South Carolina
Council on the Holocaust

Statement on the Omission of the Term "Holocaust" from the Revised South Carolina State Educational Standards

In December 2017, various local and national news outlets carried a story about the omission of the term "Holocaust" from the Social Studies standards being drafted by the SC Department of Education. The decision to remove the term was seen as being in stark contrast to the current standards.

In response to this oversight, the Council immediately contacted the Department of Education and asked them to remedy the situation. The Council's concerns were acknowledged, and State Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman issued a statement in which she affirmed, "I fully support and am committed to explicitly naming the Holocaust in the final version. I will instruct my staff to make this revision and others prior to the standards going before the State Board of Education for adoption."

The Council has since been in regular contact with the Office of Standards and Learning about this important matter. They are working with us to ensure that the department's policies and educational support documents continue to promote South Carolina's 30-year long commitment to teaching and learning about the Holocaust. We are optimistic that the standards writing process will result in clear language that will both direct and equip SC educators to teach about the Holocaust in a meaningful way, including referencing it by name.

We appreciate the hard work of our colleagues in the Department of Education, the State Legislature, and the many other organizations who work with us to address issues of educational capacity building in our communities.

The South Carolina Council on the Holocaust is a state-supported organization created by the legislature in 1989 to ensure the promotion of Holocaust education throughout SC schools and communities. Any questions or inquiries can be directed to Dr. Christine Beresniova, Executive Director of the Council by contacting us here