

## New digital walking tour released by House of European History: Hidden children, survivors of the Holocaust in Brussels

*'iWalk' tour powered by the USC Shoah Foundation's app set in Marolles and Brussels centre areas can be downloaded free on mobile devices*



23 January 2024 – To commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day, the House of European History has created an 'iWalk' tour for people to retrace the Brussels-based lives of child survivors of the Holocaust, in partnership with educators from the USC Shoah Foundation and Zachor Foundation for Social Remembrance in Hungary. The development of this iWalk was funded by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA). It was launched for International Holocaust Remembrance Day 2024 and the Holocaust Remembrance Conference 2024 in Brussels, which was organised by the European Commission, with the IHRA and the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, based on content created by the House of European History in Brussels.

iWalk is a USC Shoah Foundation educational program that provides users with a personalised learning experience at sites of memory around the world. It connects history, physical locations and personal stories of survivors within a pedagogical context and is available via the USC Shoah Foundation iWalk app, freely downloadable from [Google Play](#) and [Apple Store](#).

The tour brings to life the experiences of four children – Michel, Sonia, Helene and Gilbert – whose families originated from Poland, Hungary and Romania, and were living in the Marolles and Brussels centre areas during the pre-war and occupation periods. These children were separated from their parents and had to evade Nazi persecution during this time in Belgium, often through hiding, concealing their identities, taking on double lives, and support from the underground resistance.

*Laurence Bragard, formal learning manager at the House of European History: "We developed the tour to bring historical events right up to the present day. You can literally follow in the footsteps of these resilient individuals, who not only survived the Holocaust, but also carried their stories with them through the decades. Their experiences are a testament to human spirit and the enduring legacy of hope."*

The tour involves seven stops along a 2.2km route, and lasts approximately 60 minutes, starting on *Rue Lengentier, Marolles*, and ending in the *Grand Place*. It is suitable for adults and students over 14 years old. It features testimony video clips, historical images and biographical texts, combined with the real-world plaques, doors and buildings of today, allowing participants to follow the children's harrowing journeys.

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**Images:** for [download and media use are available here](#).

**About [House of European History](#)**

A place to debate, question and reflect on Europe's history. From myths and memories to the chaos and cohesion of the 20th century, the House of European History takes visitors on a journey along the path of Europe's history and challenges them to contemplate its future. A project of the European Parliament, the House of European History is located in the beautifully renovated Eastman Building in leafy Park Léopold. Tailored resources are available for schools, families and groups, offering a fascinating experience for all. Entrance to the museum is free.

**About [USC Shoah Foundation](#)**

The USC Shoah Foundation preserves and amplifies the voices of the past to build a future that remembers. The Visual History Archive (VHA) is home to more than 56,000 testimonies of survivors and witnesses of the Holocaust, the Armenian Genocide, and other historical events of genocide, crimes against humanity, and related persecution, including contemporary antisemitism. It is the largest such collection in the world.

Testimony empowers humanity. The VHA, which is indexed, fully digitized, and searchable, engages scholars, researchers, policymakers, and educators in building conversations and fostering insights and practical solutions to confront antisemitism, strengthen democratic values, and remember the Holocaust.

**About [Zachor Foundation](#)**

Zachor Foundation is an educational NGO based in Budapest, Hungary that draws attention to dangerous phenomena like racism, antisemitism, and prejudice through formal and non-formal education using personal stories including testimony from survivors and witnesses of genocide. It offers educational programs and educational materials as well as professional development developed in-house or in collaboration to equip educators with the tools and methods to address marginalization and prejudice in all educational contexts. Educational materials related to teaching about the Holocaust are prepared based on the educational recommendations of the IHRA (International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance).

**About the [IHRA](#)**

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) is the only intergovernmental organisation with a mandate focused solely on the Holocaust and the genocide of the Roma. Its priority is to counter distortion and safeguard the record of the Holocaust and the genocide of the Roma by strengthening political commitment, setting standards and developing tools, and building an international community. The IHRA was initiated in 1998 by former Swedish Prime Minister Göran Persson as the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research (ITF). Its network currently consists of 35 Member Countries, 9 Liaison Countries, and 10 Permanent International Partner Organisations. Each delegation is made up of at least one governmental representative and leading subject-matter experts in the field. The IHRA Presidency is held by a different Member Country every year. It is currently held by Croatia and will be held by the UK next year.

