

STATEMENT ON THIS PAST WEEKEND'S EVENTS IN CHARLOTTESVILLE

The Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County (HMTC) condemns white supremacists, racists and antisemites whose hateful speech and actions led to the tragic violence in Charlottesville, Virginia on August 12th. The display of Nazi symbolism and the racist hate speech are frighteningly redolent of pre-war Germany.

As we recoil from the shock and horror that something like this could happen in 21st century America, it is critical that action be taken to overcome hate and fear, and to heal the divisions in our country. Each of us has a responsibility to do whatever we can to promote respect among people of all races, ethnicities, national origins and faiths. This is the goal and mission of HMTC.

HMTC utilizes its ability to draw upon history to show what happens when people, institutions and governments do not stand up against hate. HMTC is the leading resource on Long Island to help us all deal with prejudice and the changing world around us.

HMTC provides educational programs to thousands of youngsters and adults every year on the history and lessons of the Holocaust with particular emphasis on how we should conduct ourselves today. The Center staff and volunteers help school and community leaders develop responses to acts of intolerance. The upcoming school year is an appropriate time for us all to rededicate ourselves to the shared values we most cherish. HMTC is here to help and serve the community and to lead the fight against intolerance.