



## ABOUT THE INSTITUTE

USC Shoah Foundation develops empathy, understanding and respect — through testimony.

In recording audiovisual testimonies of survivors and eyewitnesses of the Holocaust, genocide, and crimes against humanity, we give voice to survivors and share their life histories and experiences with the world.

We listen deeply, consider carefully, and place testimony in context. Through academic programs and research, we build knowledge and insight. Our education programs deliver practical digital tools and resources for our partners and their audiences. We evaluate our work.

While the witnesses guide us through the darkness of humanity, they also shed light on the possibilities for every individual to counter hatred. We are inspired by their hard-fought hope. We believe testimony has a positive influence on people to be more kind, empathetic and humanistic.

The Institute's efforts are rooted in the Visual History Archive, a repository containing 55,000 testimonies of survivors and witnesses to genocide and crimes against humanity. The bulk of the interviewees lived through the Holocaust, but the Archive also includes hundreds of eyewitness accounts from people who survived the 1915 Armenian Genocide, the 1937 Nanjing Massacre, the Guatemalan Genocide of the early 1980s, the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi in Rwanda and the Cambodian Genocide of the late 1970s.

Conducted in 63 countries, the testimonies average a little more than two hours each in length. The Visual History Archive contains more than 115,000 hours of testimony — the equivalent of 13 years. And yet its powerful search engine enables users to key in on specific moments of interest.

The Institute also has branched into the realm of alternate reality, inventing an interactive-biography project called Dimensions in Testimony.

The project — the first of its kind in the world — enables people to have question-and-response sessions with pre-recorded video testimonies of genocide survivors. In so doing, it offers a way to preserve the ability to have real-time conversations with some of the world's most effective teachers of tolerance. To date, 17 testimonies have been recorded in this manner.

The Institute also develops education programs for middle and high school students, and has produced several award-winning documentary films – two of which were filmed in 360-degree virtual reality.

Ultimately, the Visual History Archive and Dimensions in Testimony forever preserve the faces and voices of the people who witnessed history, allowing their firsthand stories to enlighten and inspire action against intolerance for generations to come.