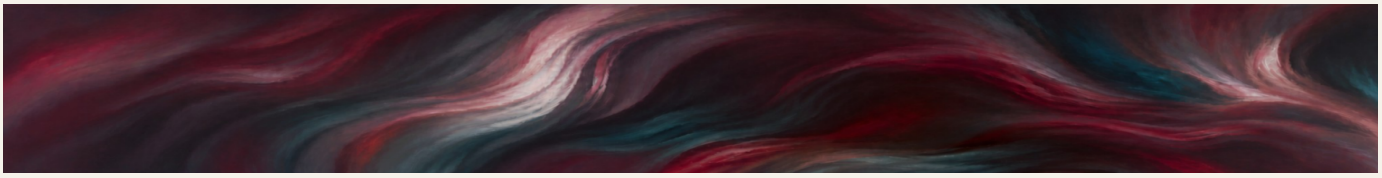
Visualising Blood Libels

JEWS, MYTHS, AND MEDIA

CONNECTING THE DOTS



The project

Visualising Blood Libels: Jews, Myths and Media is a one-year research and education project funded by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA).

The project identifies the visual arts and the humanities as key players in the creation and dissemination of antisemitic blood libel narratives. The blood libel is one of antisemitism's oldest instruments, shaping the collective imagination and perception of Jews in Western culture and beyond.

The blood libel is the false accusation that Jews murder non-Jews, principally non-Jewish children, a charge that in many variants extends to the ritual use of their blood. Returning in new forms across centuries, the blood libel served to justify expulsions, forced conversions and murder.

The project brings together visual representations of the blood libel, traced from twelfth-century Norwich to the present, and contemporary scholarship, to contribute to a greater understanding of this mechanism. Educators, journalists and policymakers will have the tools to 'connect the dots' and recognise how contemporary tropes reproduce these historical narratives across today's media and digital platforms.

The political economy

The project examines who gained political power, religious authority, influence or social standing through the creation and circulation of blood libel imagery, and how these gains could translate into financial benefits. Across nine centuries and different places, each case raises four questions:

1. Who created the blood libel artwork?
2. Who commissioned it, and where was it displayed?
3. Who gained politically, and how did they benefit?
4. What was the impact on the local Jewish community?

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The resource

A free, open-access website comprising three parts:

Explore	An interactive exhibition of twelve case studies, presenting each artwork with accessible analysis of its story, maker, commissioner, beneficiaries, and the consequences for the Jewish community.
Research	Commissioned scholarship on contemporary blood libel, including social media, AI and digital platforms. Articles will appear on the website as work in progress and, following full peer review, in a dedicated edition of the CASA Journal.
Toolkit	Two downloadable resources, an educator pack and a policymaker pack.

Partners and funders

Main funder: The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), uniting governments and experts to strengthen, advance and promote Holocaust education, remembrance and research worldwide. The project is funded through the IHRA Grant Program, grant 2025-460.

Grant holder: London Centre for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism (LCSCA).

Official project partner: Center for Holocaust Studies and Human Rights at Gratz College, Philadelphia.

Scholarly network: CASA, the Contemporary Antisemitism Studies Association, supporting the academic needs of the project.

Advisory team: The Holocaust Educational Trust, on the educational resources. The National Holocaust Museum, through Professor Maiken Umbach, on the ethical presentation of antisemitic imagery.

Co-funders: The American Jewish Committee. The Hurricane Fund.

Timeline

The project runs from 1 November 2026 to 31 October 2027.

November 2026	Research, advisory work and call for papers
January 2027	First website prototype
April–May 2027	Refinement following feedback
June 2027	Public testing and the Gratz-supported panel in Philadelphia
October 2027	Formal launch; parliamentary date to be confirmed

The website will remain available for at least ten years.

CONTACT Maya Amrami, Project Lead · me@mayaamrami.com

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