



## **PRESSEKIT**

# **Markeringen af 80-året for aktionen mod de danske jøder i 2023**

**I 1943 indledte den tyske besættelsesmagt aktionen mod de danske jøder. Selvom det lykkedes mange at flygte til Sverige gennem en stor folkelig indsats, blev knap 500 jøder pågrebet og deporteret til Theresienstadt. I år er det 80 år siden, de dramatiske begivenheder fandt sted. Det markeres med en lang række tiltag i løbet af 2023 både i Danmark og udlandet. Foruden flere lokale initiativer og tiltag, planlægges og koordineres aktiviteterne i samarbejde mellem Dansk Jødisk Museum, Det Jødiske Samfund i Danmark, Humanity in Action og Udenrigsministeriet.**

En officiel mindehøjtidelighed vil finde sted den 8. oktober 2023 på Det Kongelige teater i København, der følges op af et todages seminar i Gilleleje for indbudte vidner, politikere og forskere. Markeringen af 80-året for aktionen mod de danske jøder er ikke bare en vigtig dansk begivenhed. Det markeres også i en række andre lande, hvor den danske historie huskes som et lys i mørket under Holocaust.

Eksempelvis skal en helt ny udstilling på The Jewish Heritage Museum i New York, der åbner til efteråret med titlen "Courage to Act: Rescue in Denmark", formidle historien til især de unge.

I Danmark er historien blevet en vigtig del af fortællingen om Danmarks rolle og optræden under Anden Verdenskrig. Ikke alene er det historien om redningen. Det er i lige så høj grad en historie om de voldsomme og frygtelige oplevelser under flugt, eksil og fangenskab, der resulterede i ar på både liv og sjæl for de fordrevne.

Der er udviklet en fælles visuel identitet og et logo for 80-årsmarkeringen, der skal binde de mange forskellige tiltag sammen. Den visuelle identitet er udviklet i samarbejde og dialog med en række af de centrale aktører i markeringen, særligt Det Jødiske Samfund, Humanity in Action og Udenrigsministeriet.

Se pressemateriale her: [Pressebilleder - 80-aaret](#)

## ***Stemmer i stilheden***

Mandag den 24. april lanceredes animationsfilmen *Stemmer i stilheden* i Festsalen på Nationalmuseet. Filmen handler om den dengang bare 14-årige Bent Melchior og hans families flugt til Sverige i oktober 1943. Filmen både fortæller og aktualiserer historien og sammen med et helt nyt undervisningsmateriale inviterer den til en debat om, hvad der skal gøres for at undgå, at historien gentager sig.

Filmen er oprindeligt produceret af Humanity in Action i USA som første del af en filmtrilogi med titlen *TRACES – Portraits of Resistance, Survival and Resolve*. Trilogien undersøger hvordan modstand mod nazisternes jødeforfølgelser under 2. verdenskrig så ud i tre forskellige lande, Danmark, Holland og Tyskland. *Stemmer i stilheden* fortæller om et dansk eksempel på modstand, og kan som film også stå alene. I filmen lægger Bent Melchior selv stemme til historien – både i den engelske og nu den danske version. Se mere om filmen her: [https://www.80aaret.dk/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Voices\\_in\\_the\\_Void\\_-\\_one-pager\\_-\\_Long\\_pitch\\_-\\_12.04.23.pdf](https://www.80aaret.dk/fileadmin/user_upload/Voices_in_the_Void_-_one-pager_-_Long_pitch_-_12.04.23.pdf)

Filmen fik international premiere i Tel Aviv i december 2022 efter at have været vist på en række filmfestivaler verden over. Nu lanceres den i en dansk version, som er udviklet af Humanity in Action Denmark, den danske ambassade i Tel Aviv og Udenrigsministeriet.

Sammen med filmen lanceres også et tilhørende undervisningsmateriale udviklet af Holocaust-museet Ghetto Fighter House i Israel med Dansk Jødisk Museum som historiske konsulenter og støttet af Slots og Kulturstyrelsen. Netop nu samarbejder alle parterne med Udenrigsministeriet som primus motor på at gøre både filmen og materialet tilgængeligt i resten af verden som en del af markeringen af 80-året.

