



DENMARK AND NEW YORK COME TOGETHER TO COMMEMORATE THE FLIGHT AND RESCUE OF THE DANISH JEWS DURING WORLD WAR II

Throughout 2023, Denmark commemorates the 80-years since the flight and rescue of 95% of the Danish Jews during World War II. The events that transpired in October of 1943 are a testament to civil society engagement and humanity in action, and they stand as a beacon of light in a very dark time.

11 July – New York, NY – The flight and rescue of over 7000 Danish Jews is a unique testament to civic courage, where Danes from all parts of society came together and took action to help save their Jewish compatriots. It is an important part of Danish national identity and something that continues to inspire both in Denmark and abroad.

Though the flight and rescue of the Danish Jews is a story to be proud of, it is also a story of historical shadows. Not all Danes helped their fellow Jewish citizens – approximately 500 Danish Jews were captured and forcefully deported to Theresienstadt.

The events of October 1943 inspire reflection on universal ethical questions and dilemmas of responsibility and the courage to act. “*These events are as relevant today as ever, reminding us of the ordinary Danes who stood up for and had the courage to help their fellow citizens in times of dire need,*” says the Danish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lars Løkke Rasmussen. There is still much to learn, and it is especially important to share the story with the younger generations in engaging ways.

The Consulate General of Denmark in New York is involved in a program of cultural and educational projects aimed at both remembering what happened in 1943, but also at showcasing the continuous relevance of the themes and questions raised by the flight and rescue.

NEW EXHIBITION IN NEW YORK EXPLORES THE MEANING OF COURAGE

In October, the Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust will open a new, groundbreaking exhibition titled [Courage to Act: Rescue in Denmark](#). This exhibition does not only help disseminate important stories from the events in October ‘43, but it also creates a new, interactive platform for talking about these stories with children as young as 9 years old. Through archival materials, photographs, recordings, testimonials, and other artifacts, it raises the question to the exhibition guests: do you have the courage to act?

Featuring prominently in the exhibition is the story of the Gerda III, one of the small fishing vessels used to transport the Danish Jews to Sweden. This boat alone saved an estimated 300 Jews. The captain, twenty-two-year-old Henny Sinding Sundø, will be among the exhibition narrators. The Gerda III was donated to the museum by the Danish parliament in 1989 and is currently docked at The Mystic Seaport Museum in Connecticut.

VOICES IN THE VOID BRINGS FLIGHT STORY TO LIFE

The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also taken on the challenge of communicating this important part of history to children and young people in collaboration with Humanity in Action, Ghetto Fighters House, Danish Jewish Museum, and the Danish Ministry for Culture.

[Voices in the Void](#) is a newly launched animation film and educational workshop bringing the testimonial from the late Rabbi Bent Melchior about his and his family’s flight to Sweden on



that night in October 1943. The film and supporting material, available in four languages, will be made available free of charge for middle and high schools everywhere.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE DANISH COAST

9-10 October, the Danish seaside town of Gilleleje will set the scene for an international conference *A light in the darkness: Lessons from Denmark during the Holocaust*, arranged by the Danish Institute of International Studies and the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Among the participants are the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) as well as other international delegations.

The conference will examine how we best learn from the events of the past – good and bad – and how to best to share lessons from the Holocaust to the younger generations. A short research-based publication on October 1943 will be published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Danish Jewish Museum in connection with the conference.

About the Consulate General of Denmark in New York

The Consulate General of Denmark in New York is Denmark's official representation in New York and across the East Coast. We advise and assist in a number of areas including consular, commercial, investment, cultural, and press.

For additional info, please contact:

Katinka Friis

Strategic Communications Officer

katpen@um.dk

+1 (347) 203-1739