

THE HOLOCAUST/GENOCIDE PROJECT  
AN END TO INTOLERANCE

JUNE, 2002



LIGHTING THE WAY TO UNDERSTANDING:  
OUR 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

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Participants in the first HGP Study Mission, 1993

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Dear Readers,

Thanks once again for all of your continued support of our project. We are very proud to announce that this year marks the tenth anniversary of the Holocaust Genocide Project and our magazine *An End to Intolerance*. This is a feat that would have been unattainable without your contributions and your desire for the world to be educated about the Holocaust and other genocides. Thank you for giving students all over the world a chance to make their voices heard.

Since the start of our project, we have been able to interact with students and teachers from **thirty-four countries** all around the globe. This contact has been made possible through our discussion forum on I\*EARN. Here anyone can post an article, a letter, a poem, a question, anything they wish to share with the rest of the world relating to the topic of genocide or injustice in the world. Through this online community students and teachers are able to gain a better understanding of what is taking place in all corners of the globe. This also enables everyone to have a voice and to help educate others, which is the ultimate goal of our project. Education is the key to the prevention of genocide and injustice in our world. The theme of our magazine this year is *"Lighting the way to Understanding."* We want to show people that through understanding and tolerance, peace can be found.

Looking back on the past ten years of our project, we have come a long way and hope to continue with the same remarkable progress. Each year more students and teachers become involved in our project and contribute to this student magazine. We hope that over the years our message has been able to shed light where before there was only darkness. Thank you once again for your commitment to making our voices heard. We hope to continue our mission of education and understanding for many years to come.

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# What's New...

## 10<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Message from the HGP Mentor

By Gideon Goldstein, I\*EARN Coordinator, Israel

The first issue of the global HGP magazine was called *An End to Ignorance*. Only later was that name changed to our current *An End to intolerance*. Over this past year, I have more than once pondered on whether that name change was the right thing to do.

Many of you know that I travel with students to Poland at least once a year. In addition, I have devoted much of my personal study time over the past years to examine issues of Holocaust remembrance. In these contexts, and in the dark shadows of what the world has experienced since September 11, 2001, I find that intolerance stems from ignorance, and that the latter is the more important issue at hand, at least for the global education community.

It is ignorance that sparked anti-Islam emotions immediately after September 11<sup>th</sup>. It is ignorance that brought Muslims to believe that their mission was a fundamental of their religion. It is ignorance that brings the impossible equation between the Holocaust and other occurrences of genocide, and it is that same ignorance that belittles other genocide because it is not The Holocaust.

On this tenth anniversary of *An End to Intolerance*, the publication of the project I find to be the most important student contribution to the Internet, I would like us to revisit the historical challenge that was put to us by *An End to Ignorance*.

Putting an end to ignorance does not mean we are ignorant – it signifies that we need to update our knowledge, our understanding, our capacity to accept the differences and the fact that these differences exist.

Putting an end to ignorance does not mean that we do not know enough and that our views, ideas, opinions are not important. Au contraire, we need to formulate all these, reason them with ourselves and stand on what it is that we believe in. We will be ignorant if we are dogmatic and unable to be persuaded; we will be twice as ignorant if we reject our stands and beliefs under pressure.

The HGP, under the most respectable leadership of Ms. Honey Kern and the wonderful students of Cold Spring Harbor High School was, is, and will continue to be, a “beacon” in putting an end to ignorance and thus will serve the cause of putting an end to intolerance.

## HGP Coordinator Looks Back and to the Future

By Honey Kern, USHMM Mandel Teaching Fellow

It has been ten years since a small group of students and I began our journey on the Internet. I remember Brad Kerner, Chris Lee, Russ Fradin, Christine Ngeo, Brian Mulada, Jeff Chen, Erin Browne, Joey Bergida, Dorit Arad, and Megan Orsen with such warm feelings. Some of us still keep in touch with each other, and, like our project, we have grown to see the world and make a difference.

From Washington State, my first teacher-partner was Julie Rosenoff. She and I and students, school board members and parents, accompanied Gideon Goldstein, our HGP mentor on our first Study Mission to Poland/Israel, which he arranged for us. It was a trip none of us will ever forget. From our very first posted message on the Internet, Gideon has been our supporter and friend. He and Peter Copen, the founder of I\*EARN, provided us with encouragement and enthusiasm.

In looking back on our project's goal to promote education about our topic and encourage the application of this knowledge in a way that makes a positive difference in the world, I proudly reflect on the “actions” students have taken to this end. All of their contributions to human rights can be found on our project forum and in the previous issues of *An End to Intolerance*. Since our 1992 email exchange with two countries, (Israel and Spain), we have grown and joined with students and teachers in over thirty-four countries. Thousands of students have taken part in our project in many roles: writers, poets, artists, essayists, email correspondents, researchers, editors, web-builders, fund-raisers, translators, graphic artists, workshop presenters, and computer technologists.

This year, information about our project and students' work has been featured in *Publishing with Students: A Comprehensive Guide*, edited by Chris Weber (Heinemann Press). In addition, the *English Journal*, November, 2001, published my article entitled “An End to Intolerance: Exploring the Holocaust and Genocide,” an explanation of our early common reading email exchange of Elie Wiesel's memoir, *Night*.

In looking back, however, we are also looking to the future. This year, HGP students donated funds to build an educational trunk, which will be filled with materials for teaching about the Holocaust. This special, wooden trunk will be made available on loan to teachers through the Nassau County Holocaust Center in Glen Cove, New York. We hope that this donation will continue our project's goal of education and understanding. Thank you all for your support these past ten years.