

MEDIA RELEASE

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'Raoul Wallenberg'
(Photo Thomas Veres, reproduction Karl Gabor)

Raoul Wallenberg – To me there's no other choice **An exhibition about moral courage, tolerance and personal responsibility**

On display for the first time in Australia, the State Library of South Australia is pleased to be hosting ***Raoul Wallenberg – To me there's no other choice***. This exhibition tells the inspirational story of Raoul Wallenberg, from his actions of helping others during World War II to his ultimate disappearance in 1945.

Wallenberg is one of the most famous and admired Swedes in the world. Armed only with his bravery and moral courage, he saved tens of thousands of Jews from the Holocaust, by issuing protective passports and creating safe houses.

A number of those saved as a result of Wallenberg's actions came to live in Australia. Recognised internationally for his selfless and tireless devotion to human life during the Holocaust, in 2013 Wallenberg was made Australia's first Honorary Citizen. He has also just been honoured with an Australia Post stamp together with Nelson Mandela and Mother Teresa.

This touring exhibition comes from the Swedish Institute in Stockholm and the Embassy of Sweden in Canberra, and is supported by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Alan Smith, Director of the State Library says, "It's a privilege working with our colleagues at the Swedish Embassy, to bring this thought-provoking exhibition to Adelaide."

The Governor of South Australia, His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AO will open the exhibition. His Excellency Mr Pär Ahlberger, Ambassador of Sweden to Australia comments, "We are very pleased to be working with the State Library of South Australia to share the story of this inspirational man, Raoul Wallenberg who is held in the highest esteem by all Swedes." This important exhibition shows how one person can make a difference.

Building on the exhibition themes of moral courage, tolerance and personal responsibility, a selection of material from the Library's collections forms part of the exhibition and features some of our local heroes who have worked for humanitarian causes. These themes are just as relevant in society today, as they were during the traumatic years of World War II.

Aboriginal Elder Lowitja O'Donoghue is one of these heroes. She has worked tirelessly over many years advocating for Aboriginal legal rights, health, housing and education. In her Sorry Day Speech at the Adelaide Town Hall in 1998, Lowitja commented, "If we can open our eyes to history and open our hearts to our shared humanity, then we can take the next step which is to work hard on all the structural and practical things we can do to bring out a just and fair nation of which we can all be proud."

The exhibition, ***Raoul Wallenberg – To me there's no other choice***, opens 11 November in the Institute Gallery at the State Library of South Australia and continues until 10 January 2016. The exhibition then tours around Australia.

EXHIBITION DETAILS:

11 November – 10 January 2016
Open 10am – 5pm daily
Institute Gallery, Institute Building
Corner North Terrace and Kintore Avenue
Free entry

FOR MEDIA ENQUIRIES CONTACT:

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