Filmen er offentligt tilgængelig på YouTube i både dansk og engelsk version og den kan rekvireres i et format, der egner sig til visninger gennem Humanity in Action. Undervisningsmaterialet vil ligeledes være frit tilgængeligt.

Den internationale indsats suppleres af en revideret og opdateret udgave af lektor ved SDU og en af landets førende Holocaust forskere, Therkel Strædes bog om emnet på engelsk udgivet af Udenrigsministeriet i samarbejde med Dansk Jødisk Museum.

## ***Snublesten***

Også i Danmark endte både jøder og andre, der blev forfulgt for deres religion, politiske overbevisning, seksuelle orientering eller bidrag til modstandskampen, som ofre for nazismens forbrydelser. For at mindes de mange enkeltpersoner som individer, lægges en såkaldt snublesten ud for personens sidst kendte bopæl. Det er Europas – og nok verdens – største decentrale mindesmærke. Der er på verdensplan lagt over 90.000 sten. I Danmark er der lagt mere end 60 sten, og der er mange flere på vej.

En ny app giver nu stemme til ofrene for nazismens forbrydelser i Danmark. I appen kan du høre ofrets personlige historie på stedet – lige der på fortovet, hvor du er 'snublet' over stenen. Formidlingen er tiltænkt alle historieinteresserede og særligt skoleklasser, som kan gå på opdagelse efter historien i byrummet. Jeg-fortællingerne er fikcionaliseret over historiske kilder og pårørendes beretninger. Det er en seriøs, værdifuld og ikke mindst virkningsfuld kommunikationsform, der sætter den personlige fortælling i centrum. Fortællingerne er indlæst af skuespillere eller radioværter. Appen er udviklet af Historiens Hus og med indhold produceret af Dansk Jødisk Museum baseret på de autentiske personlige historier bag snublestenene. Projektet har fået økonomisk støtte fra Undervisningsministeriet.

Prøv webappen her: <https://snublesten.historienshus.dk/>

## Program

80-året vil foruden den officielle markering bestå af en lang række større og mindre aktiviteter og tiltag i hele landet hen over året. Det begyndte med Auschwitzdag i januar og siden lanceringen af filmen *Stemmer i stilheden*. Allerede den 4. juni åbner foto- og portrætudstillingen ”Gør en forskel” i forbindelse med Jødisk Kulturfestival. Der vil rejses to nye mindesmærker for flugten og redningen henholdsvis ved stranden ved Vedbæk og i Lund på Stevns. Til oktober vil Hamlet Scenen på Kronborg have premiere på stykket *Ekko fra Venedig*. Dertil kommer en række foredrag, debat arrangementer og udgivelser:

Se løbende programmet her: [www.80aaret.dk](http://www.80aaret.dk).

## Citater

### **Peter Hummelgaard – justitsminister**

Ved premieren på *Stemmer i stilheden* var justitsminister Peter Hummelgaard hovedtaler. ”Der findes historier, hvis budskaber er så universelle, at de rækker langt ud over tid og sted. Sådant en historie er beretningen om de danske jøders flugt til Sverige i 1943. Vores børn og unge skal kende historien – vi skal blive ved med at oplyse om Holocaust og jødisk liv i kampen mod antisemitisme. De værdier, vi lærer som børn, er ofte dem, vi tager med os resten af livet. Derfor er det en betydelig del af dannelsen i skolen at lære at have respekt for sine medborgere på trods af forskelle”, udtaler justitsminister Peter Hummelgaard.

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### **Janus Møller Jensen – museumsdirektør Dansk Jødisk Museum**

”Vi står ved en vigtig skillelinje. Langsomt forsvinder de sidste vidner til historien og det er vigtigere end nogensinde både at høre og bevare vidnesbyrden fra de overlevende og erindre begivenhederne. Det er sørgeligt aktuelt i en tid med fortsat krig, forfølgelse og flygtningestrømme. Og hvor antisemitismen fortsat lever også i Danmark”, siger Janus Møller Jensen, direktør for Dansk Jødisk Museum, og fortsætter:

”Vi har udviklet et nyt materiale med et fælles symbol og en hjemmeside, der skal være med til at skabe større synlighed for markeringen og overblik over de mange aktiviteter, der finder sted i løbet af 2023. Vi håber og opfordrer til, at det vil blive brugt bredt af alle kulturinstitutioner, til netop at øge opmærksomheden for denne vigtige historie og markering”.

