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## Media Information

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# Volkswagen congratulates Sara Frenkel-Bass on her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday

- **Holocaust survivor Sara Frenkel-Bass celebrates her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on 28 November**
- **As a former forced labourer at a Volkswagen plant, she still makes a valuable contribution to the company's remembrance work to this day**
- **Volkswagen trainees honour the birthday girl with a special act**

**Wolfsburg, 25 November 2022 – Volkswagen congratulates holocaust survivor and former forced labourer Sara Frenkel-Bass on her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. All her life she has campaigned for respect and tolerance, and to ensure the past is not forgotten. Volkswagen is profoundly connected to her and grateful for her valuable contribution to the company's remembrance work.**



**Volkswagen employees send their congratulations and lay roses in memory of the deceased children of forced labourers.**

Talking to young people is of great importance to Sara Frenkel-Bass. For this reason, the company has come up with something rather special and personal to wish her a happy birthday: just short of 100 Volkswagen trainees assembled to pose for a photo at Sara-Frenkel-Platz. Whilst there, they also laid down roses in memory of the children from the children's home in Rühren, who died during the era of national socialism. Two of the young Volkswagen employees, Lina Schröder and Nils Hegemann, had studied Sara Frenkel-Bass's biography and offered all those present

the opportunity to learn more about the work of Sara Frenkel-Bass through an impressive presentation. Their rallying cry: "Sara Frenkel is a hero, who has left her mark. Let us spread her message. Address injustice, don't look away!" A group photo and a birthday wish signed by everyone involved were delivered to the centenarian in Antwerp. However, the real gift is the lasting commitment of the young people.

For Gunnar Kilian, Board Member for Human Resources at Volkswagen AG, remembrance work is an important part of the company's culture and an equally integral component of professional training. As such, the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Sara Frenkel-Bass is particularly important to the company and its

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employees: “Sara Frenkel-Bass has shared her experiences as a holocaust survivor with generations of young people at Volkswagen and beyond. Her commitment to ensuring that the past is not forgotten, and to the fundamental values we share, is more important than ever at the present time. We are extremely grateful for that, as expressed in this photo, which is a sign of that appreciation, which came about on the initiative of our trainees. On behalf of Volkswagen, I wish Sara Frenkel-Bass all the best on her big day.”

Daniela Cavallo, Chairwoman of the General and Group Works Council, stressed the importance of the dialogue between generations, which Volkswagen maintains in exemplary fashion for the topics of remembrance and responsibility. The commitment, and the conscious and responsible way in which the young Volkswagen employees have approached the past here, on behalf of the Volkswagen workforce, would not be possible without contributions from contemporary witnesses like Sara Frenkel-Bass. Cavallo was also keen to congratulate the birthday girl: “On behalf of the entire workforce, I would like to send our congratulations from Wolfsburg to you in Antwerp. The photo is our message and promise to you: the young generation here in our company has received and taken on board your message. Here at Volkswagen, nobody will stop flying the flag whenever our shared values are threatened.”

For decades, Sara Frenkel-Bass has campaigned passionately for respect, tolerance, peace and humanity, and to ensure that the past is not forgotten. She is forever telling young people how she and her younger sister were the only members of her family to survive the persecution of the Jews in occupied Poland and more than two years of forced labour in the German Reich.

They disguised themselves as Catholic nurses. Even today, the memory of the children of forced labourers, who were separated from their mothers for racial motives and died of malnutrition and neglect in the “Ausländerkinderpflegeheim” (children’s home for the children of forced labourers) in Rühren, is particularly painful for Sara Frenkel-Bass.

After the war, Sara Frenkel-Bass initially lived with her husband Manfred Frenkel in Braunschweig, where she gave birth to her son Chaim. The young family emigrated to Israel in 1949, before returning to Europe five years later. Since then, Sara Frenkel-Bass has lived in Antwerp (Belgium).

Sara Frenkel-Bass, who was born in Lublin (Poland), has made her mark in Wolfsburg: on her initiative, the city of Wolfsburg in 2012 named a street in the Nordstadt region after the child of a forced labourer, who sadly passed away: Sofia-Gladica-Weg. Two years prior to this, the memorial to forced labourers was unveiled at the square named in her honour, Sara-Frenkel-Platz. Since 2019, she has lent her name to the Sara Frenkel Prize for Respect and Tolerance.

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On 28 November 2022, employees of Volkswagen AG congratulate Sara Frenkel-Bass on her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and wish her all the best for the future.

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**Volkswagen AG**

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## **About the Volkswagen Group:**

The Volkswagen Group, with its headquarters in Wolfsburg, is one of the world's leading automobile manufacturers and the largest carmaker in Europe. Ten brands from seven European countries belong to the Group: Volkswagen Passenger Cars, Audi, SEAT, Cupra, ŠKODA, Bentley, Lamborghini, Porsche, Ducati and Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles. The passenger car portfolio ranges from small cars all the way to luxury-class vehicles. Ducati offers motorcycles. In the light and heavy commercial vehicles sector, the products range from pick-ups to buses and heavy trucks. Every weekday, 672,800 employees around the globe are involved in vehicle-related services or work in other areas of business. The Volkswagen Group sells its vehicles in 153 countries.

In 2021, the total number of vehicles delivered to customers by the Group globally was 8.9 million (2020: 9.3 million). Group sales revenue in 2021 totaled EUR 250.2 billion (2020: EUR 222.9 billion). Earnings after tax in 2021 amounted to EUR 15.4 billion (2020: EUR 8.8 billion).

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