



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Join Us as We Stand Together and March Against Hate**

DALLAS, TEXAS, February 2025 – In 1933, over nine million Jews lived in Europe, raising their families, contributing to the economy and serving in society. Following Adolf Hitler’s appointment as German chancellor on January 30, 1933, the road from persecution to genocide was paved with the lives of six million Jewish men, women, and children. The Third Reich and their collaborators murdered two-thirds of the population of European Jewry as part of a systematic “Final Solution”. By May of 1945, the number of European Jews horrifically was reduced to three million. Unfortunately, most of the world stood by silently while the incomprehensible atrocities were being committed.

As shocking images began to surface and spread throughout the world most were indifferent and apathetic. Yet, among the stench of death and destruction, piles of corpses, bones, and human ashes, soldiers also found thousands of survivors—mostly Jews but also non-Jews alike—suffering from starvation, disease, and from profound memories that would leave genetic footprints that would be passed on throughout their generations. For those who survived the Holocaust, the journey to rebuild their lives was daunting; it was also a testimony to the power of faith and the strength of spirit.

Then as recent as Oct 7, 2023, the barbaric acts of terrorism in Israel eerily reminded us of the gross brutalities of the Holocaust. Anti-Semitism is exponentially rising and those who are concerned about this, are wanting to do something about it.

The March of Life is an international organization started by Christian pastors, Jobst and Charlotte Bittner, originating in Tübingen, Germany. Together with penitent descendants of Wehrmacht soldiers, members of the SS, and the German police force, they have organized memorial and reconciliation marches at historic sites of the Holocaust all over Europe.

As organizations, churches and synagogues in hundreds of cities around the world partner with March of Remembrance, people from all walks of life come together with common goals. Each year, we remember the victims of the Holocaust, stand against anti-Semitism and hate, and bring reconciliation to the Jewish and non-Jewish communities. It's an extraordinary time when tens of thousands of people worldwide join with one voice—one heart—to honor, educate, remember, and engage. And now, Marches of Remembrance have been held worldwide in 25 nations and 400 cities, including Israel.

March of Remembrance Dallas, the local chapter of this international organization, invites the community to join us at 2:00 pm on Sunday, March 30, 2025, as the Nathaniel Foundation and Hillel at SMU partner with the SMU Office of the Chaplain and Religious Life, SMU Jewish Studies, Perkins School of Theology, SMU AEPi, Mustangs for Israel, Southwest Jewish Congress, and the SMU Center for Faith and Learning at the Hughes-Trigg Student Center. This march is a partnership between the Christian and Jewish communities to come together in unity.

“This moving event includes a candle lighting ceremony with Holocaust survivors, Rosian Zermer and Tova Feldman, along with a panel discussion with the survivors and repentant Nazi descendant, Claudia Kiesinger. Dr. Serge Frolov, the Nate and Ann Levine Endowed Chair in Jewish Studies at SMU, will offer a keynote address. Following remarks from Consulate representatives of Germany and Israel, a short “Honor March” will ensue around the SMU campus. Each participant will carry a stone with a university age Holocaust victim’s name and age written in their memory. The event will conclude with the announcement of the winners of the Nathaniel Foundation scholarships along with closing remarks from Rabbi Heidi Coretz, Director of Hillel at SMU.”

The awarding of the Nathaniel Foundation March of Remembrance scholarships is a major aspect of the event, as it engages and mobilizes students to be upstanders and positive exemplars to their generation. This year, the Nathaniel Foundation is awarding 10 scholarships, including first place \$2500, second place \$1500 and eight \$1,000 scholarships.

A recent scholarship recipient had this to say.

*In what has been an especially challenging year for Jewish students, the March of Remembrance reminded me of the strong and supportive community I have here in Dallas. Sharing how my religious and cultural traditions have given me hope during these dark times with people who understood and uplifted me was truly empowering. I am deeply grateful for the Nathaniel Foundation's generosity and commitment to making the March of Remembrance possible. The phrase "Never Forget" carries an even deeper meaning as the Jewish people continue to persevere through hardship, and a forum like this ensures that the stories of our ancestors are never lost."*

*Ethan Eliasson*

*March of Remembrance* is not an opportunity for a political statement, a rally, or a publicity stunt. We march together to honor the Holocaust survivors and their descendants and let their voices be heard, and their stories told. It is not a platform for publicity to promote an agenda on the part of any person or organization nor is it a platform for proselytizing. We remember those who were lost and those who were brave enough to stand up against the injustice, magnify their voices, and actions. And now, especially in the clamor of university rhetoric against Israel and the Jewish community, we need to take every opportunity to speak out against this appalling display of barbaric hatred and violence.

We march to educate a generation that despite the overwhelming documented proof of the reality of the Holocaust, many still deny it ever happened or claim that the reports were exaggerated. And we act to engage with our local communities as we take to the streets in peaceful assembly and collectively raise our voices against modern-day anti-Semitism, Jewish-hatred, and any form of racism, motivating people all over the globe to take a stand and speak out.

*“I’ve experienced the incredible power of unity, as people of all ages from different religions and ethnicities come together to stand against anti-Semitism,” said Rabbi Heidi Coretz, Director, Hillel at SMU. “We invite students, families, congregations, and communities to join us as we raise our voices together for remembrance, reconciliation, and friendship on this special day that will change the way you view tradition, history, and the power of the human spirit.”*

**Save-the Date**

**1. Sunday, March 30, 2025**

Registration 1:30 – 1:55 PM

Event start time: 2:00 PM

**LOCATION:** Hughes-Trigg Student Center - Lower Level

**Southern Methodist University**

3140 Dyer Street

Dallas, TX 75205

<https://goo.gl/maps/JNyVcgi4mUbgapU26>

**GENERAL INFORMATION:** Contact Jackie Thornton, Administrator, and Memorial Coordinator at **832-527-8132** or [Jackie@thenathanielfoundation.org](mailto:Jackie@thenathanielfoundation.org)

**MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA:** To schedule an interview with Dr. Victoria Sarvadi or Rabbi Heidi Coretz please email [victoria@thenathanielfoundation.org](mailto:victoria@thenathanielfoundation.org) or [hcoretz@mail.smu.edu](mailto:hcoretz@mail.smu.edu).

For additional information on the event, scholarships or how to donate, visit us at:

[www.Mordallas.org](http://www.Mordallas.org)