



To Whom It May Concern,

The European Center for Jewish Students, a non-profit a-political organization, hosted the largest annual young Jewish European event. 500 participants from over 2 dozen countries gathered together in Amsterdam to celebrate their Jewish heritage, strengthen their pride and to bridge gaps in the social infrastructure between Jews of various countries. Five days were packed with workshops, lectures, culture, parties, and touring.

The highlight of the entire program was the cinema night featuring: *I Have Never Forgotten You – the Life and Legacy of Simon Wiesenthal*. The cinema was presented by R' Aron Hier director of the Simon Wiesenthal Campus Outreach Department. The room was packed with participants as the lights went out and the film began. All eyes were focused on the screen as Simon Wiesenthal came to life. His trials, his dedication and his triumph inspired the viewers and taught them to take a deeper look at life and their role in the picture.

I saw emotions of sadness, pride, and resolution pass over the faces of the young Europeans. I saw students who have never sat through an entire lecture or workshop before sit completely still throughout the movie. I saw tough, untouchable participants trying without success to hold back tears.

Film concluded with the entire audience standing and applauding for a few long, emotion-charged moments.

After the outstanding movie was over, I received many comments from the students. I have paraphrased them here:

'I hope you don't mind, but Rina and I are not going to the party tonight. We want to talk about the film. We have to see what we are going to do...it has got to change our lives.' – Judy C., Ireland

'My grandparents went through the holocaust and never spoke about it. I was never able to think about it, it is too horrible. But now I see that it is important to learn about it and maybe I can even take something good that I can do because of it.' – Yael F., France

'Wow that was amazing. Simon Weisenthal is such a special man and he is so nice!' – Anna B., Germany

'A very powerful film. It gave me a lot to think about.' – Gary W., England

'I can't explain how it made me feel. I don't remember feeling like this before. That is something special.' Michel H., Netherlands

'I just cried and cried; I couldn't help myself. It is so moving! What a special person Simon Weisenthal was. I really didn't think it would be this good. Everyone around me was crying too...even the guys! I think it brought out everyone's emotions.' Cloe G., Switzerland



At the end of the event, participants were asked to fill out a questionnaire to rate various aspects of the program. 'I Have Never Forgotten You' was given a perfect 5 by *every* person. The film has made Simon Wiesenthal a beloved person and role model for hundreds of students throughout Europe.

Sincerely,

R' Zevi Ives  
Executive Director