



New portraits of local Holocaust survivors to go on display at Manchester's IWM North for Holocaust Memorial Day



Images from left to right: Sacha Kester © Frederic Aranda; Ruth Sands (formerly Buchholz) © Jillian Edelstein; © IWM; Yvonne Bernstein © The Princess of Wales.

A photography exhibition at IWM North will display new, never-before-seen photographs of north-west based Holocaust survivors when it opens on Holocaust Memorial Day 2023. Following its inaugural run at IWM London in 2021, *Generations: Portraits of Holocaust Survivors* will open at IWM North with four new photographs taken by The Royal Photographic Society (RPS) President and Chair of Trustees, Simon Hill, alongside the exhibition's original 60 contemporary portraits of Holocaust survivors and their families.

Generations: Portraits of Holocaust Survivors (27 January 2023 – Summer 2023) showcases works from 13 contemporary photographers, all members and Fellows of RPS, alongside photography by RPS Patron, Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales. These powerful photographs capture the special connections between Holocaust survivors and the younger generations of their families, shining a light on the full lives they have lived and our collective responsibility to ensure their stories live on.

The persecution of Europe's Jews by the Nazis and their collaborators between 1933 and 1945 led to the mass extermination of 6 million lives. For those who survived, its memory and impact were life changing. Through a series of individual and family portraits, the moving photographs in this exhibition present a group of survivors who made the UK their home after beginnings marked by unimaginable loss and trauma. While offering a space to remember and share their stories, these portraits are a celebration of the rich lives they have lived and the special legacy which their children and grandchildren will carry into the future.

One survivor who has been newly photographed by Simon Hill is Itzick 'Ike' Alterman (born 1928 in Ozarow, Poland), a survivor of four concentration camps – Blizyn, Auschwitz-Birkenau, Buchenwald and Theresienstadt – as well as a death march. His father died in the Buna work camp; his mother, his 14-year-old sister and his nine-year-old brother were transported to the Treblinka death camp in October 1942 and murdered upon arrival by the Nazis. After the war, Ike came to England as one of 'The Windermere Children' and began to slowly rebuild his life. Finding stability and happiness with his wife and children – his 'new family' as he calls them – Ike oversaw the creation of a thriving jewellery business in Manchester, eventually carving out a life for himself which defied his oppressors.

Other photographs in *Generations: Portraits of Holocaust Survivors* were captured in Spring 2021, presenting a body of work from contemporary photographers including Frederic Aranda, Sian Bonnell, Jillian Edelstein, Arthur Edwards, Anna Fox, Joy Gregory, Jane Hilton, Tom Hunter, Karen Knorr, Carolyn Mendelsohn, Simon Roberts and Michelle Sank. These include portraits taken by Edelstein which capture survivors alongside childhood mementoes – passports and teddy bears – or sat in the homes where they have created new lives and memories. Joining these are The Princess of Wales's intimate portraits of survivors Steven Frank BEM and Yvonne Bernstein, commissioned specially for the exhibition.

Presented in partnership with the RPS, Jewish News, the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, Dangoor Education, and Northern Partner The Fed, *Generations: Portraits of Holocaust Survivors* will remind visitors of our collective responsibility to remember and share stories about those who endured conflict and persecution.

Simon Hill, the Royal Photographic Society's President says: *"Portrait photography can be one of the most difficult or one of the easiest genres in which to work. So much depends on the relationship that is formed, often in an instant, between the subject and photographer. It has been an immense privilege to meet each of these camp survivors and refugees and to explore with them their unique stories. All portrait photographs invite a three-way dialogue - between the subject, the photographer and the viewer. I hope that my portraits of these amazing people, pictured with members of their family, will help to encourage a dialogue, with a wider audience, that will ensure their personal stories are never forgotten and subsequent generations can celebrate their incredible perseverance in the face of unimaginable horror and suffering."*

James Bulgin, the Content Leader of IWM's Holocaust Galleries, says: *"These remarkable images of survivors and the generations that have followed them are a powerful and important reminder that despite the catastrophic destruction of the Holocaust, Hitler's intention to destroy all Jewish life and culture across Europe was ultimately unsuccessful. In showing the dynamism and diversity of those that endured and flourished, we are given cause to reflect on the profound significance of what has continued and the tragic extent of what was lost."*

Generations: Portraits of Holocaust Survivors is a free exhibition opening at IWM North on 27 January 2023 and running until summer 2023.

