Why is Holocaust Museum Houston Hosting the Kinsey Collection?

Holocaust Museum Houston is dedicated to educating people about the Holocaust, remembering the 6 million Jews and other innocent victims, and honoring the survivors’ legacy. Using the lessons of the Holocaust and other genocides, we teach the dangers of hatred, prejudice, and apathy. In order to create a better future, we must first learn from the past. The Kinsey Collection, paired with the Holocaust Gallery, helps us understand the dangers of hatred, prejudice, and apathy to any society. If we understand these important lessons, we can move forward together and create a better world for everyone.

The Kinsey Collection contains many links to the lessons of the Holocaust.

• **The Holocaust was not inevitable** - individuals, institutions, and governments allowed it to happen. This is also evident in the choices made in the United States to enslave, segregate, and marginalize Black people, as well as in the choices made to end enslavement and fight for civil rights.

• **Democracy is fragile** - democratic institutions need to be nurtured and protected because they can be undermined from within. The enslavement and segregation of Black people has always been fundamentally at odds with American ideals of democracy and the fight for civil rights is one of our most important efforts to strengthen American democracy. We know from the events of the Holocaust that if the rights of any group are taken away or threatened, this threatens the rights of all of us.

• **Decisions have consequences** - and doing nothing is also a choice. This is perhaps most obvious in the various Supreme Court cases that either strengthened civil rights and consequently American democracy or did the opposite. But this is also demonstrated by all of the choices -at the individual and governmental levels -to fight for or against civil rights.