

INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY – JANUARY 27, 2022



The Holocaust was the systemic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of six million European Jews by the Nazi German regime and its allies and collaborators. The Holocaust was an evolving process throughout Europe between 1933 and 1945.

Antisemitism history and education can be found here:

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/antisemitism>

On November 1, 2005, the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 60/7 to designate January 27 as International Holocaust Remembrance Day (IHRD). The date marks the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and means to honour the victims of Nazism. The exact resolution supports the development of educational programs to remember the Holocaust and to prevent further genocide.

Resolution 60/7 not only establishes January 27 as "International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust but" it also rejects any form of Holocaust denial. The resolution encourages member states of the UN to actively preserve sites that the Nazis used during the "Final Solution" (killing centres, concentration camps, and prisons). Drawing from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

the resolution condemns all forms of "religious intolerance, incitement, harassment or violence against persons or communities based on ethnic origin or religious belief" worldwide.



Commemoration Activities

The first commemoration ceremony was held on January 27, 2006, at the UN Headquarters in New York City. Nearly 2,200 people attended in person. Since the ceremony was broadcast live on television, many more people could view it throughout the world. The UN Headquarters holds official commemorations each year. UN offices worldwide and other state offices also conduct their ceremonies.

Since 2010, the UN has designated specific themes for the annual commemorations.

2010-2015

In 2010, the central theme revolved around Holocaust survivors and their lessons to future generations. The 2011 theme focused on the experiences of women. The 2012 theme was "Children and the Holocaust" and highlighted the effects of mass violence on children. In 2013, remembrance events centred on individuals and groups who risked their lives "to save tens of thousands of Jews, Roma and Sinti and others from near-certain death under the Nazi regime during the Second World War in Europe." The 2014 theme focused on journeys through the Holocaust—from deportation to liberation. In 2015, the central idea was how the experiences of the Holocaust shaped the founding of the UN.

2016-2022

The 2016 theme explored the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights' connection to the Holocaust. In 2017, the theme emphasized "Holocaust education as a platform for building respect for human rights, increasing tolerance and defending our common humanity." In 2018, the theme was "Holocaust Remembrance and Education: Our Shared Responsibility." The 2019 theme encouraged young people to "learn from the lessons of the Holocaust, act against discrimination, and defend democratic values in their communities." In 2020, the theme reflected on the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, the end of World War II, and the founding of the UN.

The theme of 2021 centred on recovery and reconstitution. It examined the aftermath of the Holocaust and ongoing efforts to address antisemitism, disinformation, and hate speech. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the commemoration ceremony for the first time was held virtually.

The 2022 theme is "Memory, Dignity, and Justice." It will explore how preserving the historical record, and challenging distortion are elements of claiming justice. Please join the EDI committee in acknowledging International Holocaust Remembrance Day, and honouring the victims of the Holocaust.

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/international-holocaust-remembrance-day>