

Erzbischof Justin Welby –
Ephraim Mirvis, Oberrabbiner der United Hebrew Congregations of the
Commonwealth

Archbishop of Canterbury and Chief Rabbi visit Yad Vashem

Erzbischof Justin Welby und Oberrabbiner Mirvis besuchten die Gedenkstätte Yad Vashem, um der Tragödie des Holocaust zu gedenken und die Folgen und Auswirkungen zu beklagen, die er auf so viele Menschenleben hatte. In seiner Rede in Yad Vashem wies der Erzbischof auf die Geschichte des Antisemitismus in der Kirche hin und bekräftigte sein Engagement für die Fortsetzung der Bemühungen zur Bekämpfung des Antisemitismus. Oberrabbiner Mirvis betont, wie wichtig es für das ehrende Gedenken der Opfer ist, Erinnerungsarbeit zu leisten innerhalb der britischen Gesellschaft, die jüdische Identität innerhalb der Gemeinschaft zu stärken und das Miteinander zu pflegen, wie es die Freundschaft zwischen ihm und dem Erzbischof Welby zeigt.

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Speaking at Yad Vashem, the Archbishop of Canterbury said today:

Within European culture, the root of all racism, I think, is found in anti-Semitism. It goes back more than a thousand years. Within our Christian tradition there have been century upon century of these terrible, terrible hatreds. One people, who contributed more to our culture as a people than almost any other that one can identify, was also hated more specifically, more violently, more determinedly and more systematically, than any other group.

In the last year, we see uncovered even in England afresh that sense of anti-Semitism. Until that is expelled from our culture there will be a root, a tap root, for all racism, all discrimination, all cruelty, because of the nature of the human being in our culture. And so we must dedicate ourselves afresh, as the Chief Rabbi has put so beautifully, to build and maintain bridges of friendship, understanding tolerance and peace.

There was a commitment by the last British government, which has been renewed by this one, that there will be a learning centre, a memorial, just near the Houses of Parliament, and that commitment has been renewed.

Coming here today I am reminded how important that is, and particularly when having spoken to members of Parliament over the last few months who are Jewish, they have spoken of the upsurge in attacks on them and the wickedness that they have suffered.

To build these bridges is an essential, and the bridges must carry us to a place where to attack someone because they are Jewish, in our words, even in our deepest

thoughts, is something that is only found mysteriously in old history books, because it is so far behind us. Nothing less is enough.

Speaking at Yad Vashem, Chief Rabbi Mirvis said:

Being here right now in Yad Vashem must prompt us to ask the question, how can we best pay tribute to the memory of the 6 million victims of the Shoah. Or better put, what would those Jewish victims be wanting us to be doing? And I'd like to provide three answers. The first is never to forget and to guarantee through our actions that others will never forget, and this we do through effective Holocaust education and as the Archbishop mentioned, we are so proud of the fact that through the United Kingdom Holocaust Memorial Foundation a memorial and a learning centre will be established right at the heart of London during the next few years to the memory of the Shoah so that we as a society will be able to translate the lessons of the Shoah into action in our time. Secondly, we need to ensure within our own Jewish circles that we strengthen our Jewish identity to guarantee that *Ams Yisrael Chai*, the Jewish people will live on, despite those efforts to destroy our nation. And thirdly, we need to build bridges, bridges of understanding, of tolerance, of hope, of unity and of peace – and it is in that very context that the Archbishop of Canterbury and I are in Jerusalem today and are standing here in Yah Vashem right now.

We enjoy a deep and warm friendship. A similar friendship existed between Archbishop William Temple and Chief Rabbi Josef Hertz, in 1942 when the two of them founded the Council of Christians and Jews right at the very time when the Shoah was taking place. And during the last 75 years through CCJ and through other means, our connections, our bond, all the values that we share, have enabled us as communities to grow closer together.

But it is so critically important that the friendship and the warmth that we have at the top, through church and synagogue leaders, must permeate down to grass roots level in order to guarantee that within our communities there is an equal sense of togetherness, of understanding, of tolerance and of unity.

So by being here together, the two of us are sending out a very strong message. Today in Jerusalem we prayed together for peace and today in Jerusalem we call on all others, not just to yearn and pray for peace, but to do something proactive to guarantee that we within our fragile and divided world, will indeed achieve peace. That will be the ultimate tribute for us to pay to the victims of the Shoah. May their memory be for an eternal blessing. Amen.

Quelle:

<https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/archbishop-canterbury-and-chief-rabbi-visit-yad-vashem> (2024-05).