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Media Release:

Holocaust Centre of New Zealand condemns the Halle terror attacks

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New Zealand's leading organisation for Holocaust education and remembrance, the Holocaust Centre of New Zealand, vehemently condemns the terror attacks that occurred on Wednesday on Yom Kippur, the holiest day in the Jewish calendar, near a synagogue in Halle, Germany, killing two people.

Board Chair, Deborah Hart, says "We are increasingly concerned at the rise in anti-Semitic attacks worldwide.

"It's important to remember that no terrorism starts with an act of terror. All terrorism starts with words.

"The idea of the 'lone wolf' no longer exists. Particularly with the rise of social media, someone, somewhere would have heard this man speaking, should have been concerned, and should have challenged him.

"We need to replace the idea of the lone wolf with idea of the lone person standing. You simply cannot be bystanders – we need to be upstanders – loudly and clearly replying to words of hate and Holocaust denial and say that they are unacceptable.

"Everyone is familiar with the saying, which much of our work at the Holocaust Centre is focused on, that the only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing. This has to stop. And the only way that that is going to happen is if we all, every single last one of us as individuals, is prepared to be that upstander."

ENDS

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