

ZENTRALRAT DER JUDEN IN DEUTSCHLAND

Körperschaft des öffentlichen Rechts

Conference on Jewish Material
Claims Against Germany, Inc.
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20. Ijar 5763
Unser Zeichen: KR/

Shoah Research, Documentation and Education
Meeting Board of Directors

Dear Gideon:

Thank you very much for your Memorandum of April 11th, 2003 concerning the above mentioned issue.

On behalf of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, represented by Ms. Charlotte Knobloch, Vicepresident and Dr. Salomon Korn, Member of the Board, I would like to submit our point of view. We strongly urge the Claims Conference to continue with the allocation of restitution funds for programs of Shoah research, documentation and education. A decrease or total abort of allocation in this area would be more then counterproductive. In contrary, we would like to encourage the Claims Conference to extend the funds allocated for these important tasks from 20% up to 25%.

There is not one day passing by, in which the news headlines do not report a growing anti-semitism and violence against Jewish institutions as well as individuals, not only in Europe but across the World. Almost every day, we try to encourage non-Jewish government and non-government organizations to allocate even more funds and put more efforts into the fight against anti-semitism and xenophobia through education programs.

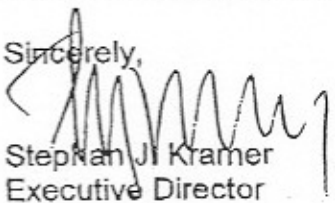
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The Shoah education programs financed by the Claims Conference are an important brick in that wall against this hatred of people. The stop of these programs would be an absolute wrong and counterproductive signal to the world.

Also the allocation of funds for Shoah documentation and research is very important these days. Although a lot of research in this matter has been done in the past years, we all discover in our current work that there are a lot of untold stories about the forms of persecution during the Nazi-dictatorship and that a lot of details can be discovered only these days, after such a long time, before the last voices of surviving victims disappear forever.

Because of all these reasons and certainly others, which we would bring into the discussion during the upcoming meeting in New York, we are in favour of the continuation and rather the extension of the allocation for Shoah research, documentation and education.

Sincerely,



Stephan J. Kramer
Executive Director