



October 13, 2025

### **Statement on the Return of Israeli Hostages**

With profound relief and gratitude, Holocaust Museum Houston welcomes home those who have been freed from two long years of captivity following the brutal attacks by Hamas on October 7, 2023.

We rejoice with their families and loved ones, who have endured unthinkable pain and uncertainty. Their return is an answered prayer, and we stand in solidarity with them as they begin the long road back to health and wholeness. The safe return of these hostages marks a critical and deeply emotional step forward; not only for those directly impacted, but for all who believe in the sanctity of human life and the urgent need for justice and peace.

At the same time, our hearts are heavy for the families of those who have just now received final confirmation of the tragic loss of their loved ones. It is some comfort to know that they will finally be given the opportunity to mourn and say goodbye in accordance with tradition. May their grief pass gently, and may the memories of their loved ones be for a blessing.

As an institution committed to teaching the lessons of history, we believe moments like this require both hope and reflection. This ceasefire represents a rare and vital opportunity for healing, for rebuilding, and for recommitting to the values of human dignity, accountability, and coexistence.

It is our sincerest hope that this ceasefire endures, and that the path forward is guided by empathy, courage, and a shared commitment to a more peaceful future.

In the spirit of unity and compassion for all who suffer, we offer the Jewish prayer for peace, a timeless call for healing that extends to every corner of the world:

Oseh shalom bimromav,  
Hu ya'aseh shalom aleinu,  
Ve'al kol Yisrael,  
Ve'imru: Amen.

May He who makes peace in his high places,  
Make He make peace upon us  
And on all of Israel –  
And say, Amen.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Weisserman".

Gary Weisserman  
Chief Executive Officer  
Holocaust Museum Houston

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elyse Spector Kalmans".

Elyse Spector Kalmans  
Board Chair  
Holocaust Museum Houston