



SHOAH MEMORIAL INAUGURATES THE RAPHAEL LEMKIN CENTRE ON GENOCIDES

During the visit to Paris of Mr Jean Damascène Bizimana, Minister of National Unity and Civic Engagement of the Republic of Rwanda, and Mr Philibert Gakwenzire, President of Ibuka Rwanda, the Shoah Memorial inaugurates the Raphael Lemkin Centre on Genocide and its archive collections on the genocide of Armenians of the Ottoman Empire, the genocide of the Tutsi of Rwanda and the genocide of the Herero and Nama.

The creation of this centre marks a new stage for the Shoah Memorial, which opens its documentation to historians in order to encourage and promote research on the mechanisms and history of genocide.

The name of the centre pays tribute to the Polish lawyer Raphael Lemkin who coined the term «genocide». He first used it in 1944 in his book *Axis Rule in Occupied Europe*. It consists of the Greek prefix *genos*, which means «race» or «tribe», and the Latin suffix *cide*, which refers to the idea of «kill». Raphael Lemkin coined the term to describe not only the Nazi policies of systematic extermination of the Jewish people during the Holocaust, but also other targeted actions carried out in the past with the aim of destroying particular groups of individuals.

For the Memorial, the inauguration expands on several decades of research, documentation collection, commemoration and exhibitions around the history of genocides, marked by some major events such as «The Genocide of the Tutsi» exhibition in 2004, the «Rwanda 1994» exhibition in 2014, and exhibitions on the Armenian genocide in 2015 and 2021.

This new centre benefits from a wide enrichment of its collections and its documentary collection, in particular through the signing of agreements and partnerships with key players (EHESS - School of Higher Studies in Social Sciences, the Ministry of National Unity and Civic Engagement of the Republic of Rwanda, Ibuka Rwanda, Ibuka France).

An exhibition at the Shoah Memorial will be held in 2024 to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Tutsi genocide.



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Mémorial de la Shoah

17, rue Geoffroy-l'Asnier

Paris 4e

Tél. : 01 42 77 44 72

contact@memorialdelashoah.org

www.memorialdelashoah.org

Open from 10am to 6pm

Open every day except Saturday.

Late opening until 10pm

on Thursday.

Free admission

Metro Saint-Paul or Hôtel-de-Ville

Communication

Department Manager

Flavie Bitan

+33 1 53 01 17 16

flavie.bitan@memorialdelashoah.org

PRESS CONTACT

Agence C La Vie

Ingrid Cadoret

ingrid@c-la-vie.fr

06 88 89 17 72

Alessia Tobia

alessia.tobia@c-la-vie.fr

06 40 38 06 73

THE SHOAH MEMORIAL

The Shoah Memorial, the largest archive in Europe on the history of the Shoah, is a place of remembrance, teaching and transmission on the history of the genocide of Jews during the Second World War in Europe. It now brings together six sites: the Shoah Memorial in Paris and the site in Drancy, the memorial site at Chambon-sur-Lignon (Haute-Loire), the CERCIL Museum - Memorial of the Children of Vel d'Hiv (Loiret), the Jules Isaac Cultural Centre of Clermont-Ferrand (Puy-de-Dôme), and the Gare de Pithiviers.

Opened to the public on 27 January 2005 in the historic district of Le Marais, the Parisian site offers many spaces and an education program designed for each type of public: a permanent exhibition on the Shoah and the history of the Jews in France during the Second World War, a space for temporary exhibitions, an auditorium programming screenings, symposia, the Wall of Names where the names of the 76,000 Jewish men, women and children deported from France between 1942 and 1944 as part of the «Final Solution» are engraved, the documentation centre (50 million archival items and 1,500 sound archives, 350,000 photographs, 3,900 drawings and items, 12,000 posters and postcards, 30,000 film documents, 14,500 film titles including 2,500 testimonials and 80,000 books) and its reading room, educational spaces where children's workshops and events for classes and teachers take place, as well as a specialised bookstore. A better knowledge of the history of the Shoah also aims to fight against the return of hatred and against all forms of intolerance today: the Memorial has also been working for more than ten years to teach about other genocides of the twentieth century such as the genocide of the Tutsi in Rwanda or the genocide of the Armenians and will open the new Raphael Lemkin Centre on genocide in June 2023.