their project *Your Decision: Training Bystanders to Become Upstanders* at the Robert Capa Contemporary Photography Center in Budapest. This event included two dozen teachers and psychologists who have worked with the team over the course of the project year, as well as 30 other educators who work on the subject in their own classrooms. The Hungarian National Commission for UNESCO provided its patronage for the event, which was mentioned in their annual report. The team seeks to bring the *Some Were Neighbors* travelling exhibit to Hungary when it is available.

INDIA

The team convened an international academic conference on mass atrocity, with a special focus on Holocaust education in India, at Jindal University in May 2016. The conference attracted scholars from around the world. Of the 100 panel submissions submitted to the organizers, 33 were selected, including a special panel with UNESCO and Museum staff on the role of education in shaping attitudes about the Holocaust. A special journal volume of *Middle East Studies* edited by one of the team members was published showcasing articles written by Conference country teams. Rohee Das Gupta of the India team returned to the Museum in November 2016 and presented on a panel at the Levine



Institute for Holocaust Education discussing *The Cultural Contexts of International Holocaust Education*.

Two books written by the project team are being published on Holocaust education in India for the first time ever: *Global Approaches to Holocaust Education, Narratives on Mass Violence*, and the first-ever *Guidebook to Introducing Holocaust Education in India*.

LITHUANIA



The team completed numerous school events and teacher training sessions, with a specific focus on how to conduct research about local Holocaust rescuers during the Holocaust and to highlight the ability of citizens to make positive choices even in adverse circumstances. The result was the publication of a bilingual volume of local Holocaust stories collected in various Lithuanian towns called *Stories of the Past*, and an accompanying lesson plan drawing on individual testimonies. The project also included teacher training

workshops, a series of discussions open to the public about Holocaust history in Lithuania, and an ongoing series of film screenings for students.

The Team continues to work on disseminating the publication of *Stories of the Past* through continued teacher trainings. Recently, the team worked with a school in the town of Balbieriskis to commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day with a nationally attended teacher and student led seminar. Over 200 participants from 22 schools with school-wide Tolerance Education Centers attended, as did representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and guests from the Jewish community. The team continues to translate and use pedagogical materials from the Museum in their work, expanding their small but growing set of teacher resources

MEXICO



The team implemented a two-day academic conference, *Education: From the Holocaust Experience to Transformation for a Culture of Tolerance* on resilience and resistance in the Holocaust at the Iberoamericana University and the Museum of Memory and Tolerance in Mexico City in fall 2016. They had a wide target audience of over 650 people, including academics, ministry officials, those working with/in secondary education, and undergraduate and

graduate students. The team also created an educational handbook for teachers distributed during the conference.

Team members continue to work on Holocaust education projects, including the bi-regional *Dan Napolitano Latin American Regional Initiative: Pilot Project in Chile and Mexico* for teacher training with the Chile team. Team members are also working with partners from Colombia and Argentina and are active within the UNESCO Latin American Network on Education about the Holocaust and Genocide.

NAMIBIA



The team project aims to deepen conversations about genocide and the Holocaust in Namibian society through traveling Museum exhibitions that will serve as a shareable educational resource throughout its 14 different educational provinces. To this end, it has developed a new exhibition about the Herero-Nama genocide in German South-West Africa to complement a Holocaust exhibit currently being used in schools by bringing in a more focused local

historical context. It is the first of its kind in the country. As part of the exhibition's creation, there will be a workshop for 14 senior education officials in each province about genocide and Holocaust education, as well as training for local history students at Namibian universities to serve as exhibit guides in various locations. A bi-national Namibian-South African team will attend ICEH 2017 with the aim of bringing the Museum's *State of Deception* exhibition to medical schools in their countries.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA



The Korea Team was one of the first in their country to promote Holocaust education as a method of historical inquiry to raise important questions about their own historical past. The team developed teaching materials about the Holocaust and implemented teacher training workshops on the Holocaust and memory with teachers in Jeju Province (with the support of the Jeju Provincial Office of Education), in Gwangju (in coordination with the Gwangju

Metropolitan Office of Education), and with educators participating in UNESCO Asia-Pacific Center on Education for International Understanding (APCEIU) *Global Capacity-Building Workshop on Global Citizenship Education* seminar.

A first-ever teaching guide on Holocaust education in the Korean context will be completed by the end of 2017 as an online resource.

RWANDA



The purpose of the project was to raise awareness about the Holocaust in Rwandan schools by providing teacher training seminars on pedagogical methods, and to support the work of the Kigali Genocide Center’s work on genocide education. Additionally, the project aimed to develop learning materials that can bridge a current gap in resources on Holocaust and genocide education.

As part of the government’s initiative to make Peace Education a crosscutting theme through all subjects, the Rwanda team has trained over 150 teachers. The training in October 2017 at the Kigali Genocide Memorial Center hosted 30 “master teachers” in order to deepen their knowledge and pedagogical skills on Holocaust education. These teachers will returned to their own communities to share new strategies for strengthening the national commitment to Holocaust and genocide education in local practice. Museum staff travelled to Rwanda to facilitate sessions on the power of propaganda and the role of educational segregation as a tool of political repression.

TURKEY

The team implemented seminars for students in Istanbul and Ankara that discussed the history of the Holocaust and other atrocity crimes in December 2016, in cooperation with the US Embassy in Ankara, Istanbul Bilgi University’s Jewish Communities Studies Unit (YATOÇ), and Anadolu Kültür. The seminar sought to increase students' awareness about human rights. From one hundred student applications, twenty-five students were invited to attend. For many, this was their first time discussing the Holocaust in such depth.

There was also a public event organized at Istanbul Bilgi University. This program centered on survivor testimony, which included a live stream interview with Holocaust survivor Alfred Münzer. This was the

first time a Holocaust survivor ever addressed a Turkish audience in Istanbul.



Discussions continue on developing resources for educators and the creation of the first ever Jewish Studies department at a local private university.