

# THE LORD MAYOR WELCOMES KINDER

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Eighty-five years since the Kindertransport brought the youngest victims of Nazi terror to safety in Great Britain the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of the City of London hosted some of the former child refugees and paid tribute to their dramatic escape.

Eight AJR Kinder and their descendants, were welcomed to The Lord Mayor's residence, Mansion House. They included Alice Hubbers, Alfred Kessler, John Farago, Kurt Eichner and Maria Ault, as well as Renate Collins and Alexandra Greensted, who were both part of Sir Nicholas Winton's missions.

Addressing the Kinder, The Lady Mayoress, Elisabeth Mainelli, said: "From its earliest beginnings the City of London has welcomed people of all faiths, beliefs, and nationalities – many of whom were fleeing persecution at home. The City played an important role in the Kindertransport story. Children arrived at Liverpool Street Station to begin their new lives in the UK, and Sir Nicholas Winton worked on the London Stock Exchange."

She later said it had been "an honour" to host Kinder and their families at the mayoral residence in the 85th anniversary year of the Kindertransport and that it had been "an opportunity to remember their bravery and celebrate their lives and legacies. We are proud of the City's Jewish heritage and, through the [City Belonging Project](#), continue to do what we can to celebrate it."

Danny Kalman, The AJR's Kindertransport Chair added: "We are thankful to the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress for hosting the Kinder today. It seems fitting that only a short walk from here, at Liverpool Street Station, so many of those children started new lives, after unimaginable journeys against the backdrop of oppression, displacement, and war. It's testament to their parents'



The Lady Mayoress addressing the AJR guests at Mansion House



The Lord Mayor (back row, between the AJR's Danny Kalman and Michael Newman) with seven of the Kinder at the event

brave decision to send their precious offspring into the unknown, for a chance of freedom, that we see three generations of descendants here today. A chink of light in one of the darkest chapters in history and emblematic of AJR's growing next generation membership, who enrol with us to celebrate and preserve their family heritage."

As part of the visit, the Kinder were treated to a guided tour of Mansion House and learnt about The Freedom of the City. They also had the opportunity to view memorabilia relating to Sir Nicholas Winton's work and discover more about the history of Jewish migration in the City of London.

Michael Newman, AJR's CEO, observed that the Kindertransport 85th anniversary

year had coincided with "a time of increased sensitivity and concern for Jewish people, in this country and globally and underscores the priority to instil, in all audiences, the universality of the Holocaust - its lessons and its warnings. Long may the Kinder have the energy and opportunity to share their important eye-witness accounts which bear witness to where antisemitism can lead."

The visit to Mansion House was part of a programme of events arranged by the AJR to commemorate 85 years since the arrival of the Kindertransport. Events have included arranging for His Majesty the King to meet with the Kinder last November as well as receptions hosted by Their Excellencies the German and Austrian Ambassadors.