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Speech by Dr Florian Herrmann, state minister and member of the Bavarian State Parliament at the opening ceremony of the Remembrance Place BADEHAUS on the 21/10/18

Translated by the ministry

Holocaust survivor Max Mannheimer once said: “Only those who remember can have a future.”

At the Föhrenwald DP camp, Max Mannheimer took care of the so-called “hard-core cases” on behalf of the Americans: these were severely traumatised concentration camp prisoners. If Max Mannheimer were still with us, he could tell us how Föhrenwald became a haven for thousands of Holocaust survivors more than 70 years ago. It became a place where they could regain the strength to come to terms with the horrors of the Shoah.

But Max Mannheimer passed away two years ago – a bitter loss also for the culture of remembrance.

More and more eyewitnesses are leaving us. That’s why centres of remembrance like the Badehaus Waldram-Föhrenwald are so vital.

Dear Dr. Krafft,

You and the members of the society “Bürger fürs BADEHAUS Waldram-Föhrenwald” have been volunteering for over six years and have put in more than 14,000 hours of active volunteer work so that people do not forget. Together you have preserved a memorable building as a place of remembrance for future generations. Thank you very much for your valuable commitment!

I would also like to pay the utmost respect to the people of the region and to the other sponsors: the city of Wolfratshausen and the county of Bad Tölz-Wolfratshausen. Together with the State of Bavaria, you have made possible this important project against forgetting. Especially in times like these, when the importance of remembrance for our present era is increasingly being questioned, this commitment cannot be over-emphasised. Thank you very much!

Your Eminence,

the Bible says [Gal 6,7]:

“Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.”

The Archdiocese of Munich-Freising handed over the Badehaus to the society three years ago, free of charge. Today, we can see that generosity bears good fruits.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We share responsibility for the future. Antisemitism and racism have no place in Germany. Never again is not just a phrase - but a mandate for us today in politics and society.

Dear Dr. Schuster,

The Bavarian State Government is at your side. All Jewish citizens should feel safe and at home here today and in the future. That's our responsibility! We support this with all the resources of the rule of law. We join forces to do this.

That is also why our Minister-President appointed former State Minister Dr. Ludwig Spaenle as antisemitism commissioner on 14 May 2018. And only last month, the State Parliament decided to reorganise and further develop the Bavarian State Centre for Political Education.

- In future, it will intensify the fight against political extremism in social media.
- It will support existing networks of experts in which the State of Bavaria is already fighting political and religious extremism.
- And it will focus on preventive information and educational work.

Our core values are our inner compass. They show us where we want to go. They are the foundation on which we build our state.

With the inauguration of the BADEHAUS Waldram-Föhrenwald memorial site, we are setting an example: we stand up against those who advocate forgetting and repression. We stand up for a world in democracy, freedom and peace – for a life in dignity.