

Holocaust & Genocide Education History and Pedagogy



JEWISH COMMUNITY
RELATIONS COUNCIL
MINNESOTA & THE DAKOTAS

BrightWorks

Certificate Program

March – May, 2026

Schedule

Mon., March 2, in-person 12:00-4:00 PM
Tues., March 17, online 4:00-5:30 PM
Tues., March 24, online 4:00-5:30 PM
Tues., March 31, online 4:00-5:30 PM
Tues., April 7, online 4:00-5:30 PM
Thurs., April 9, online 4:00-5:30 PM
Tues., April 14, online 4:00-5:30 PM
Tues., April 21, online 4:00-5:30 PM
Thurs., April 23, online 4:00-5:30 PM
Tues., April 28, online 4:00-5:30 PM
Mon., May 4, in-person 12:00-4:00 PM

Facilitator

Kristin Thompson

Founding Director, [Humanus Network](https://www.humanusnetwork.org),



Prior to founding Humanus Network, Holocaust and Human Rights Educational Consulting, Kristin was a classroom history teacher in MN for 20-years and Education Program Coordinator at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. where she facilitated their educator training programs. She also represented JCRC as the Co-Chair of the MN Dept. of Education's Task Force regarding the new Social Studies standards for Holocaust, Genocide of Indigenous Peoples, & Other Genocides Education.

OVERVIEW

The Certificate Program in Holocaust & Genocide Education: History & Pedagogy provides intensive training in Holocaust history and sound pedagogical methods and strategies for teaching about the Holocaust.

The program also introduces participants to specific examples of genocide and the warning signs that have emerged over time. Participants will utilize reputable archives and primary source materials that promote the skills of historical inquiry.

This program will assist teachers to effectively meet state and national educational standards, including the new MN standards in Holocaust and genocide education.

PROGRAM MODEL

The program's design is based on extensive research about contemporary Holocaust education as well as decades of real-world experience in the field of professional teacher training in the United States and internationally. Based on this background research, our program focuses on Pedagogy and a back-to-the-basics approach to examine history, providing concise yet thorough historical content and context.

Pedagogy: This program will cover how theories and methods for teaching about the Holocaust have changed over time, including the development of an entire field of pedagogical research dedicated to teaching about difficult histories and traumatic topics. Our program incorporates the USHMM Guidelines for Teaching about the Holocaust, introduces best practices, and assists teachers in writing their rationale while providing tools to effectively select classroom resources that are historically accurate and age appropriate.

History: These sessions and our online resource library focus on the power of historical thinking and the value of interpreting history from primary sources. Participants will spend time delving deeper into the history of the Holocaust era, raising questions about possible gaps in our own historical knowledge, and discussing ways to ensure historical accuracy for and with our student learners.

CERTIFICATE

Upon completion, this program will undergo several forms of evaluation, and will provide Certification and Continuing Education Units (CEUs).



[Register here](#)
or scan QR code



For more information contact **Susie Greenberg**,
Director of Holocaust Education

Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas (JCRC)
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Curriculum

Holocaust History

History of Judaism and Diversity of Jewish Experiences
—
History of Antisemitism
—
Rise of Nazism
—
The Power of Propaganda
—
Collaboration and Complicity
—
Challenges of Escape
—
Ghettos, Camps and “The Final Solution”
—
Rescue and Resistance Efforts
—
Aftermath of WWII and the Holocaust

Pedagogy

History, Approaches and Best Practices
—
USHMM Guidelines for Teaching
—
Writing Your Rationale
—
Tools for Resource Selection
—
MN Education Standards

Genocide Education

Definition of Genocide
—
Examples of Genocide
—
Prevention of Genocide
—
Case Studies: Rwanda, Bosnia
—
Guest Speakers

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of the program, participants will:

- ✓ Demonstrate a firm grasp of Holocaust history.
- ✓ Work effectively and comfortably with primary sources, archives, and artifacts to apply the skills of historical inquiry while creating a lesson or module that enhances their unit of study for students.
- ✓ Apply sound pedagogical practices to their unit of study on Holocaust and genocide education, with *USHMM Guidelines for Teaching* as a foundational approach.
- ✓ Demonstrate an understanding of basic history and beliefs of Judaism, including the long history of persecution towards Jews manifesting in historical and contemporary variants of antisemitism.
- ✓ Develop their own classroom specific rational, learning goals, and lesson or module that will be immediately applicable in their teaching.
- ✓ Utilize program-provided tools to select historically accurate, age-appropriate classroom resources for their unit of study.
- ✓ Distinguish warning signs as we examine how and why the Holocaust happened as well as examples of genocide.
- ✓ Demonstrate an understanding of at least two examples of genocide (as legally defined and declared) that can be incorporated into your teaching

PARTICIPANT EXPECTATIONS:

Participants are expected to:

- ✓ Attend all content and pedagogy sessions
- ✓ Successfully complete final project assignment (create a lesson or module for your classroom that utilizes archival primary sources and incorporates USHMM Guidelines)
- ✓ Write your rationale for teaching about the Holocaust and genocide
- ✓ Select historically accurate and age-appropriate classroom resources that will assist you in meeting your goals and objectives as outlined in your rationale



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