

HUMANITY IN ACTION

BEIT LOHAMEI HAGHETAOT
GHETTO FIGHTERS' HOUSE MUSEUM

DANSK JØDISK MUSEUM
THE DANISH JEWISH MUSEUM

MINISTRY OF CULTURE DENMARK



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF DENMARK

NARRATED BY RABBI BENT MELCHIOR & INA-MIRIAM ROSENBAUM

Voices in the Void

DENMARK, OCTOBER 1943



PRODUCED BY JUDITH GOLDSTEIN & IRENE BRAAM

WRITTEN BY SAMUEL GEORGE DIRECTED BY JUAN PABLO DE GAMBOA

ILLUSTRATED BY CARLOS MARTINEZ ANIMATED BY OSCAR ORJUELA



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EMBASSY OF DENMARK
Tel Aviv

criteria animation

80th Commemoration of the Rescue of the Danish Jews - *Film and Teaching Resources*



The Holocaust is a crime against Humanity never to be repeated and never to be forgotten – recollection and reflection is a shared responsibility, and an important way to prevent history from repeating itself.

The rescue of the majority of Danish Jews is a light in an otherwise dark period in world history and remains a lesson to be remembered and learned from, especially as the world of today continues to grapple with war, persecution, refugee flows, and antisemitism. With many of the Holocaust survivors around the globe reaching the autumn of their lives, it is ever more crucial to preserve their testimonials, to understand the circumstances and the events as they took place, and to make future generations listen, reflect and learn from their experiences.

In order to facilitate remembrance and dialogue across generations, the following **online, interactive and free of charge educational materials** have been developed for teachers, museums, educators and others:

Voices in the Void (18 min.) – an animated documentary about the rescue of the majority of Danish Jews in October 1943. The film tells the story of the late rabbi Bent Melchior who, at the age of 14, together with his family escaped to Sweden. The film is narrated by Rabbi Melchior himself and illuminates the profound contrasts inherent in human nature by balancing stark images of deportation and extermination camps with a narrative emphasizing the human capacity for solidarity, compassion and civic courage - even under the most harrowing circumstances.

- Voices in the Void is part of the animated short documentary trilogy [Traces: Portraits of Resistance, Survival and Resolve - Humanity in Action](#)
- The target audience for the film are secondary-, high school- and university students.
- Link to official trailer: [Voices in the Void \(2021\)- YouTube](#)
- Available online on YouTube in [English](#) and [Danish](#) with subtitles in English, German, Hebrew and Arabic.

Online Interactive Workshop - the personal story of Rabbi Melchior serves as a starting point for discussions on the values and dilemmas manifested in the collective rescue act, and the relevance of these in the world of today. The educational goal is to facilitate and create debate about resilient societies and the choice of the individual in times of crisis. The workshop is a combination of independent tasks, surveys and guided discussions encouraging students to reflect on their own experiences, and to explore alternative ways of thinking.

- The target group is high school students (15+ years).
- The Online Workshop is available in English, Hebrew, Arabic, and Danish.
- For information on Online Workshop, please visit: www.voicesinthevoidgfh.com
- For further information or assistance regarding workshop, please contact Yaron Tzur, Pedagogic Director at Ghetto Fighters' House: yaronz@gfh.org.il



Production Partners

'Voices in the Void' is produced by [Humanity in Action](#), and constitutes the basis for the online and interactive workshop developed by [the Ghetto Fighters' House Museum](#) in Israel with the academic and historical guidance from [the Danish Jewish Museum](#) in Copenhagen.

The project is supported by [the Danish Embassy in Tel Aviv](#) and funded by [the Ministry of Culture Denmark](#) and [the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark](#).

Historical Background

On the night of 1 October, 1943, the German occupying power in Denmark orchestrated a raid to capture and deport the Danish Jews, forcing more than 7000 men, women and children into hiding. Until this night, the cooperation policy between the Danish government and the German occupying power had protected the Jewish community in Denmark from deportation to the Nazi extermination camps where more than 6 million Jews were murdered during the Holocaust. Many amongst the Danish people reacted promptly and jointly by organizing risky boat rescue acts to bring their Jewish countrymen to safety in Sweden. Based on these rescue acts, the large majority of the Danish Jews were saved, yet close to 500 were not so fortunate. Some were caught, others denounced by collaborators and sent to Theresienstadt.