- ENDS -

For further press information, images and interview requests please contact:

Hannah Boulton, Communications Officer (Exhibitions & Programming), hboulton@iwm.org.uk, 07966 626 241

Hannah Carr, Communications Manager (Exhibitions & Programming), hcarr@iwm.org.uk, 07581 622 157

Notes to editors

[Generations: Portraits of Holocaust Survivors](#)

27 January 2023 – Summer 2023

Free exhibition

Photographers contributing to *Generations: Portraits of Holocaust Survivors* at IWM North are: Frederic Aranda; Sian Bonnell; Jillian Edelstein; Arthur Edwards; Anna Fox; Joy Gregory; Simon Hill; Jane Hilton; Tom Hunter; Karen Knorr; Carolyn Mendelsohn; Simon Roberts; Michelle Sank; and Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales

IWM

www.iwm.org.uk

IWM (Imperial War Museums) **tells the story of people who have lived, fought and died in conflicts involving Britain and the Commonwealth since the First World War.**

Our unique collections, made up of the everyday and the exceptional, reveal stories of people,

places, ideas and events. Using these, we tell vivid personal stories and create powerful physical experiences across our five museums that reflect the realities of war as both a destructive and creative force. We challenge people to look at conflict from different perspectives, enriching their understanding of the causes, course and consequences of war and its impact on people's lives.

IWM's five branches which attract over 2.5 million visitors each year are IWM London, IWM's flagship branch that has recently transformed with new, permanent and free Second World War and The Holocaust Galleries; **IWM North**, housed in an iconic award-winning building designed by Daniel Libeskind; **IWM Duxford**, a world renowned aviation museum and Britain's best preserved wartime airfield; **Churchill War Rooms**, housed in Churchill's secret headquarters below Whitehall; and the Second World War cruiser **HMS Belfast**.

IWM North

The multi award winning IWM North brings Imperial War Museums' national collection to northern audiences. Designed by world-renowned architect Daniel Libeskind to represent a globe shattered by conflict, the iconic building, innovative and dynamic programming, use of digital media through hourly Big Picture Shows and public events explore how war shapes lives and inspires and encourages debate.

Open Wednesday to Sunday: 10am – 5pm except during school holidays and half term, when we are open seven days a week. Also open bank holidays. Last entry 30 minutes before closing. Closed 24 – 26 December. Free admission.

IWM North, The Quays, Trafford Wharf Road, Manchester M17 1TZ (close to Imperial War Museum North and MediaCityUK Metrolink and Junction 9 of the M60)

T: 020 7416 5000

iwm.org.uk/ / @IWMNorth / www.facebook.com/iwm.north

Royal Photographic Society

The Royal Photographic Society works to make photography for everyone. It was founded in 1853 to promote photography and support photographers and now has some 11,000 members around the world. Today, the RPS aims to inspire people through its exhibitions, Journal, awards and events; to help photographers create images through its educational programmes, and public initiatives, and to recognise individuals' skills and creativity through its Distinctions and qualification programmes; and it seeks to connect photographers through membership, and the activities of its UK and international hubs and specialist groups. RPS membership is open to everyone with an interest in photography whether you are just starting out on your photography journey or are an experienced photography looking to put something back and support others.

www.rps.org

Jewish News

Jewish News is the UK's biggest distribution Jewish newspaper and is the exclusive UK digital partner of Times of Israel, the world's most-read Jewish news site. Twice short-listed by the Society of Editors in the Free Newspaper of the Year category, Jewish News' influence in the corridors of power have grown over recent years and it secured the only Jewish media interview with Jeremy Corbyn as Labour leader and the only one so far with the Archbishop of Canterbury. But it remains at its heart a community newspaper and that means more than just reporting the news: it organises events to unite the community and initiatives to celebrate its achievements, has pioneered a world first media collaboration with the Church Times and British Muslim TV and initiated various projects to promote national awareness and remembrance of the Holocaust, including the exhibition *Generations: Portraits of Holocaust Survivors*. The exhibition was conceived by Jewish News as part of a special issue of the newspaper, edited by the children and grandchildren of survivors, to mark the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT) is a charity that encourages remembrance in a world scarred by genocide. HMDT promote and support Holocaust Memorial Day – the international day on 27 January to remember the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, alongside the millions of other people killed under Nazi persecution and in genocides that followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

Dangoor Education

Dangoor Education (see dangooreducation.com) works to support educational, medical and scientific research through leading institutions like the Francis Crick Institute and the UK-Israel Tech hub as well as Cancer Research UK. Part of the philanthropy of The Exilarch's Foundation, it also promotes collaboration between people of different faiths and has been a sponsor of the outstanding-rated Westminster Academy since its foundation 15 years ago.

The Fed

The Fed is the largest Jewish social care charity in Greater Manchester. My Voice is a project of The Fed which documents the life stories of Holocaust Survivors and Refugees living in Greater Manchester, in their own voices. The unique project has published the whole life stories of 34 Holocaust Survivors & Refugees who settled in The North West after the war. The Fed also supports one in seven Jewish homes and over 6,500 people every year across the city region. It helps people across a huge range of social care issues including all types of mental health wellbeing, debt and benefit advice, domestic and sexual abuse, loneliness, isolation and self-harm. The Fed also operates Heathlands Village Care Home which is the largest Jewish care home in Manchester and provides state of the art care to 160 residents. For more information visit thefed.org.uk.