”Filmen fortæller om et afgørende øjeblik i Danmarkshistorien af stor betydning - også for nutiden. Vi håber, at filmen og det nye undervisningsmateriale kan skabe og inspirere til debat af de værdier, der kom til udtryk i samtiden, og hvorfor det er vigtigt at diskutere dem i dag”, udtaler direktør for Dansk Jødisk Museum Janus Møller Jensen.

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### **Henri Goldstein, formand Det Jødiske Samfund.**

”80 år er en menneskealder, men da mange af flygtningene i oktober 1943 var børn, har vil heldigvis mange overlevende blandt os endnu. Det er vigtigt at vi benytter jubilæet til at stoppe op og lytte til dem. Et vidneudsagn fra en person, der var til stede, er stærkere end selv de bedste og stærkeste genfortællinger.

Historien om oktober 1943 er en vigtig historie for Danmark og de danske jøder. For os danske jøder er det vores arv og et livsvilkår, at stort set alle har forældre, bedsteforældre eller oldeforældre, der var flygtninge. Og vi må aldrig glemme, at for omkring 500 danske jøder var oktober 1943 begyndelsen på halvandet år i Theresienstadt med sult, ydmygelser og uvished.

For Danmark er den delvise redning af de danske jøder en af de mest kendte og positive billeder på Danmark og danske værdier i udlandet. Historien om Anden Verdenskrig er fyldt af dilemmaer og modsætninger, men oktober 1943 står mejslet i historiebøgerne som et tidspunkt, hvor Danmark som nation entydigt stod på den rigtige side af historien”.

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### **Mikaela von Freiesleben sekretariatsleder - Humanity in Action Danmark**

”Humanity in Action blev skabt af Herbert Pundik, der selv måtte flygte til Sverige i oktober 1943. Han stiftede organisationen for at undersøge, hvad redningen af de danske jøder kan lære os, og hvordan vi kan blive ved med at inspirere unge mennesker til aktivt at tage stilling og til at handle, når situationen kræver det. Det er også udgangspunktet for *Stemmer i stilheden* og det tilhørende undervisningsmateriale”, udtaler Mikaela von Freiesleben sekretariatsleder Humanity in Action Danmark.

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### **Judith Goldstein, Humanity in Action USA**

“The 80th anniversary comes at an extremely important time. For over 26 years, Humanity in Action has highlighted the rescue of Jews in Denmark as a unique example of a country protecting a minority under duress. We have sought to understand the particular dynamics of the powerful Danish civic culture that rejected the roles of collaborators and bystanders. Today, protecting minorities, strengthening democratic practices and sustaining human rights are more challenging and important than in any of the previous years of our Humanity in Action's educational and public work with younger generations”.

### **Praktisk info**

Man tilmelder arrangementer, der kan indgå som en del af den officielle markering af 80-året, via hjemmesiden [www.80aaret.dk](http://www.80aaret.dk), hvor man også finder oversigten over aktiviteterne. Herigennem får man også adgang til det grafiske materiale.

Link til pressebilleder: [Pressebilleder - 80-aaret](#)

Kontakt venligst Laura Hoffmann Jensen fra Dansk Jødisk Museum for logoer på [lhj@jewmus.dk](mailto:lhj@jewmus.dk)



## PRESS KIT

# 2023 – Commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of the Persecution of Denmark's Jews

**In 1943, the German occupying power started their persecution of Danish Jews. Although many of them managed to escape to Sweden thanks to a large-scale effort on the part of the Danish people, almost 500 Jews were arrested and deported to Theresienstadt. This year it is precisely 80 years since these dramatic events took place. In 2023, this dark moment in history will be commemorated with a wide range of initiatives both in Denmark and abroad. In addition to several local initiatives, activities will be planned and coordinated in collaboration between the Danish Jewish Museum, Det Jødiske Samfund i Danmark [the Jewish Community in Denmark], Humanity in Action and the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.**

On 8 October 2023 There will be an official memorial service at the Royal Theatre in Copenhagen, followed by a two-day seminar in the city of Gilleleje for invited witnesses, politicians and researchers. Commemorating the 80th anniversary of the persecution of Denmark's Jews is not just an important event in Denmark. It is also being commemorated in a number of other countries, who are remembering the story as a light in the darkness of the Holocaust. For example, this autumn will see the opening of a brand new exhibition at the Jewish Heritage Museum in New York – *Courage to Act: Rescue in Denmark* – targeted particularly at children and young people.

