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Media. Contact:

Steve Rabinowitz

steve@bluelightstrategies.com

(o) 202.265.3000

(c) 202.494.7655

Minister Omer Yankelevitch Launches Exploratory Taskforce to Provide Covid-19 Vaccinations for Holocaust Survivors around the World

The Ministry of Diaspora Affairs, along with its affiliate "Shalom Corps," are launching an operation to provide lifesaving Covid-19 vaccinations to Holocaust survivors worldwide.

Jerusalem, Israel – MK Omer Yankelevitch, Minister of Diaspora Affairs, is launching an extensive operation to vaccinate Holocaust survivors worldwide.

This week, the Israeli Cabinet Minister directed Shalom Corps, the worldwide youth service corps, to immediately begin to convene and coordinate relevant bodies and potential partners around this effort.

The task force already is working as quickly as possible to bring this operation into the field. Given their advanced age, Holocaust survivors are a particularly high-risk group and in certain countries, are not set to receive the vaccine in the near future. This project will also ensure that all Holocaust survivors in Israel are vaccinated and provided proper guidance and support.

The initial plan is to establish inoculation centers in designated countries. When and where needed, medical personnel and volunteers will travel directly to the residence of recipients to perform the vaccination. There will be no charge to any recipient/survivor for this service.

In the coming days, Shalom Corps will consider several different work-plans to finance and manage this project, including how to utilize Jewish philanthropic networks. Solutions for other expected hurdles, such as obtaining permits from foreign governments and the purchase of vaccines by the Ministry, are also being examined. Vaccines for this initiative will be acquired

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separately and in addition to Israel's current supply and will in no way impact Israel's current vaccination effort.

There are approximately 190,000 Holocaust survivors in Israel and 130,000 more around the world. The Holocaust Survivors Vaccination Operation will be administered by Shalom Corps, a global volunteer movement activating young people in Israel and Jewish communities around the world to do meaningful service as an expression of their shared values. The initiative operates globally, including in developing countries. Shalom Corps is active in a number of fields including education, agriculture, teen leadership development, health and female empowerment. Founded as a joint initiative of the Diaspora Affairs Ministry, the Jewish Agency and private donors, Shalom Corps reaches thousands of Jewish volunteers worldwide.

"During this global crisis, we have an opportunity to support Holocaust survivors whose resilience continues to guide and inspire humanity today," said Omer Yankelevitch, Diaspora Affairs Minister. "It is our collective obligation to safeguard this treasured yet vulnerable population in the spirit of mutual responsibility. Now is the time for all of us, Jewish institutions and leaders from across the world, to come together in this operation. Together, we can ensure that Holocaust survivors are efficiently vaccinated, wherever they live."

About Shalom Corps

Shalom Corps Ltd. is a non-profit organization established by Mosaic United (a collaborative program of the Government of Israel and the Ministry of the Diaspora) and the Jewish Agency for Israel. Shalom Corps' mission is to empower a global Jewish volunteer network involved in meaningful and significant volunteerism that engages participants in Jewish service-learning experiences. Learn more at <https://shalomcorps.org/>