

# Visiting the US Holocaust Memorial Museum

## Preparing & Debriefing Your Students

*In anticipation of the visit:*

- Why does the United States have a Holocaust Memorial Museum?
- The Holocaust museum tells the story of a seminal moment in Jewish history, which has significantly impacted the American Jewish community of today. How can we see this impact in our Jewish lives? How do you think this will change when the last survivors pass away?
- Why do you think we are visiting the Holocaust Museum?

*After the visit:*

- Why do we visit the Holocaust Museum during the L'Taken Social Justice Seminars?
- What were the main messages of the museum? What do you think the museum designers wanted you to learn/take away?
- Did the museum tell the story of the Holocaust in an effective way? Why or why not?
- Considering all of your Holocaust education, did you learn anything new? If so, what?
- What happened to the person whose identity you were carrying throughout the museum? How did this affect your experience?
- What were the images or videos that most stood out for you?
- Have you ever been to another Holocaust memorial or museum? How did this compare? What does “Never Again” refer to? What can we do to ensure that such atrocities happen “Never Again”? Do you think this phrase should just refer to the Jews/Holocaust, or atrocities more broadly?
- Why does the museum, which is specifically about the Holocaust, include other genocides in the permanent exhibit and have a whole research center and programming around genocide prevention all over the world?

After visiting the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum consider sharing the reading and blessing from the resources on the RAC website: <http://www.rac.org/ltaken-blessings-and-readings>