In Denmark, the event has become an important part of the story of Denmark's role and actions during World War II. It is not simply a story of *rescue*. It is also a story of *escape*, in which Denmark's Jews played an active role, and about their intense, horrific experiences during escape, exile and captivity that left scars on both their lives and souls.

We have devised a common visual identity and logo for the 80th anniversary commemoration to unite the numerous different initiatives. The visual identity was devised in collaboration and discussion with a number of key figures involved in the commemoration: in particular, Det Jødiske Samfund, Humanity in Action and the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

See the press material here: [Pressebilleder - 80-aaret](#)

## *Voices in the Void*

Monday 24 April saw the launch of the animated film *Voices in the Void* at the National Museum of Denmark. The film is about the escape of the then 14-year-old Bent Melchior and his family to Sweden in October 1943. The film both tells and updates the story and, together with brand new educational material, paves the way for debate about what we need to do if we are to prevent history from repeating itself.

The film was originally produced by Humanity in Action in the United States as the first part of a trilogy entitled *TRACES – Portraits of Resistance, Survival and Resolve*. The trilogy examines the nature of resistance to Nazi persecution during World War II in three different countries – Denmark, the Netherlands and Germany. *Voices in the Void* is about Denmark's resistance and can be watched as a film in its own right. In the film, we hear Bent Melchior himself telling the story – both in the English and now the Danish version. To find out more about the film, visit:

[https://www.80aaret.dk/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Voices\\_in\\_the\\_Void - one-pager - Long pitch - 12.04.23.pdf](https://www.80aaret.dk/fileadmin/user_upload/Voices_in_the_Void_-_one-pager_-_Long_pitch_-_12.04.23.pdf)

The film received its international premiere in Tel Aviv in December 2022 after screenings at a number of different film festivals throughout the world. Now comes a Danish version, developed by Humanity in Action Denmark, the Danish Embassy in Tel Aviv and the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The launch of the film is accompanied by educational material devised by the Ghetto Fighters' House Museum in Israel, with the Danish Jewish Museum as history consultants and supported by the Danish Agency for Culture and Palaces. Right now, all parties are working together with the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs to make both the film and the material available to the rest of the world as part of the 80th anniversary commemoration.

The film is publicly available on YouTube in both the Danish and English versions, and a screenable is available upon request from Humanity in Action. The educational material will also be freely accessible.

The international efforts have been complemented by a revised and updated version of the book about the subject (in English) by Therkel Stræde, an Associate Professor at University of Southern Denmark and one of the country's leading Holocaust researchers. It will be published by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with the Danish Jewish Museum.

## *Stolpersteine*

In Denmark too, both Jews and others who were persecuted for their religion, political beliefs, sexual orientation or contributions to the resistance, ended up as victims of Nazi crimes. In memory of those many individuals, *stolpersteine* (stumbling stones) will be laid outside their last known places of residence. They amount to the largest decentralised memorial in Europe – if not in the world. More than 90,000 stones have been laid worldwide. Denmark has laid more than 60 stones, and many more are on the way.

A new app now gives voice to the victims of Nazi crimes in Denmark. In the app you can listen to a victim's personal story in situ – on the pavement where you 'stumbled' across the stone. This outreach initiative is aimed at history enthusiasts and, particularly, schools, allowing pupils to explore history in public spaces. The first-hand accounts are fictionalised versions of historical sources and reports by relatives. It is a serious, valuable and highly effective form of communication that spotlights the personal story. The stories are read by actors or radio presenters. The app was developed by Historiens Hus [House of History – the City Archive in Odense], featuring content produced by the Danish Jewish Museum based on the authentic personal stories behind the stumbling stones. The project is funded by the Danish Ministry of Education.

