



**QUESTION: HOW LONG CAN THE JEWS PERPETRATE THE HOLOCAUST MYTH?**



# DENYING THE "RIGHT" TO HOLOCAUST DENIAL

## Activity

How is it possible to not view the denial of the Holocaust, the attempt to exterminate the Jewish People, the Nation of Israel, based on nothing but their religious and ethno-tribal affiliation, as hate speech? Furthermore, when it is known that incitement against Jews and Israelis in particular has led to terrorists murdering Jews, how can anyone let this most basic of incitements stand?

Many who make blanket statements about the Holocaust are often engaging in what could be considered as the diminishment of the Holocaust reality - such as by making illegitimate comparisons with other events, either historical and/or modern. This minimization of the extremity of the circumstances faced by Jews during the explosion of Jew-hatred fueled by Nazi ideology, is a version of Holocaust denial that is increasingly used by Israel-haters, perpetuated by Islamofascism, and masked as a legitimate form of political criticism. At the end of the day, the truth becomes real: hate of Jews is still alive and kicking, and Holocaust denial is one tool by which to keep it thriving in the hotbed of social inferno.

When Facebook decided to allow Holocaust denial to flow freely on its pages, Israel Forever's interns, offered a voice of clear moral reason: There is no "right" to deny the Holocaust.

We invite you to use this activity to engage your participants, children, community, or youth movement in a dynamic discussion on Holocaust denial today and what YOU as a Virtual Citizen of Israel can do about it. Please adapt the language used in the quotes and discussion question suggestions to make them age appropriate.

## OBJECTIVES

- To teach learners about Holocaust denial
- To encourage young Jews to be proud of Israel and being Jewish
- To be able to recognize Holocaust denial
- To learn and develop the tools needed to fight Holocaust denial, and to be able to articulate why this is not acceptable free speech and should not be allowed, nor tolerated

## GETTING STARTED/INTRODUCTION

**Read aloud:** What is Holocaust Denial?

*Holocaust denial is the distortion, diminishment or outright negation of facts relating to the attempted extermination of Europe's Jews by the Nazi regime and their local and global collaborators. Mainstream Holocaust denial includes but is not limited to illegitimate comparisons with other historical events that may have some elements in common and whose events are deserving of study for their own sake, but bear little resemblance to the severity of systematic persecution imposed on Jews during the Holocaust.*

## BACKGROUND RESOURCES

[Denying The Right to Holocaust Denial](#)

[Holocaust Memory Continues but Knowledge is Fading](#)

[The Fetid Stench of BDS](#)

[Antisemitism The Oldest Hatred Gone Viral](#)

[Menachem Begin I Believe the Lessons of the Holocaust are These](#)

[Erasing The Jew From Holocaust Memory](#)

[Beating BDS](#)

## DENYING THE RIGHT ACTIVITY

With so much ignorance in the world, it's important to separate fact from fiction.

**Fact:** The Holocaust happened

**Fact:** More than 6 million Jews perished in the Holocaust

**Fact:** Denying the Holocaust is a denial of historic reality

You (after having read each quote) will be given one quote per pair, and have several minutes to discuss the quotes with your partner. Suggestion discussion questions are listed below after the quotes. Write down your thoughts and ideas about this quote, and your answers to these (or other related) questions.

## EDUCATOR - READ EACH QUOTE ALOUD OR HAND OUT TO HAVE STUDENTS READ

The public is increasingly vocal about combating forms of hate, but Jew-hatred doesn't seem to be relevant to them. Why or why not?

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Should there be freedom of speech for all hatred?

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How can we stop social media platform from being the primary place for people to spread lies about Jews, the Holocaust, and Israel?

Allowing for Holocaust deniers to have an uninhibited voice only serves to foster ignorance and Antisemitism.  
What can one person do to make a difference and not feel that their voice gets lost in the void?

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Normalizing the denial of the Holocaust and allowing people to continue to believe something that is false but think it's real because they "saw it on Facebook" is a serious issue that makes it difficult to stand up for truth. How much "policing" of social media can be done without jeopardizing people's civil rights and rights to free speech?

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Denial of the Holocaust is a threat to the Jewish people. It is the recognition of hate towards the Jewish people.  
It's not fair and it's frankly cowardly.

