



RI Coalition for Israel

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**RI COALITION FOR ISRAEL DENOUNCES USE OF HOLOCAUST REFERENCES BY LIBERAL
RELIGIOUS GROUPS IN REGARD TO TEXAS BORDER ISSUE**

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Rhode Island Coalition for Israel (RICI), a grassroots organization of conservative Jews and Evangelical Christians, today denounced the siting at the RI Holocaust Memorial of a press conference about the Texas immigration crisis.

“Implying that the temporary separation of children from their parents, as unfortunate and painful as that may be, is somehow equivalent to the Holocaust, is an insult to the memory of the six million Jews, including 1.5 million children, who were murdered in the death camps,” stated Mary Greene, of Wakefield and President of RICI. “Holocaust Education Centers worldwide are virtually unanimous in stating that comparing the present situation with the Holocaust is unacceptable.”

A notice distributed on the internet June 21, by the Jewish Alliance of RI, entitled “Standing Up For The Most Vulnerable”, announced that “The Jewish Alliance, in partnership with the Board of Rabbis of Greater Rhode Island and representatives from the interfaith community” had organized a press conference to be held at the RI Holocaust Memorial.

“Evangelical Christians are shocked and outraged that any Christian or Jew would pervert the horrific memory of the Holocaust by using it as a political tool”, added Greene.

Dave Talan of Providence, Vice-President of RICI said, “It is dishonest, hysterical and irresponsible to invoke Holocaust symbols to protest the treatment of children at the US border. Nazis tortured and murdered children. We can all agree that children should not be separated from their families but the children are being fed, clothed and taken care of until their unfortunate temporary separation from their families is resolved.”

“Using the Holocaust Memorial for a press conference over this issue trivializes the Holocaust” said Ken Schneider of East Providence, RICI treasurer. “The current political situation can and will be resolved by congress and the President and the slightest comparison of these two issues is disingenuous.”

“We urge the Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Center to speak out forcefully against this grotesque use of Holocaust imagery, and we urge local and national officials to not attend the event.” stated Luann Pezzullo of Bristol, the group’s secretary. “We are friends of the Holocaust Center , we share the annual Holocaust Commemoration with them, and we are devastated to see their brutal experiences used in so insensitive a manner, especially by religious organizations who apparently do not understand the meaning of the Holocaust.”