

NO LONGER UNIMAGINABLE

A Conversation with Holocaust Survivors

Livestreaming
Weds. Sept 21, 2022
6:00-7:30 pm ET
pbs.org/exploringhate

About This Forum

How do Holocaust survivors view the causes and consequences of that historic trauma? How have the hateful policies and sentiments of Nazi Germany found new life in the world today - and what can be done about it? What can people who confronted and survived inhumanity teach us about facing the unimaginable - so that we might identify its evolving shape, and act now to stop it from fully taking form?

Day 2 of 3 | SOMETIMES WE MUST INTERFERE: Conversations on Confronting Inhumanity

Presented by The WNET Group, America's flagship PBS station.

Curated by Brian Tate and Mary Burke.

Project management by Jasmine Wilson and LaToya Semple.

Co-presented with The WNET Group's Exploring Hate initiative.

Promotional Partners

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Michael Bornstein survived for seven months inside Auschwitz, where the average lifespan of a child was just two weeks. Six years after his liberation, he immigrated to the United States. Michael graduated from Fordham University, earned his Ph.D. from the University of Iowa, and worked in pharmaceutical research and development for more than forty years. Now retired, Michael lives with his wife in New York City and speaks frequently to schools and other groups about his experiences in the Holocaust. With his daughter, Debbie Bornstein-Holinstat, Michael is the author of *Survivors Club: The True Story of a Very Young Prisoner of Auschwitz*.

Rabbinic Pastor Dr. Aliza Erber is a life coach, physician, mother, grandmother, Holocaust survivor, speaker, and lecturer. She was born in 1943 in a small town in Holland, where her mother had been sent to evade the German Invasion. The Gestapo soon overran the town and her mother had to give her away. For nearly two years young Aliza was one of the "Hidden Children," concealed in a bunker along with other babies and their caretakers. She is the only survivor of that bunker. Her father - a resistance fighter like his father - was caught and sent to Terezin, then to other concentration camps. He finally succumbed at Auschwitz. She was reunited with her mother after the war, still injured by the trauma of their separation. It has become her responsibility to share her story and that of her family.

Sonja Maier Geismar, a native of Baden, Germany, was four years old when the country's discrimination laws were implemented. She remembers Kristallnacht, the night of over 90 Jewish citizens by Nazis across two days in 1938. She and her family fled on the ill-fated *St. Louis*, joining more than 900 mostly Jewish passengers en route to Cuba. The ship was denied entry, and later turned away from the U.S. The travelers were forced back to Europe, where they dispersed. More than 250 were killed by the Nazis. The family went to England, immigrating to the U.S. before the war. Maier Geismar feels an obligation to speak about the Nazi era and its impact, particularly in the wake of growing anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial.



SOMETIMES WE MUST INTERFERE

Conversations on Confronting Inhumanity

September 20-22, 2022 | 6:00-7:30 pm ET

SOMETIMES WE MUST INTERFERE:

Conversations on Confronting

Inhumanity is a three-part series of events that will explore America's response to the Holocaust and other historic traumas; the reckoning we must face when wholesale bigotry and violence are unmet; and what can be done today to stand against those who would injure entire populations in the name of extremism, greed, and hate.

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America's flagship PBS station.

SERIES SCHEDULE

- 9/20: **We Must Take Sides:** A Conversation about the U.S. and the Holocaust†
- 9/21: **No Longer Unimaginable:** A Conversation with Holocaust Survivors*
- 9/22: **The Border Between Then and Now:** A Conversation with People Threatened with Deportation*

† A hybrid event presented in partnership with Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan.

* Livestreaming at
pbs.org/exploringhate.

For info and livestream registration, visit
pbs.org/exploringhate.

Ilse Melamid: "My life was saved because my mother sent me from Vienna to safety in England on a transport of 10,000 mostly Jewish children admitted by act of British parliament during the year preceding WWII. I was 11 years old. I anticipated this journey with excitement, not realizing that I would not see my parents and sister again.

"My teenage years were lonely, and I had little education. Eventually I emigrated to Australia where I had family and more opportunity to make something of myself - one of my father's wishes for me which he wrote into a memory book on the eve of his escape from Dachau. I graduated from Melbourne University and worked in education.

"A visit to New York in 1966 led to permanent residence, a job at The New School, and marriage to a German-borne refugee. During the last three decades I have had a number of volunteer jobs, and this led to my engagement in philanthropy to help better the lives of others.

"I strongly believe that given opportunity, refugees and immigrants can bring valuable personal strength and ideas to a society."

MODERATOR: Rabbi Shai Held - theologian, scholar, and educator - is President and Dean at HaClal. He has taught both theology and Halakhah at the Jewish Theological Seminary and also served as Director of Education at Harvard Hillel. A 2011 recipient of the prestigious Covenant Award for excellence in Jewish education, Rabbi Held has been named multiple times to Newsweek's list of the 50 most influential rabbis in America. He holds a doctorate in religion from Harvard; his main academic interests are in modern Jewish and Christian thought, biblical theology, and in the history of Zionism. Rabbi Held's first book, *Abraham Joshua Heschel: The Call of Transcendence*, was published by Indiana University Press in 2013; *The Heart of Torah*, a collection of essays on the Torah in two volumes, was published by JPS in 2017. His next book, *Judaism Is About Love*, will be published by Farrar, Straus, & Giroux in 2023.

PERFORMANCE: Morley is a singer, producer, composer and educator who weaves the threads of jazz, soul, and folk traditions into a singular tapestry of vocal and acoustic splendor - the sound wave or a life lived with uncommon devotion to human rights and