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Instead of Facebook allowing Holocaust deniers to continue spreading their false claims in order to promote freedom of speech, it should be educating their wrongly informed users on the traumatic historical event that will forever affect the Jewish community. How can this be done when much of the education system involved superficial learning about the Holocaust?

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How can we encourage people to go DEEPER into a study of the Holocaust to become more equipped with the knowledge to combat Holocaust denial?

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Do you agree that saying "Israeli Holocaust of the Palestinians" is equal to Holocaust denial?

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Time and time again Jews are being censored for our views, how come Judaism and pro Israel statements are not considered acceptable free speech? Why is it free speech when it is against the Jews but not for the Jews?

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As our world is supposedly moving towards a more "accepting" and "diverse" society, it seems to be that Jews are continuously excluded from these movements and mindsets. "We must accept everyone and make all people feel welcome in their country of origin!" Except the Jews.

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Holocaust denial is not free speech. It is hate speech. It is complete and utter hatred against Jewish people because it is aimed at denying the murder of 6 million Jews, but not denying the murder of the hundreds of thousands of disabled people, homosexuals, gypsies, blacks and political dissidents.

There is no room in society for Holocaust denial. Do leaders of the social network have the duty to make sure of that?

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As we say "Never Forget" about the Holocaust we must also say that we will never let people spread false tales to minimize the atrocity that occurred on our people.

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By allowing haters to use Facebook as a platform it enables us to find them and discredit them. But what happens when they are not discredited? What happens when these outrageous and sickening statements are allowed to stand and actually believed by those who don't take the time to learn the truth?

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There is a fine line between what constitutes freedom of speech and what is a hate crime. It is one thing for an individual to have hateful opinions, but it is quite another to use social media to spread anti-Semitism and other hate in order to create a norm against the targeted victim group. OR IS IT?

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Holocaust denial is hate speech. It is an attack on the Jewish people. It is an attack on truth. Holocaust denial de-legitimizes history and the plight of the Jewish people, thus indicating antisemitic intentions. How can we make people more aware of the dangerous implications of these convoluted intentions and the serious damage they can cause without being accused of being "paranoid" about Antisemitism, or exaggerating the reality and danger of Holocaust denial, BDS and other like-minded movements?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you agree/disagree with the quote?
2. Why do you agree/disagree?
3. What can you do to fight Holocaust denial?
4. Why do you think Holocaust denial exists?
5. Do you think this is better/worse in a specific country/region of the world?
6. What can you do if you encounter someone face-to-face, or via social media, who is a Holocaust denier?
7. Should censorship be introduced in the media? If so who decides what should be censored? If relevant/age appropriate bring up the Charlie Hebdo terror attack.
8. Should Holocaust denial be made illegal?
9. Free speech and freedom of expression is an important part of any free democratic society, does it have limits?
10. Does censorship infringe on free speech? Can you have one without sacrificing the other?

## WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

Share your thoughts and ideas - if any pair is willing to stand up in front of the class to present their thoughts, that is also good. Say two things you learned today about denying the right to Holocaust deniers. Be proud of Israel, its accomplishments and global impact, and be proud of being Jewish.

## CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

**READ ALOUD:** Holocaust denial is dangerous. As time goes on and we get further away from the horrific event that was the Holocaust, more and more people are not knowledgeable about its occurrence or the events that took place. If we allow [the memory of the Holocaust to fade](#) and allow Holocaust deniers to prevail it will only cast a darker shadow in people's memory of the Holocaust and will soon be forgotten or be believed that it never happened. Take action today and stand up to the lies and hate.

## NEXT STEPS

Not sure what to do next? Become a [Virtual Citizen of Israel](#), and organize a "[buycott](#)" of Israeli products at your school, campus, synagogue or local JCC. Help defend Israel and Jewish rights on [social media](#), and become an [Ambassador](#).

## ABOUT THE ISRAEL FOREVER FOUNDATION - YOUR HOME FOR ISRAEL ENGAGEMENT

The Israel Forever Foundation is an apolitical, nondenominational Israel engagement organization that develops and promotes informal learning and activism resources and opportunities to deepen and mobilize the personal connection to Israel.

**We hope you have enjoyed using this resource. Please take a minute to fill out our [evaluation form](#) and help us be as effective as possible in providing the resources and tools you need to make the personal Israel connection come to life, whatever the age, wherever you are in the world.**