

**Holocaust Education in the Virtual COVID-19 World**  
**EPISODE 1**  
**Hosted by**  
**The Holocaust and the United Nations Outreach Programme**  
**October 21, 2020**

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This roundtable discussion explored how institutions have harnessed the virtual world to further outreach information about the Holocaust and the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for these institutions. The discussions centered around three case studies.

The moderator, Ms. Melissa Fleming stressed the importance of story telling and partnership throughout the world and it's relationship to how the United Nations operates.

**Speakers:**

**Mr. Jonathan Brent**, Director of Yivo Institute for Jewish Research which was established in 1925 to investigate the Holocaust and preserve and study the history and culture of Eastern European Jewish life worldwide. This work is possible despite the fact that the Nazis seized and destroyed many books., Somehow, over 800,000 books and documents were saved and discovered after the war. Life of the Jews including art, music, theater, literature, conflicts going back hundreds of years were compiled, translated and disseminated. It was a major undertaking, done through shared interest in combatting antisemitism.

**Ms. Karolina Ziulkoski**, Chief Curator of the YIVO Bruce and Francesca Slovin Online Museum explained that they are now offering an online exhibit titled "Bebe Epstein: The Extraordinary Life of an Ordinary Girl" which will be used in 80 countries. With Global Reach as its aim, it uses the screen and interactive story telling from hundreds of artifacts to tell of Bebe's life before, during and after the Holocaust; in and outside the ghetto and in the concentration camp.

Her story is extraordinary but she herself was not so different than any other teenager today. The exhibit is rich in detail. Much of the material was obtained from YIVO's archives and offers teacher guides and suggestions on how to best use it for teaching purposes.

**Dr. Floriane Azoulay**, Director of the Arolson Archives an international center on Nazi persecution. The center's collection has information on about 17.5 million people and belongs to UNESCO's Memory of the World. The pilot project entitled "Every Name Counts" asked volunteers to help transcribe personal data from documents that came from concentration camps and enter the names of victims of persecution and murder and any information about them: first name, date of birth, which concentration camp, etc. During the pandemic and when things were at their worst, thousands upon thousands of volunteers kept participating, especially young people.

**Ms. Ariel Behrman**, Director of Echoes and Reflections partners with middle and high school educators to help them introduce students to the complex themes of the Holocaust and to understand the lasting effects on the world.

Since 2005, she has been working with more than 70,000 educators across the country on how to teach about the Holocaust accurately. The challenge now is how to support student's understanding while teaching in a remote and virtual environment and online, make sure the misinformation has no place in this environment by teaching what really happened without trauma and doom, teach the human story and make sure the teaching is not traumatic.

Children's main source of information is online and it's very important to put out good information. We have the tools to do it.

The speakers were asked to provide some takeaways from the discussion:

- Bebe's story explores life, not death.
- Due to the pandemic, there's a need to look for new ways to communicate, we are being forced to reach people with new creative approaches.
- Need to reach a variety of new audiences. A collective passion from all over the world will assure continuation of Holocaust learning.
- Teaching has become more challenging. Through technology, archives have become a valuable tool.