Remembering the Holocaust

What will we do:
1. Each year on either the 27th of January or the closest working day to it, Edinburgh University Students’ Association will commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day, in line with the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust. This involves commemorating the Holocausts that took place in Europe, Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.
2. The day is to be commemorated through at least one event hosted by Edinburgh University Students’ Association, as well as through social media posts on all official Edinburgh University Students’ Association channels making students aware of the day and what events are taking place around it.
3. Events may include: hosting a Holocaust survivor to share their testimony, a memorial service, candle lighting, special lectures, panel discussions.
4. The events will aim to educate students on the consequences of racism and prejudice. It will also educate students about antisemitism and the many different ways in which it manifests.
5. Edinburgh University Students’ Association will liaise with the President of the Jewish Society about any events taking place and will work with the President of the Jewish Society when planning, organising and promoting events.
6. Edinburgh University Students’ Association will provide the Jewish Society with adequate facilities for any activities the Jewish Society also plans on the day.

Background to this:
1. Antisemitism has been on the rise in the UK, according to incidents recorded by charity the Community Security Trust (CST), which works with the community and with police forces.
2. The CST recorded 727 anti-Semitic incidents across the UK in the first six months of 2018 - the second highest figure recorded in more than two decades. The highest-ever number was recorded in the first six months of 2017 (786).
3. This year Edinburgh University Students’ Association did not do one thing to mark Holocaust Memorial day; there was not a single social media post, event or any form of recognition. This was deeply disappointing to Jewish students across the University.
4. In the whole of 2017 there were 1,414 incidents, compared with 541 in 2008. At the time, this was the third-highest annual figure that had been recorded since the CST began in 1984.
5. According to the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust In 2019, one in 20 adults in the UK do not believe the Holocaust really happened, while one in 16 feel it has been exaggerated.

Beliefs and Motivating Actions:
1. Edinburgh University Students’ Association recognises that Holocaust denial is a form of antisemitism.
2. It is within Edinburgh University Students’ Association values to recognise the importance of continuing to educate students about the Holocaust, why it happened and what is represents.

3. Edinburgh University Students’ Association stands with Jewish students in the fight to ensure the memory and lessons of the Holocaust live on.

Submitted with 20 Student Signatures.