



Raoul Wallenberg
Centre for
Human Rights

M I S S I O N S T A T E M E N T

The Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights is a unique international consortium of parliamentarians, scholars, jurists, human rights defenders, NGOs, and students united in the pursuit of justice, inspired by and anchored in Raoul Wallenberg's humanitarian legacy.

It is organized around four thematic projects, each of which reflects and represents Wallenberg's humanitarian legacy, and each of which will be co-chaired by an expert jurist / parliamentarian in the country of Wallenberg's honorary citizenship (U.S.A., Canada, Israel, Australia), as well as his country of citizenship, Sweden.

The Honorary Co-Chairs of the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights are:

Nobel Peace Laureate Elie Wiesel (U.S.A.)

The Honorable Justice Rosalie Abella (Canada)

The Honorable Göran Persson

(former Prime Minister of Sweden)

and The Honorable Meir Shamgar

(former President of the Israeli Supreme Court)

The four thematic projects – and their respective initiatives – are as follows:

1. Raoul Wallenberg: Hero of Humanity – Acts of Remembrance and Remembrance to Act – Wallenberg as a paradigm of moral courage and effective action

Project initiatives:

- a. Raoul Wallenberg All-Party Parliamentary Caucus for Human Rights (established in the Canadian Parliament in February 2016)
- b. Annual Raoul Wallenberg Commemorative Day, as now exists in Canada, where citizens (particularly young people) are invited to learn about, reflect upon, and act upon his legacy
- c. Annual Raoul Wallenberg human rights forums in law schools in countries of Wallenberg's Honorary Citizenship, as now exists at McGill University, Faculty of Law
- d. An International Scholars Roundtable on the Fate of Raoul Wallenberg (RW70) to take place in Budapest on May 20-21, 2016
- e. Raoul Wallenberg legacy as a model for righteous diplomacy, and as an antidote to the absence of diplomatic moral courage in our day



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2. The Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights: Universal Lessons for the Preventing and Combating of Mass Atrocity in our Time

- a. **The danger of forgetting** – the responsibility to remember – le devoir de mémoire;
- b. **The danger of state-sanctioned incitement to hate and genocide** – the responsibility to prevent;
- c. **The danger of indifference and inaction** – the responsibility to act;
- d. **The danger of mass atrocity** – the responsibility to protect;
- e. **The danger of impunity** – the responsibility to bring war criminals to justice;
- f. **The danger of la trahison des clercs** – the responsibility to speak truth to power;
- g. **The danger of assaults on the vulnerable** – the responsibility to intervene;
- h. **The danger of genocide denial** – the responsibility to repudiate;

An important initiative on this theme will be an International Legal Symposium to commemorate the Double Entendre of Nuremberg – the Nuremberg of Hate and the Nuremberg of Judgement – on the occasion of the 80th Anniversary of the Nuremberg Race Laws and the 70th Anniversary of the Nuremberg Trials. This historical symposium will be held at Jagiellonian University on May 4th 2016 in conjunction with the International March of the Living on May 5th 2016.



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3. Promoting Human Dignity: Combating Racism, Hatred and Antisemitism

- a. Promote education, awareness, advocacy and action respecting the dangers of racism, incitement to hate and hate crimes, and the oldest, most enduring, and toxic of hatreds – antisemitism;
- b. An important initiative in this regard was a major Inter-Parliamentary Coalition for Combating Antisemitism conference in Berlin in March 2016 – which included a Justice Ministers Roundtable on “Legal Responses to Antisemitism”;
- c. Establishment of national justice initiatives on racism, hate, and antisemitism.
- d. Cooperating with academic institutes on racism and antisemitism, such as the Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism at Indiana University, which recently brought together some 70 leading scholars for an international conference on this theme.



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4. Defending Political Prisoners

The importance of remembering and freeing political prisoners is exemplified in the case of Nelson Mandela, who endured 27 years in a South African prison, and emerged to preside not only over the dismantling of apartheid, but to become President of the first democratic, egalitarian, non-racial South Africa. It is a testimony – as is Raoul Wallenberg – to how one person with the compassion to care and the courage to act can confront evil and prevail. Accordingly, this thematic project will focus on the defense and advocacy for major political prisoners, whose freedom can transform history.

As of 2016, the Centre currently seeks to mobilize international advocacy in concert with other international human rights bodies, governments, parliamentarians and NGOs that can have a dramatic impact on their case and cause, and alone almost make the need for such a Centre worthwhile.

- a. **Raif Badawi** – imprisoned Saudi Arabian blogger (whose family are refugees in Quebec)
- b. **Leopoldo Lopez** –imprisoned leader of democratic opposition (*Venezuela*)
- c. **Liu Xiaobo** – imprisoned Nobel Peace Laureate (*China*)
- d. **Dr. Wang Bingzhang** – long-time human rights activist and political prisoner (*China*)
- e. **Biram Dah Abeid** – imprisoned anti-slavery activist (*Mauritania*)
- f. **Ayatollah Hossein Kazemeyni Boroujerdi** – Imprisoned Shi'i Muslim cleric advocating for freedom of religion (*Iran*)
- g. **The imprisoned Baha'i Seven**
Leaders of the Baha'i community (*Iran*)