

Ann Goldstein

From: Michael Hilsenrath [michael@gmby.demon.co.uk]
Sent: Thursday, May 01, 2003 7:29 AM
To: julius berman; Gideon Taylor; Israel Singer
Cc: clemens
Subject: Allocations for Shoah Research and Education

Dear Julie, Gideon and Israel,

Further to your recent memo regarding this issue, the AJA's general position is that it supports the continued allocation of monies to Shoah Research and Education applicants.

While we recognise how vital our support of survivors is we also believe it is very important to support Research and Education activities to ensure that the history, lessons and the legacy of the Shoah do not die with the last survivor. Support for these activities will generate long term benefit for all and not just for the greater Jewish community. For example, as we get further away from the Shoah itself, the tide of Holocaust Revisionism will increase and we must have the ability to counter this movement without the assistance of eye witnesses.

I appreciate this is a very emotional issue for all parties. Like most (if not all) of the people involved in the Claims Conference, I am connected to the Shoah as I am a child of a refugee from Hitler's Austria as well as being someone who lost the majority of his extended family in the Shoah. My family is fortunate that those still with us do not need the financial support from the Conference but we, like most right-minded people, are sensitive to the needs of survivors in general. This said, we also believe in the need for education and research now and for the future.

Whilst this is not a paper such as you requested in your memo, I hope stating our position will help you in preparation of the discussion. If you need anything from me, please don't hesitate to ask.

Be well.

Regards

Michael