

**United States Mission to  
the United Nations**

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U.S. Mission to the United Nations  
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AS DELIVERED

Good afternoon, everyone, and thank you for being here with us today. It is a great honor for all of us at the United States Mission to be co-hosting the opening of this exhibition along with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

“Some Were Neighbors: Choice, Human Behavior and the Holocaust” is poignant and necessarily discomfiting—a display of the choices made by ordinary people amid the Nazi regime’s campaign of violence and terror across Europe.

I want to encourage everyone to explore the exhibition, absorb its sobering message, and allow that message to confront you. Because while most exhibits document the horrors of the Holocaust perpetrated by German soldiers and Nazi officials, this exhibit explores the stories of those whose inaction helped create the conditions in which violence could occur.

By illustrating the indifference of ordinary people, it puts to each of us the uncomfortable question of what we would have done when faced with the small indignities and moments of inhumanity that metastasize



and our commitment to grapple with the moral failures of that era.

This is urgent work, but it cannot be done alone. All nations must commit to educating the next generation about what took place in Auschwitz, in Dachau, in Buchenwald, and at so many other sites that bore witness to the crimes of that era. Education is key. We must tell the stories of the victims of the Nazi regime. We must affirm the sanctity of every innocent human life. And we must commit to living out what is meant by the words "never again."

I want to thank the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum for the work it is doing here in New York, in Washington, and around the world to remind us that every person, no matter his or her profession, has a role to play in standing against the demonization of "the other," regardless of religion or belief, race, ethnicity, or sex#pt

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