



Our Ref: AC/BMF

25 January 2013

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Ms Karen Pollock MBE
Chief Executive
Holocaust Educational Trust
BCM Box 7892
London WC1N 3XX

Dear Karen,

I refer to our telephone conversations of yesterday evening and this morning.

As you know, I have seen the press comments made by David Ward MP concerning his signing of the Holocaust Memorial Book. I consider them to be wholly inappropriate and unacceptable. Whatever view we may take of Israel's policy in relation to the conflict in the West Bank and Gaza to equate this with the actions of the Nazis is unacceptable. Likewise, singling out "the Jews" in the way he does crosses a line of acceptability and is offensive. I wish to dissociate the Liberal Democrats without reservation or ambiguity from these remarks.

I very much regret that David, having been made aware of my views, has refused to remove the article from his website and Twitter feed, as I asked him to. Please accept that he does not reflect the views of the Liberal Democrat Party in this matter in any way. I am most annoyed that David should have brought the trust and its work into the realms of public comment in this way. We could not value the work of the Trust more highly and I very much hope that these comments do not detract from the solemn dignity of the act of holocaust remembrance.

I am writing formally as Chief Whip to David to arrange a meeting to discuss this with him. I shall consider whether further action is necessary after that meeting.

Should you wish to discuss this further with me I should be more than happy to do so.

Yours ever

Alistair Carmichael MP
Liberal Democrat Chief Whip