



## Confronting Holocaust Denial

On Friday, January 26, 2018, the lower house of the Polish legislature overwhelmingly passed a bill which would make it illegal for anyone in Poland to make statements which suggest that the Polish government or her citizens were complicit in regards to Nazi atrocities of World War II. Similar legislation was brought in 2013, but failed to become law.

To learn more about what has taken place as of 1/31/18, visit:

- Jewish Telegraph Agency: [Poland wants to ban the term 'Polish death camps.' There are historical inaccuracies on both sides of the debate.](#)
- Reuters: [Israel and Poland clash over proposed Holocaust law](#)
- BBC News: [Poland president to review Holocaust bill after Israel outcry](#)
- The Washington Post: [President says Poland did not take part in the Holocaust](#)
- [Response by Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, Dallas Holocaust Museum/Center for Education & Tolerance, Florida Holocaust Museum and Holocaust Museum Houston](#)
- Times of Israel: [Poland set to vote on Holocaust bill despite agreeing with Israel to hold off](#)
- AP News: [Pope denounces Holocaust indifference amid Polish uproar](#)

Below, please find a number of videos and articles that might help inform a discussion of this event in your classroom. In addition, here are a few conversation starters:

- Did you know that it is illegal to deny the Holocaust in many European countries? Do you believe that this type of speech should be illegal?
- Is Holocaust denial hate speech?
- Do you feel as though foreign governments should intervene to try to stop legislation such as this? If so, what are the limits of intervention?
- Judaism has prohibitions against *lashon hara* – evil speech. Do you think that Holocaust denial should fall under that prohibition?
- This law seems more about omission (leaving something out) than commission (doing something). Is leaving a pertinent detail out of a story similar to telling a lie? Why do you feel this way?



## Confronting Holocaust Denial

### Video

- Holocaust Denial from the USHMM  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BtfR31PGZVA&feature=youtu.be>
- Deborah Lipstadt at Oxford talking about why Holocaust Denial should NOT be criminalized: <https://youtu.be/pdhW93njnE>
- Yad Vashem – Confronting Holocaust Denial <https://youtu.be/1CLKptQmUR8>
- Behind the Lies of Holocaust Denial –TED Talk, Deborah’s Lipstadt  
<https://youtu.be/0ztdofPc8Rw>

### Articles

- Yad Vashem – Holocaust Denial Laws and Laws Criminalizing Nazism across the world  
<http://www.yadvashem.org/holocaust/holocaust-antisemitism/articles/holocaust-denial-laws.html>
- EU Adopts Measure Outlawing Holocaust Denial NY Times  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/19/world/europe/19iht-eu.4.5359640.html>
- USHMM – Origins of Holocaust Denial (Talks about decoy language used by Nazis) <https://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007273>
- Society of Professional Journalists – Dangers of Criminalizing Speech.  
[https://www.spj.org/quill\\_issue.asp?ref=438](https://www.spj.org/quill_issue.asp?ref=438)
- State of Free Speech and Tolerance in America – CATO Institute  
<https://www.cato.org/survey-reports/state-free-speech-tolerance-america>