



מוסד ון ליר בירושלים

THE VAN LEER JERUSALEM FOUNDATION

THE GOALS OF THE CONFERENCE

The initiative for this conference emanates from the sense that perspectives on the Holocaust are in a state of transition today: after a generation in which the Holocaust has been explored and commemorated, by word and deed, the search for understanding in fields such as history, psychiatry, literature and education is increasingly beset by evidence of distortion and abuse.

The transitional phase in which we presently find ourselves offers both promise and risk: the promise of new flexibility in the search for norms and modes of relating to the Holocaust, especially by generations unguided by the experience of survivors and witnesses; and at the same time the risk of exploitation, trivialization and vulgarization, both intentional and unintentional.

The conference will focus on the uses and abuses of the Holocaust in various social and cultural fields - an interdisciplinary approach that is meant to overcome difficulties which have arisen recently from the compartmentalization of the subject into various specialties. We hope the conference will evolve an integrated perspective on our individual and collective responsibilities for the memory of the Holocaust.

The conference will be planned and arranged so that it will be possible to publish its proceedings in a book which is meant to contribute to a critical framework for relating to the subject.

Enclosed please find a tentative schedule of sessions of the conference.