

**Members:**  
(alphabetical order)

Agudath Israel  
World Organization  
אגודת ישראל העולמית

American Jewish Committee  
הוועד היהודי האמריקאי

American Gathering/  
Federation of Jewish  
Holocaust Survivors  
האסיפה האמריקאית  
של ניצולי שואה

American Jewish Joint  
Distribution Committee  
הוועדה היהודית אמריקאית  
המשותפת להקצאות (גוינט)

B'nai B'rith International  
בני ברית העולמי

Center of Organizations  
of Holocaust Survivors in Israel  
מרכז הארגונים של ניצולי  
שואה בישראל

Conference of European Rabbis  
ועידת רבני אירופה

Conference on Jewish  
Material Claims  
Against Germany  
הועידה של תביעות יהודיות  
חומריות מגרמניה

EJC/ECJC  
Joint European Delegation  
המועצה האירופאית  
של קהילות יהודיות/הקונגרס היהודי  
האירופאי/משלחת אירופאית משותפת

Jewish Agency for Israel  
הסוכנות היהודית לארץ ישראל

World Jewish Congress  
הקונגרס היהודי העולמי

World Zionist Organization  
ההסתדרות הציונית העולמית

Advocates on behalf of Jews in  
Russia, Ukraine, the Baltic  
States & Eurasia  
הוועד הלאומי למען יהודים  
ברוסיה, אוקראינה והמדינות  
הבלטיות ואירואסיה

April 6, 2016

The Honorable John Cornyn  
The Honorable Charles Schumer  
The Honorable Ted Cruz  
The Honorable Richard Blumenthal

Dear Senators,

I am writing to you in strong support of the "Holocaust  
Expropriated Art Recovery Act of 2016."

In addition to our efforts regarding restitution of immovable  
property in the former communist countries, the World  
Jewish Restitution Organization (WJRO) in cooperation with  
the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany  
(Claims Conference) works worldwide toward the restitution  
of Jewish-owned art, Judaica and other cultural property  
stolen or destroyed during the Holocaust. This includes such  
cultural property held in the United States.

We have for many years encouraged U.S. museums to live  
up to the spirit of the Washington Conference Principles, the  
Terezin Declaration, and the Guidelines of the American  
Alliance of Museums (AAM). It has become clear,  
however, that when such art is located in the United States,  
federal legislation is needed to help ensure that the victims  
of Nazi-confiscated art theft will have their claims  
considered on the merits.

This past year we issued a *Report Concerning Current  
Approaches of United States Museums to Holocaust-Era Art  
Claims*, authored with the pro-bono assistance of the  
American law firm Dickstein Shapiro LLP. The report  
demonstrated that major U.S. museums have recently been

asserting defenses, such as statute of limitations, to avoid resolving on the merits claims by Holocaust victims and their heirs for the restitution of art looted by the Nazis. Use of these procedural defenses is an attempt to defeat claims for the restitution of art stolen by the Nazis by avoiding any adjudication of the substance of those claims. The report called for the enactment of legislation to extend statutes of limitation for Holocaust-era restitution claims.

(See <http://wjro.org.il/cms/assets/uploads/2015/12/ReportMuseums.pdf>)

We therefore greatly applaud and strongly support your efforts through this legislation to ensure that justice is afforded to Holocaust victims of Nazi art theft by affording them the opportunity to press their cases on the merits. Enactment of this legislation will also ensure that the United States continues its moral leadership in this area.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gideon Taylor". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Gideon Taylor  
Chair of Operations  
World Jewish Restitution Organization