

## **Statement by the**

### **Supervisory Board of the ‘Babyn Yar Holocaust Memorial Center’**

In view of the public outcry around the Artistic Director of the Babyn Yar project in the media and social networks in recent weeks, and in response to several direct appeals to members of the Supervisory Board, we wish to state the following:

The aim of the Foundation was and remains to create a memorial of the tragedy of Babyn Yar. A place of mass murder of Jews, Roma, Ukrainians and people of other confessions and social groups. A place that symbolizes attempts by the German criminal Nazi regime to implement the “Final Solution”. Babyn Yar is not only a symbol of this genocide but also a symbol of subsequent attempts by the leadership of the Soviet Union to erase the memory of this tragedy. It is thanks to independent Ukraine’s commitment to restoring to history the memory of this tragedy that our initiative has become possible. The project has a unique chance to complete European history, history of holocaust and history of mankind.

This unique museum and historical research and education centre will be the first in Eastern Europe to focus on the mass murder of Jews (Holocaust by bullets) in the ravines of Europe. We believe that this is important not only to restore historical justice by raising awareness and understanding of these events, but also as a project that could reinforce Ukraine’s standing among the family of free nations as a country which uses the lessons of history to foster cooperation and understanding between peoples today and in the future.

Alongside the museum concept, a historical narrative has been compiled by authoritative international historians and discussed widely by representatives of the Ukrainian public. Neither the museum concept nor the historical narrative have changed or are changing as a result of any professional appointments. The means of artistic embodiment of the ideas behind the museum are being devised by professionals and will be presented for discussion by the Supervisory Board and the general public by the end of this year. Only after this will we be able to reach a fair judgement on the work done by Mr. Ilya Khrzhanovsky and his team.

We are fully aware of the responsibility that we have assumed by agreeing to become members of the Supervisory Board. Each of us has substantial experience of public and political work in our own countries. Each of us has a special connection to Ukraine, the Ukrainian people and its history. Through our involvement in the project we guarantee observance of the ethical and professional standards of a science-based approach to creating this memorial.

We are committed to broad participation by the Ukrainian public in this project. We want to see the Public Council not only resume its work but also expand it. It is evident that a number of authoritative figures in the artistic, cultural and scientific communities who have expressed critical views to us have concerns over the future of this project. We would be delighted to see them as members of the Foundation’s Public Council participating in constructive criticism of our work.

We understand the importance of cooperation between the Foundation and the political leadership, and therefore reiterate our proposal to the Ukrainian leadership to appoint representative to our Supervisory Board.

For almost 80 years now, first ideological and later bureaucratic controversies have prevented this project from coming into existence. We must overcome these obstacles and build this Memorial as a tribute to those who perished and as a legacy for future generations.

With deepest respect to all who have contacted us,

On behalf of the Supervisory Board,

Chairman

Natan Sharansky



Political prisoner of the Soviet Union,  
human rights activist, former minister and vice prime minister in Israeli governments.  
Former head of The Jewish agency

### **Members of the Supervisory Board**

**Svetlana Alexievich** - Belarusian writer, laureate of the Nobel Prize in Literature and winner of numerous literary awards in Europe and the United States.

**Joschka Fischer** - Foreign Minister and Vice Chancellor of Germany (1998–2005), professor at Princeton University, international relations and corporate strategy advisor to Siemens AG.

**Mikhail Fridman** - Co-founder and supervisory board member of the Russian Jewish Congress and Genesis Philanthropy Group, a charitable foundation; entrepreneur and philanthropist, chairman of the supervisory board of the Alfa-Group Consortium, co-founder LetterOne Group.

**Pavel Fuks** - Ukrainian entrepreneur and philanthropist, sponsor of a number of charitable foundations, Honorary Citizen of Kharkiv.

**Ronald S. Lauder** - President of the World Jewish Congress, US Ambassador to Austria (1986–1987), philanthropist, businessman, renowned art collector.

**Rabbi Yaakov Dov Bleich** - Chief Rabbi of Kyiv and Ukraine, vice-president of the European Jewish Congress and Member of the Executive of the World Jewish Congress.

**Irina Bokova** - MFA of Bulgaria a.i., ad interim, International Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

**German Khan** - Co-founder and supervisory board member of the Russian Jewish Congress and Genesis Philanthropy Group, a charitable foundation; entrepreneur and philanthropist, a Director of L1, an investment firm, co-founder LetterOne Group.

**Wladimir Klitschko** - World and Olympic boxing champion. Founder of the methodology “F.A.C.E. The Challenge”.

**Aleksander Kwaśniewski** - President of Poland (1995–2005), Chairman of the Board of Yalta European Strategy.

**Joseph I. Lieberman** - U.S. Senator Connecticut (1989–2003), Attorney General of Connecticut (1983–1989), candidate for Vice President of the United States in 2000.

**Viktor Pinchuk** - Ukrainian businessman and philanthropist, founder of EastOne Group and the Victor Pinchuk Foundation.

**Sviatoslav Vakarchuk** - Founder and lead vocalist of the rock band Okean Elzy, civic activist, a People's Deputy of Ukraine.