

## Under the shadow of a nuclear threat from Iran: Reactions of Holocaust survivors vs. non-Holocaust survivors

**By:** Esther Dalya Friedlander, MA, the Graduate School of Creative Art Therapies, University of Haifa.

**Supervised by:** Prof. Rachel Lev-Wiesel, School of Creative Arts Therapies, University of Haifa.

Israeli society is currently being threatened by Iran. Based on Jewish history, the Iranian nuclear threat is likely to be associated with similar threats, such as the Holocaust. The purpose of this study was to examine Holocaust survivor's (HS) reactions to the Iranian threat and assess if and to what extent they differ from non-Holocaust elderly people.

A convenience sample (n=60) including HS and non-HS was administered a questionnaire that consisted of the following measures: Traumatic Events Questionnaire, State-Trait Anxiety Inventory and an Israeli-adapted Threat and National Security Survey. In addition, projective drawings and narratives were used to evaluate the associations between symbols of the Holocaust that appeared in drawings and the themes in the narratives of the study group.

Findings revealed that there was no difference between the groups in the levels of anxiety and threat perception. Additionally, results showed that women reported higher levels of trait anxiety than men for the whole sample. HS's drawings and narratives indicated a shared sense of group identity to the emotional and environment impact of an attack. It seems that the drawings and narratives offer additional insight. Suggestions for further research are offered.

**Keywords:** Holocaust survivors, trait anxiety, state anxiety, threat perception, trauma, nuclear threat.

**Corresponding author:** Esther Dalya Friedlander, Email: [dalyaf@gmail.com](mailto:dalyaf@gmail.com)