



Musée Holocauste Montréal
Montreal Holocaust Museum

Montreal Holocaust Museum Expresses Concerns Regarding Libel Lawsuit Against Professors Engelking and Grabowski

Tuesday, February 16, 2021

The Montreal Holocaust Museum is deeply concerned about the recent libel lawsuit brought against historians Professor Barbara Engelking and Professor Jan Grabowski in a Polish court.

This lawsuit, supported by the Polish League Against Defamation, was based on claims made about a former Polish mayor alleged to have denounced a group of Jews, in their co-edited book *Night Without End: The Fate of Jews in Selected Counties of Occupied Poland*. Following the verdict, Engelking and Grabowski were ordered to apologize for defamation.

We are alarmed about the precedence this trial sets for the freedom, safety, and independence of historians, survivors, artists, writers, students, and educators who wish to learn more about the complex history of the Holocaust in Poland. Our Museum stands in support of Professors Engelking and Grabowski, and most importantly, we stand in support of Holocaust survivors whose testimony is to be respected, valued, and learned from.

As our Museum and numerous others [expressed in 2018](#) when the Polish law criminalising references to the complicity of Poles in Nazi crimes came into effect, we condemn the revision of Holocaust history for political and nationalistic reasons.

Three years ago, we expressed profound concern about the ability of Holocaust survivors and historians to safely tell the story of the Shoah under this problematic law. Today, we are witnessing the realization of our worst fears as we watch the Polish government attempt to stifle research, devalue survivor testimony, and rewrite the narrative.

The history of the Holocaust is deeply complex, and the world requires the vital work of experts, historians, and survivors to understand the details of this painful past. Seventy-six years after the end of the Holocaust, witnesses and researchers continue to play an urgent and important role in educating the public about the history of the Shoah.

Once again, we appeal to the Canadian Government to use its international relations to ensure that the memory of Holocaust survivors, over 35,000 of whom rebuilt their lives in Canada, and the important work of historians are protected and honoured. Academic freedom is essential if we are to learn from the lessons of the past and build a better future.

Press Contact

Sarah Fogg, MHM Head of Communications
sarah.fogg@museeholocauste.ca | 514-240-7357