



# RAOUL WALLENBERG INSTITUTE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Teaching, research, and public engagement to study and combat ethnic and religious hatred

The Raoul Wallenberg Institute at the University of Michigan fosters the values embodied by Raoul Wallenberg—empathy, tolerance, courage, and leadership. We study hatred directed against religious and ethnic communities, foster cross-cultural understanding, and elevate civic discourse. The Raoul Wallenberg Institute was established by the University of Michigan in December 2023 as part of a university-wide effort to combat antisemitism and advance religious diversity and inclusion. With a mission that goes beyond academic pursuits, the institute is the materialization of a shared call to action, confronting the compounding power of all forms of hatred. Through teaching, research, and public engagement, the institute is developing strategies to combat antisemitism, divisiveness, and discrimination.

Raoul Wallenberg, the institute's namesake, was a Swedish humanitarian who graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in architecture in 1935. Nine years later, he volunteered to work in Budapest on behalf of the U.S. War Refugee Board to aid U.S. efforts to rescue European Jews during the Holocaust. He is credited with saving some twenty thousand Jews from deportation to the Auschwitz death camp by establishing safe houses and handing out Swedish protective papers. Wallenberg was made an honorary citizen of the United States by President Ronald Reagan—one of only eight people in history to receive this honor—and was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal by President Barack Obama. Since 1985, Wallenberg's legacy has been honored at the University of Michigan through the Wallenberg Medal and Lecture and the Wallenberg Fellowship.

And now, the Raoul Wallenberg Institute expands his legacy by gathering scholars who are compelled by his example.

## WALLENBERG INSTITUTE DISCRETIONARY FUND

We welcome gifts at all levels to support the critical work of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute. Our fundraising goals may be reached through individual major gifts or a number of smaller gifts. **Gifts of \$50,000 - \$1 million to support any of our priorities will qualify for a 1:1 university match until funds are depleted.** We are seeking a total of \$4 million for the Wallenberg Institute endowed discretionary fund that will provide long-term flexibility in pursuing opportunities to grow and position the institute as a global resource for combating antisemitism, divisiveness, and discrimination. Funds may be used to launch new initiatives, host major conferences and events on campus, and participate in international programs.

## WALLENBERG INSTITUTE AFFILIATE PROGRAM

As a central element of the mission of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute, teaching and curricular development that equip future leaders are a top priority. The institute is developing new courses, including team-taught classes and courses devoted to research on relevant topics, adding modules to existing courses, or redesigning courses that integrate experiences that bring learning to life. The Raoul Wallenberg Institute is developing innovative ways of integrating ethnic and religious tolerance into the classroom and is creating a cohort of graduate students and faculty leaders to implement new curricula. The Wallenberg Institute Affiliate Program gathers graduate student fellows and faculty fellows from multiple disciplines across the university who share a dedication to advancing ethnic and religious tolerance in their scholarly work, teaching, and public engagement. Fellows work together in bi-weekly workshops, committed to the mentoring relationships they establish within the group. They create new ideas together, directly applicable in their teaching engagements. An endowed fund of \$2 million is needed to support this valuable program.

## WALLENBERG INTERSHIPS

Engagement outside of the classroom is vital in preparing the next generation. Students learn to address heated topics that affect their lives—with a foundation in respectful dialogue—and ultimately can become facilitators for other groups in their communities and beyond. Undergraduate and graduate students are engaged in multiple facets of work, as learners and participants. To further support the priority to equip future leaders, we are seeking \$1 million for an endowed internship fund to provide opportunities for recent graduates to experience work and research opportunities at the Raoul Wallenberg Institute.



## RESEARCH INITIATIVES FUNDS

The Raoul Wallenberg Institute at the University of Michigan will become a leading center for cutting-edge research on issues related to our mission. The institute directly sponsors and oversees major collaborative research initiatives at the University of Michigan. Several major research projects are already underway, including a longitudinal research survey to determine student perspectives of minority religious communities on campus, historical research regarding religious holiday celebrations in American public schools, and a history of hatred in the Great Lakes Region. The institute has also invited University of Michigan faculty to apply for major research funding that support projects studying and combating religious and ethnic hatred.

Each year, the Raoul Wallenberg Institute will solicit proposals from across U-M for smaller research projects that advance the mission of the institute. These may include requests for summer faculty funding, funding for student research assistants, postdoctoral researchers, equipment, travel, and other eligible research expenses.

We are seeking \$5 million to create an endowed research fund to support the awarding of multiple projects and grants each year.

## ENDOWED FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The Raoul Wallenberg Institute is building a dynamic, innovative environment for research and collaboration, one fostered by a diverse range of scholars and practitioners. The institute offers fellowships for scholars and practitioners whose work advances the mission of the institute and enhances its intellectual community. These fellowships can include U-M faculty, emeritus/emerita faculty, visiting faculty, postdoctoral scholars, and practitioners (researchers, journalists, NGO members, activists, governmental and intergovernmental officials on leave, and independent scholars) and can be one-year or up to three-year fellowships. Fellows teach courses and pursue their own projects while interacting and collaborating with the institute and other resources at the University of Michigan.

Gifts totaling \$9 million will establish endowed fellowship funds to provide stipends and grants for faculty, visitors, and practitioners to conduct scholarly research and teach. We seek endowed support for nine fellowships at \$1M each to help fund salaries and benefits.



## VISITING PROFESSIONAL RESIDENCY FUND

The Raoul Wallenberg Institute is a public-facing resource for the state of Michigan and distributes the results of its research and programs on a regular basis through various means, including opinion pieces in major media outlets, podcasts, public conferences and symposia, the publication of occasional research papers, webcasts, and newsletters. Short-term residencies ensure the institute has engaged professionals from a range of fields. We're seeking an endowment of \$2 million for visiting professional residencies for professionals in the field, such as journalists, clergy, and activists.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH FUNDS

The Raoul Wallenberg Institute sponsors public events that include speaker/event series on charged issues related to the mission of the institute. These moderated conversations model open and respectful dialogue and provide opportunities for influential and thoughtful figures in the public eye (politicians, thought leaders, entertainers, influencers, etc.) to be in conversation with subject experts and professional moderators.

Another element of community outreach is within K-12 schools. The Raoul Wallenberg Institute is as a resource for district and charter schools in the state of Michigan, particularly in reference to the Genocide and Holocaust Education Public Act 170 of 2016, which requires "age and grade-appropriate instructions about genocide, including but not limited to the Holocaust and the Armenian genocide." In collaboration with other Holocaust pedagogy initiatives, the institute will hold seminars and workshops for school leaders, identify and publicize age and grade appropriate sources of information, and offer assistance in the ongoing development of curricula. The institute will also undertake age-appropriate school-focused programming within the scope of the institute's mission. When appropriate, such programs may be developed and carried out in association with other University of Michigan centers and programs.

We are seeking \$2 million in endowed community outreach funds to build staff and infrastructure for a speaker/events series (including recorded material), exhibits, and other campus programming, as well as for implementing school outreach. We also have a four-year plan to develop materials for secondary school use, and we are seeking expendable donor support of \$600,000 to make this possible.

## WAYS TO FUND YOUR GIFT

Your partnership connects the college's rich past to a boundless and bright future. You can change lives with gifts of cash, pledges, or appreciated securities, and create a meaningful legacy through your bequest, trusts, gift annuities, and other planned gifts. Your generosity makes an impact on what's next, for a better tomorrow.

*for what's next ▶*

**Look to Michigan**

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