



PRESS RELEASE

The Danish Jewish Museum is commemorating 80th anniversary of the operation against Denmark's Jews, and is urging all cultural institutions to take part

In 1943, the German occupying power started their persecution of Danish Jews. Although many of them managed to escape to Sweden thanks to a large-scale effort on the part of the Danish people, almost 500 Jews were arrested and deported to Theresienstadt. This year it is precisely 80 years since these dramatic events took place.

In 2023, the Danish Jewish Museum is producing new visual material that all cultural institutions can use to commemorate and shed light on this important historical event.

Marking the 80th anniversary of the persecution of Denmark's Jews is not just an important event in Denmark. There are commemorations in a number of other countries, who are remembering the story as a light in the darkness of the Holocaust. For example, this autumn will see the opening of a brand new exhibition at the Jewish Heritage Museum in New York – *Courage to Act: Rescue in Denmark* – targeted particularly at children and young people.

In Denmark, the event has become an important part of the story of Denmark's role and actions during World War II. It is not simply a story of *rescue*. It is also a story of *escape*, in which Denmark's Jews played an active role, and about their intense, horrific experiences during escape, exile and captivity that left scars on both their lives and souls.

Everyone can help commemorate this 80th anniversary.

“We're facing an important dividing line. Gradually, the last-remaining witnesses to the story are disappearing. So, it's more important than ever to hear and preserve the testimonies of the survivors, and to remember the events. This is distressingly topical in an age of continued war, persecution and refugee flows, when anti-Semitism still exists in Denmark too,” says Janus Møller Jensen, Director of the Danish Jewish Museum.

“We have devised new material with a common symbol and a website to help make the commemoration more visible, and to provide a list of the numerous activities that will take place during 2023. We urge all cultural institutions to make use of it, and to raise awareness of this important story and its commemoration.”

The material was devised in collaboration and discussion with a number of key figures involved in the commemoration: in particular, Det Jødiske Samfund, Humanity in Action and the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It currently exists in Danish, German and English versions and has been sent out to museums, archives and institutions, and

made available to all Danish embassies throughout the world, all of which will play a role in the commemoration. You can register events as part of the official commemoration of the 80th anniversary via the website [www.80aaret.dk](http://www.80aaret.dk), where you will also find the list of activities. This also provides you with access to the graphic material.

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