

**From:** [Elizabeth Jones](#)  
**To:** [Janet Wood](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
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From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission  
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 4:23:47 PM (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE COMMISSION

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Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed:

The Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission has been extremely helpful to me the past six years as I have brought Holocaust education to my school district. The online digital library for educators on the THGC web site is excellent and easy to use. The digital library has book excerpts, film clips, and poetry that educators can use with students to teach about antisemitism, the Holocaust, the Bosnian genocide, the Cambodian genocide, and the Rwandan genocide, and genocides in Darfur and Sudan. Information about the Armenian genocide is scheduled to be added in 2021. These resources are offered at no cost to educators.

THGC offers information about the best practices recommended when teaching about the Holocaust. This is especially helpful for teachers who have little or no experience teaching this history. The guidelines help with choosing the appropriate language to use and introduce some red flag terms that need to be used in a proper context. The commission does a wonderful job connecting various Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) to the mission of educating the public about the Holocaust and genocide.

Last year Texas Public Schools observed the first official Texas Holocaust Remembrance Week. THGC was instrumental in getting the law passed so that all Texas students can learn about the history of the Holocaust. We have a long way to go to make this law become a reality in all Texas schools, and the support of the THGC and their staff is needed. Although we now have a law, we do not have consistent teacher training offered. Many teachers do not teach about the Holocaust because they are not comfortable with or familiar with the content. THGC can offer this training, and each year we can see more schools genuinely observing Holocaust Remembrance Week and more students who begin to understand why this history is important.

Outreach by the THGC has been useful to me. Staff members have spoken to students and parents at my school at evening events. We were the first public school to host the Texas Liberator Exhibit and every student was able to see larger-than-life photos of the men from Texas who went into death camps and helped those who were imprisoned. One of the Texas liberators visited our school and spoke to high school students about his experience. Teenagers treated Herb Stern like he was the most important person they had ever met (He probably was.) and his stories will not be forgotten.

Please do not abolish the THGC. As we watch hate happen every day in our world, this commission works to show us how to stop that hate and how to accept those who may be different than we are. Their work is important and will continue to be important to future generations of Texas students.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: I would recommend additional training for teachers in Holocaust education.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree