



Students at our Annual Human Rights Institute for High School Student Leaders

**Mission Statement:**

*The Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center's (HHREC) mission is to enhance the teaching and learning of the lessons of the Holocaust and the right of all people to be treated with dignity and respect. We encourage students to speak up and act against all forms of bigotry and prejudice.*

As an interfaith, not-for-profit organization serving Westchester, Fairfield and Putnam counties, the HHREC encourages and enhances teaching and learning about the Holocaust and its human rights lessons for today.



Donna Cohen  
Executive Director

Marlene W. Yahalom, Ph.D.  
Director of Education

*From the Chairman of the Board*

More than six decades have passed since the Holocaust took place, but its effects are still etched in the memory of remaining survivors, their children and their grandchildren. As those survivors get older, it is more important than ever for them to tell their stories and educate individuals of all ages in order to help them to learn how to stand up against bigotry and hatred by becoming upstanders.

Students, teachers and the community-at-large are active participants in our programs, which focus on the importance of all people being treated with dignity and respect. They also address the dangers of being a bystander and encourage participants to be "upstanders" – to take action when they witness bigotry or prejudice.

We are pleased to share with you that in the 2008–2009 school year, our programming reached more than 15,000 individuals.

When the HHREC was established in 1994, there was no uniform educational structure to teach the lessons of the Holocaust and how to protect all human rights. That's why we launched the Educators Planning Committee, which teaches teachers how to disseminate this information in their classrooms. Today, we have reached more 90% of the school districts in our area that have incorporated Holocaust and Human Rights education into their curriculum.

Our programming has proven so effective and important that Governor George Pataki chose the HHREC to serve as host for signing the Hate Crimes Legislation Bill into law in 1997.

We are especially proud of our own documentary, "Testimony of the Human Spirit," from which viewers can learn about Holocaust history through the eyes of six Westchester Holocaust survivors, all members of our Speakers Bureau, who share their stories of survival as children during the Holocaust – from 1933 to the present. Its universal message of hope is inspiring to everyone who has seen it.

For more information on how you can get involved with HHREC, please visit [www.holocausteducationctr.org](http://www.holocausteducationctr.org) or call us at 914.696.0738.

Sincerely,

Richard Laster  
Chairman of the Board

*"Your experience of the Holocaust has touched the students in their hearts and souls. I know with all certainty that in some way your sharing has opened their eyes to life in a whole new and fuller way." – 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher*

**For more information on our educational programs, contact Marlene W. Yahalom, Ph.D., Director of Education, at 914.696.0738 or [mwry1220@aol.com](mailto:mwry1220@aol.com)**

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HHREC Director of Education, Marlene Warshawski Yahalom, Ph.D., conducting a workshop for educators



Students at the Human Rights Institute for High School Student Leaders



Students running a Human Rights Institute workshop

*"I promise you that your message will never be forgotten. I'll carry your message everywhere I go. I'll always fight for peace, I'll always appreciate life, I'll never generalize or discriminate and I'll never be a bystander."*  
– 8<sup>th</sup> grade student

*"I have a deep respect for all those who are strong enough to stand up and let people know how bad things really were. I really believe that the more we learn about the horrible mistakes people have made in the past, the better our future will be."* – 6<sup>th</sup> grade student

*"...I learned that all people are different and small things can make the world a better place... My assumptions about people are wrong; I need to rise above judgments and now I can... An average person can make a difference."*  
– 11<sup>th</sup> grade student

## Student Programs

### No Way Out

- A moving theatre program that tells one family's struggle to leave Germany under Nazi rule – a true story based on actual documents from this period

### Cartoonists Against the Holocaust

- Students learn about the history and impact of political cartoons from the 1930s and 1940s and the courage of those who used their art in an attempt to raise awareness of the Holocaust

### Human Rights Institute for High School Student Leaders

- Full-day program of student-run workshops, presentations and discussions on prejudice, discrimination, tolerance and acceptance to encourage human rights activists
- Dynamic keynote addresses focus on human rights abuses and injustices, and the importance of youthful leadership in confronting these issues

### Upstander Day

- Participating schools encourage and help students produce an activist response to a global human rights cause

## Community Programs

### Distinguished Lecture Series

- Internationally renowned scholars and authors address the Holocaust, genocide and human rights issues
- Open to educators, students and the community

### Countywide Holocaust Commemoration Program

- Our annual Westchester County Holocaust Commemoration is truly inspirational
- Program includes choirs, elected officials, guest speakers, Holocaust survivors and their families

## Educator Programs

### Focus Seminars

- Afternoon programs for educators that emphasize specific aspects of the Holocaust and human rights for classroom use
- Seminars and workshops provide practical suggestions and materials for educators

### Educator Trip

- This annual trip to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., is a unique opportunity for teachers to gain the knowledge and comfort to deal with this difficult and important subject.
- Master teachers lead discussions on Holocaust education guidelines, how to use the Museum as a resource and the value of survivor testimonies in the classroom.

### Educational Resources

- *Testimony of the Human Spirit* is HHREC's documentary film that traces Holocaust history through the eyes of six survivors who were children in Europe during the Third Reich
- Educator's Set includes the DVD, a Teacher's Training Guide and a Holocaust and Human Rights Curriculum

## Speakers Bureau

- Our powerful and compelling Speakers Bureau is a group of 29 Holocaust survivors and rescuers, including those featured in our film, *Testimony of the Human Spirit*
- These courageous men and women bring their personal experiences into the classroom, putting a human face on the lessons of the Holocaust and human rights.

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