

Travelling exhibition of the Vilna Gaon State Jewish Museum

“Rescued Lithuanian Jewish Child Tells about the Shoah”

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curator of the exhibition

In 2009, the permanent exhibition “Rescued Lithuanian Jewish Child Tells about the Shoah” was opened at the Tolerance centre of the Vilna Gaon State Jewish Museum in Vilnius. The exhibition attracts many visitors; it is especially popular with schoolchildren of the city of Vilnius and district. It has received critical acclaim in Lithuania and abroad, and in 2010 it received the prize of the Ministry of Culture. The exhibits on display that were very well appreciated by specialists are undoubtedly important for forming young people’s values, their attitude to tolerance and responsibility.

Unfortunately, not all schoolchildren from various Lithuanian cities and towns have the chance to visit Vilnius and get acquainted with the original material of the exhibition that is emotionally appealing and has positive educational influence.

The travelling exhibition is a nice chance not only to see but also to talk about this painful experience, the greatest crime – the Holocaust and the people who ignoring risks rescued those who were to die. It is the chance not only to remember the victims, but also to pay respect to the rescuers, to take pride in those who saved people and Lithuania’s honour. Especially it is important for schools who search for positive examples, inspiring stories of rescues. In this way tolerance, humaneness and responsibility are taught, as well as how to avoid stereotypes evaluating the historical past, to have a critical attitude to violence; to respect other peoples and cultures and their diversity. It constitutes a valuable educational material where more attention is given to moral, humanistic and psychological aspects.

The goal of the project was to organise a *travelling exhibition in Lithuanian and English* “Rescued Lithuanian Jewish Child Tells about the Shoah” that would stimulate Lithuanian and foreign inhabitants’ interest in this subject, would help young people to understand the tragic fate of the Lithuanian Jews during the Holocaust. It should be suitable to be displayed at schools and museums, and other cultural sites in the country and abroad.

Arranging this exhibition at schools and museums would enable visitors to get acquainted with the project material and people working in this field. A travelling exhibition is a good opportunity to meet, discuss and exchange opinions between those who are interested in the country’s history.