

*The Holocaust, along with the other horrible things that the National Socialists perpetrated, shows not only the evil that Man is capable of but also – at the margins, so to speak – the opposite, the good.*

Professor Yehuda Bauer in his address to the German Parliament on the Memorial Day for the Victims of National Socialism on 27 January 1998. Professor Bauer is an Israeli historian, advisor of the Memorial Yad Vashem, Jerusalem and respected authority on the subject of the Holocaust.

## Opening words

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What is so moving about “The Girls of Room 28” is the interaction between all these different girls in the Theresienstadt Ghetto between 1942 and 1944 - the girls who are the heroines of this story. This is a story of the deepest despair and the loss of childhood, but also about regaining childhood and youth through the friendship this group of young people shared. It shows the love the women who looked after the girls had for them, tells of the Girls’ hope for a better future and yes, also of the terrible ending for most of these children – the fifteen Girls of Room 28 are the only ones that survived.

It is a very Jewish story – and a very universal story at the same time. Its message is genuine and provocative – injustice must be challenged. The story calls on us not to lose hope, and this hope is not a banal one and not founded on naivety. Always extraordinary, the story shows what can be achieved by true friendship for every single one of us and for society as a whole. We should all learn from this story, should we not?

*Yehuda Bauer*

In his speech Professor Yehuda Bauer also said:  
*Remembering the Holocaust is only a first step, learning and teaching about it and all the acts of racism and hatred of others that took place during the Second World War, this is the next and responsible step. And in taking this step we, Germans and Jews, are dependent on one another. You cannot accomplish the work of remembrance without us.*

The book and the exhibition about “The Girls of Room 28” are inspired by his words.