



**BIRMINGHAM  
HOLOCAUST  
EDUCATION  
CENTER**

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**Birmingham, AL** -- The Birmingham Holocaust Education Center (BHEC) is pleased to announce the hiring of its new Executive Director, Rev. Melissa Self Patrick.

Patrick is a native of North Alabama with over twenty years' experience in the non-profit community in Birmingham. She comes to the BHEC with a B.A. in History from Birmingham-Southern College, an MDiv from Emory University, and is an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church. She has been involved in many greater Birmingham area interfaith and community initiatives and projects.

She was an advisor during the establishment of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute (BCRI) before its opening in 1992, as well as a founding organizer and director of Anytown Alabama, a week-long residential leadership summit for high school students to develop leadership skills and learn about social justice issues and become change agents in their communities. Patrick established this camp through the National Conference of Community and Justice or NCCJ, where she served as Assistant Director and worked with other faith leaders and scholars. While Assistant Director, she co-authored curricula for NCCJ Teacher Training in human relations. Currently, Patrick is a member of the Interfaith Interpretation Committee of the Jefferson County Memorial Project (JCMP), working with communities who are coming together to bring Jefferson County's lynching memorial home from its current location in Montgomery under the Equal Justice Initiative's (EJI) National Memorial for Peace and Justice. She also serves as a member of the Instruments of Hope Unity Fund of the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham and is a co-leader of the upcoming interfaith "Friendship Journey 6" to Israel.

"We could not be more pleased to have Melissa on board at the BHEC," Board President Andy Campbell states. "She has been an outstanding leader in every position she has held and a champion for social justice in this community. We are looking forward to Melissa's leadership of the BHEC at such a vital time for Holocaust education."

For further information, contact Kendall Chew, BHEC Outreach Coordinator t [kendall@bheinfo.org](mailto:kendall@bheinfo.org) or 205.795.4181 or visit [www.bheinfo.org](http://www.bheinfo.org).

The Birmingham Holocaust Education Center seeks to educate the people of Alabama about the history of the Holocaust so that new generations will apply the lessons of the Holocaust to the construction of a more just, humane, and tolerant future. Organized in 2002, the BHEC provides programming throughout the state of Alabama for teachers, students, civic groups, and communities.

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