



Mission Statement

Executive Summary

Babi Yar Holocaust Memorial Center project (BYHMC) aims to better understand and define the task of such an endeavor and concentrate its efforts in order to determine the right purpose and the appropriate approach, acceptable for all stakeholders. We are trying to answer existential questions: "How do we uniquely define ourselves as a Holocaust Memorial Center?", "How do we best serve the larger Holocaust education community?", "How should we engage governments and other institutions while maintaining at the same time a clear and transparent mission in the project?"

Mission, Vision, and Definition of the achievements

The Mission Statement sets the objectives, aims, target groups and beneficiaries of the BYHMC. This is important because of the need for:

- clear framework among all project participants (executive team, supervisory board, working groups), so as to manage all work in coordination with it;
- elaborated briefings to staff and external contractors about their specific roles;
- clear objectives on historical research, documentation of still living witnesses, content development for the exhibition, visitors educational program, architecture, as well as for a broad range of different activities;
- a consistent personalized communication strategy.



Vision

BYHMC's ambition is primarily to build a center of documentation, commemoration and education on the tragic events of September 1941. It also contributes to the vision of democratic and resilient society on the foundation of an elaborated and common picture of history.

Defining the achievements

BYHMC is aiming for engagement and relevance as an institution. Following a series of expert meetings, the conclusion is that *success* should be defined as follows:

- BYHMC is located near the historically authentic killing site of Babi Yar (also known as Babyn Yar) - nowhere as in Babi Yar the outburst of Nazi Terror was so extreme and killed more Jews and people from other backgrounds and for other reasons in a few days than elsewhere;
- Each and every year hundreds of thousands come to visit BYHMC from Ukraine and abroad;
- Visitors' hearts and minds are captured by a powerful, historically accurate, participatory and interactive learning experience on the Holocaust and state organized crimes by Nazi rule and its allies. They understand the importance of memory, diversity, human rights and respect;
- BYHMC presents a full scope of witnessing documents, complete as possible research on historical facts, exhibitions, education-program and an outreach activities to deliver the knowledge of the period of the Holocaust and the crimes committed during the Second World War to a broader audience;



- BYHMC is an integral part of the neighborhood, meaning that it adds economic, social, cultural and educational value to the local Kyiv Infrastructure;
- People from Ukraine and Kyiv consider the BYHMC as their project and are proud about how open and sincere the nation manages to commemorate and how many visitors are attracted; they understand why it is so important to keep the memory alive;
- BYHMC is a role model of balanced and successful heritage experience;
- BYHMC strongly supports Ukraine's endeavor to develop as a self-reflective, deliberative democracy based on the values of human rights and mutual respect;
- BYHMC promotes citizens' engagement and democratic debate, also by helping civil society movements to grow (capacity building);
- BYHMC has strong relationships to local and international support groups (Jewish and other);
- BYHMC engages local and international artists and celebrates visual and performing art projects that fosters and transports its mission;
- BYHMC is independent from all individual interests of political parties, lobbyists and their strategies.

On the basis of the above-mentioned the proposed **Mission Statement** reads as follows:

The Babi Yar Holocaust Memorial Center is a nonprofit educational institution that documents and commemorates the Holocaust, in particular the Babi Yar mass shootings of September 1941.



By following this educative mission based on scientific coming to terms with the past the Center contributes to more resilient and democratic societies and a peaceful living-together of future generations.

As an Institution it **commits** to:

- establish and maintain a world class memorial center which presents and explains the events of September 1941;
- broaden and sustain the memory of the Holocaust in Ukraine and its surrounding lands with regards to geopolitics of the 20th century;
- documenting all sources of witnessing of what happened;
- be driven by science, modern technological exhibition design and a didactic learning approach;
- follow the principles of the ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums and the International Memorial Museums Charter;
- transform the space around the physical Center into a place of research based documentation and respectful commemoration of all victims of Nazi Germany and its allies;
- support the development of a democratic and tolerant Ukraine;
- implement transparent, publicly accounted and participatory processes in the development and establishment of the Center.

Tasks for the Institution are:

- to pay tribute to all the victims, to tell the story of their lives;



- to explain the relationship between Jews and non-Jews in Kyiv and Ukraine;
- to become a research center specialized on the Holocaust crimes in the geographies of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe;
- to show the danger of totalitarian, extremist nationalist and racist ideologies, and especially to show how it all began. And in contrast, to celebrate cultural, ethnic, religious and social differences;
- to show the value of heritage and memory in building a democratic Ukraine and peaceful future;
- to engage Ukrainian and international visitors into the discourse about the past and the future of the global society; to let people feel involved and to let them discover their responsibility about how we treat the past and what kind of lessons we learn.

The Institution will be guided by the following **principles**:

- indisputable high-quality scientific research to establish and show a comprehensive knowledge base;
- state of the art design and technology in processes, architecture, landscape and visiting experience;
- transparency with involvement and participation of all interested parties: notably the Jewish communities, other affected communities (Roma, the disabled, political opponents, etc.), public institutions (national and local), religious institutions, the neighborhood and the visitors – so as to build trust, a common vision and contemporary relevance.



With a view to achieve its objectives the BYHMC will seek to evolve into a public-private partnership with the national government of Ukraine and to communicate and engage with the following **stakeholders**:

- public authorities of the State of Ukraine such as the President of Ukraine; Verkhovna Rada (the Parliament of Ukraine); subject-relevant Ministries of Ukraine;
- public authorities of the City of Kyiv such as Mayor of Kyiv and Kyiv City State Administration (culture, tourism, economic development departments); deputies of the city council and district councilors (neighborhood political representatives);
- National historical and memorial reserve "Babyn Yar"
- Ukrainian NGOs and civil society organizations (human rights, art, Jewish communities, science, heritage);
- international related Institutions (on Holocaust, memory, heritage);
- international intergovernmental and state organizations (notably UNESCO, the European Union, the Council of Europe, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, and the International Committee of Memorial Museums in remembrance of the Victims of Public Crimes);
- cultural institutions (museums, theaters, etc.) in Kyiv and Ukraine;
- universities and academics;
- media, journalists and opinion leaders (press and social media);
- citizens of Kyiv, local people - neighbors of BYHMC.