

## **SYDNEY JEWISH MUSEUM UNVEILS HOLOCAUST REFLECTIONS PROGRAM**

How did people become mass murderers during the Holocaust? Would the Holocaust have happened without Hitler? Where was God during the Shoah? How did ordinary people respond to the persecution and murder of the Jews?

The Holocaust has always raised fundamental questions about ethics, humanity, philosophy and theology. Yad Vashem in Jerusalem has recently installed the program, entitled 'Voices and Reflections of the Shoah' at the Sydney Jewish Museum, only the second museum world wide to be given access to this thought provoking program.

'Voices and Reflections of the Shoah' is an innovative educational tool that allows visitors to listen to a broad range of responses that arise from Holocaust related study. World renowned religious leaders, authors, artists, researchers, historians, educators and Holocaust Survivors give their personal response to thirteen of the most frequently asked Holocaust related questions.

Norman Seligman, CEO of the Sydney Jewish Museum said "We have been hoping to install this program at the Museum for some time now. The Museum is the first space to be granted access to this program outside of Yad Vashem or Auschwitz, a brilliant endorsement of our education programs and the work we do here."

The Reflections Program was designed to encourage fruitful deliberation and discussion among students and educational groups, with many of the questions devised by Holocaust educators in response to frequently asked student questions.

Users can hear a variety of experts' response to each question, including among others, American Holocaust Historian, Professor Christopher Browning, Holocaust Survivor and Journalist Marian Turski and the Chief Rabbi of Poland, Michael Schudrich.

Yotam Weiner, Education Manager at the Sydney Jewish Museum said "While grounded in history, questions like 'where is God during times of tragedy' and 'what makes people capable of mass murder?' are as relevant today as ever. It's hard to find a satisfactory answer for any of the above, but the simple act of asking and talking about it is cathartic. We hope that people find some satisfaction in the range of responses and explanations."

As well as incorporating the program into its popular teacher training sessions, the Museum is encouraging students, teachers, and adult visitors to enhance their visitor experience by exploring the 'Reflections' program in the Museum Library and Resource Centre.

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For more information contact:

Natalia Thomas

Marketing Manager, the Sydney Jewish Museum

Email [nthomas@sjm.com.au](mailto:nthomas@sjm.com.au) PH: 02 9360 7999