



Please reply to: 12 York Gate
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Our Ref: WDR/AR

Mr G Taylor
The Conference of Jewish Material
Claims Against Germany Inc
15 East 26th Street
Room 906
New York
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U S A

2nd July 2003

Dear Gideon,

Shoah Research, Documentation and Education

You have asked for comment on the current policy of allocating funds in the ratio 20% to Shoah research documentation and education and 80% to welfare needs.

The Claims Conference, as so many other agencies, suffers from the problem of limited resources. Given that resources are limited there has to be some acceptable way of allocating these limited resources between conflicting demands. There is no objective way of deciding that one course of action is better or more moral than another. All are equally demanding of our attention.

In these circumstances the Board of the Claims Conference has had no choice but to draw up our own guidelines. The present allocation of 20:80 was arrived at after much heart searching and is, we think, still a fair and reasonable approach.

From our own experience in the United Kingdom there is an increase in demand for expenditure now in the area of education. Indeed, we are finding we are spending more not less of our own funds in this area *despite* the fact that our survivor community is ageing and becoming more dependent.

There are two very clear reasons for that. The first is the sad fact that survivors who can still tell their stories are reducing in number so it becomes more and more urgent to ensure that their stories can be recorded for posterity.

The other, sadly, is that intolerance in its widest sense is becoming more and more prevalent. It has different forms in different places. Without the solid background of research documentation and education to counteract its insidious resurgence, intolerance with its horrific consequences will thrive.

For that reason, if for no other, I believe now would be entirely the wrong time to reduce the allocation of funds to Shoah research documentation and education.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,


David Rothenberg