

**Speech Andrea Kloeber at the opening of the dedication of the memorial
Geislingen, 29.4.2018**

Dear Mayor Dehmer, Dear Mr. Lotz, Dear Sir or Madam,

I am pleased to welcome you here in Geislingen as Deputy Chairwoman of the "Verband Region Stuttgart".

I am particularly pleased that so many people have come to witness the unveiling of the steles commemorating the women of the satellite camp. My special greeting and a heartfelt "Shalom" goes to the relatives of the victims who have traveled all the way from Israel to join us here today.

The active participation in this event shows me that many people feel the need to keep alive the memory of the genocide as well as the murder of dissidents during this time.

How can it be possible today, in the face of racism and violence against dissenters and people of other faiths, that young people are made aware of the horrors of that time?

How would we behave at the sight of hundreds of bald, shorn women being driven around our city in convict clothes?

You cannot find answers to some questions, sometimes only speechlessness remains in the face of the incomprehensible.

It is all the more important to provide information and to remember so that there is no room for general condemnation and prejudice. For this would only play into the populist's hands.

It is our task to raise the awareness among the younger generation that also today we must actively take measures against racism and hatred of dissidents in general.

With the dedication of these steles here in Geislingen you have made an important contribution to the information and remembrance of this part of your city's history. The "Verband Region Stuttgart" funded this project as part of its promotion of the "Route of Industrial Heritage" and, personally, I am very pleased with this because I am also interested in the history of that time.

I would like to especially thank Pastor Lotz and his team, who have been committed for years and with great dedication to wrest from oblivion this place and the people who have suffered extremely and were killed here.

I wish this place of remembrance many visitors who take a break during their walk or bike tour and remember the women who are no longer nameless, to whom you have restored their name and dignity.

Thank you for your attention