Try the online app here: <https://snublesten.historienshus.dk/>

## Programme

In addition to the official commemoration, the 80th anniversary year will feature a huge range of activities throughout Denmark on every conceivable scale. It began with Auschwitz Day in January, followed by the film *Voices in the Void*. On 4 June the photo and portrait exhibition *Make a Difference* opened as part of the Jewish Cultural Festival. Two new memorials to escape and rescue will be erected – on the beach at Vedbæk, and in Lund in Stevns. In October, HamletScenen at Kronborg will premiere the play *Ekko fra Venedig* (Echo from Venice). There will also be a number of talks, debate events and publications.

Follow the programme here: [www.80aaret.dk](http://www.80aaret.dk).

## Quotes

### **Peter Hummelgaard – Danish Minister of Justice**

The Danish Minister of Justice was the keynote speaker at the premiere of *Voices in the Void*.

“There are certain stories, the message of which is so universal, that they extend far beyond time and place. One such story is the escape of Denmark’s Jews to Sweden in 1943. Our children and young people need to know the story. In our efforts to combat anti-Semitism, we must continue to teach them about the Holocaust and Jewish life. The values we learn as children are often the ones that remain with us for the rest of our lives. Learning respect for one’s fellow citizens – despite differences – is a crucial part of general education in school.”

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### **Janus Møller Jensen – Director of the Danish Jewish Museum**

“We’re facing an important dividing line. Gradually, the last-remaining witnesses to the story are disappearing. So, it’s more important than ever to hear and preserve the testimonies of the survivors, and to remember the events. This is distressingly topical in an age of continued war, persecution and refugee flows, when anti-Semitism still exists in Denmark too.

We have devised new material with a common symbol and a website to help make the commemoration more visible, and to provide a list of the numerous activities that will take place during 2023. We urge all cultural institutions to make use of it, to raise awareness of this important story and its commemoration.

The film is about a crucial moment in the history of Denmark – a moment that is hugely important – even today. We hope that the film and the new educational material can kindle debate about the values expressed back then, and persuade people how important it is to discuss them today.”

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### **Henri Goldstein – President of Det Jødiske Samfund.**

“80 years is a lifetime, but fortunately, since many of the refugees were just children in October 1943, many of them are still living. It’s important to use the anniversary to take the time to listen to them. A testimony from someone who was present is more powerful than even the most impressive retelling.

The story of October 1943 is an important story both for Denmark and its country’s Jews. For us Danish Jews, almost everyone has parents, grandparents or great-grandparents who were refugees. And we must never forget that for about 500 Danish Jews, October 1943 was the beginning of a year and a half in Theresienstadt – one and a half years of hunger, humiliation and uncertainty.

For Denmark, the partial rescue of the country's Jews constitutes one of the best-known and positive images of Denmark and Danish values abroad. The story of World War II may be one of dilemmas and contradictions, but October 1943 is inscribed in the history books as a moment when Denmark as a nation unequivocally took the right stand."

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#### **Mikaela von Freiesleben – Head of Secretariat, Humanity in Action Denmark**

"Humanity in Action was started by the Danish journalist Herbert Pundik, one of those who had to escape to Sweden in October 1943. He founded the organisation in order to investigate what the rescue of the Danish Jews can teach us and how we can continue to inspire young people to actively take a stand and take action when a situation calls for it. That is also the basis for *Voices in the Void* and the accompanying educational material."

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#### **Judith Goldstein – Humanity in Action USA**

"The 80th anniversary comes at an extremely important time. For over 26 years, Humanity in Action has highlighted the rescue of Jews in Denmark as a unique example of a country protecting a minority under duress. We have sought to understand the particular dynamics of the powerful Danish civic culture that rejected the roles of collaborators and bystanders. Today, protecting minorities, strengthening democratic practices and sustaining human rights are more challenging and important than in any of the previous years of our Humanity in Action's educational and public work with younger generations".

### **Practical information**

You can register events as part of the official commemoration of the 80th anniversary via the website [www.80aaret.dk](http://www.80aaret.dk) where you will also find the list of activities. This also provides you with access to the graphic material.

Link to press photos: [Pressebilleder - 80-aaret](#)

Please contact Laura Hoffmann Jensen from The Danish Jewish Museum for logos at [lhj@jewmus.dk](mailto:lhj@jewmus.dk)