



WORLD HOLOCAUST FORUM 2020

Remembering The Holocaust,
Fighting Antisemitism

22-23 January 2020
Jerusalem, Israel

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Seventy-five years after the end of the Holocaust, 47 world leaders gathered in Jerusalem to remember humanity's greatest display of savagery and to collectively commit to the fight against antisemitism.

More than ever, the world cannot afford to forget how prejudice led to words and how words led to actions and how this culminated in the gas chambers of Auschwitz and the murder of six million Jews.

Many hoped that the legacy of the horrors of the Shoah would be the eradication of antisemitism and other extreme forms of hatred. Sadly, this has not been the case.

In recent years, violent expressions of antisemitism have substantially increased to the point of questioning the future of many Jewish communities in their respective countries. However, this scourge threatens not only Jews, but also the safety, stability and integrity of our societies.

Where today Jews are attacked, tomorrow every citizen could become a target. As history teaches us, extremists test out their force first on Jews as a prelude to attacks on the entire population.

We are moving now from the generations of memory to the generations of action. The presence and participation of so many leaders, which graced the World Holocaust Forum in Jerusalem in January 2020, was an act of collective memory as well as the expression of common sense of duty, the like of which has never been so stated.

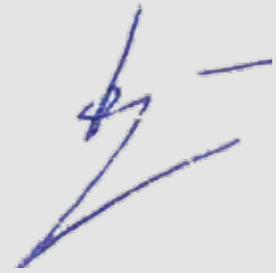
To see so many of the world's leaders united in the unequivocal commitment to building a peaceful future on the pillars of high moral values and ethical standards for the sake of the prosperity of generations to come was an act of immense historical significance.

This book gathers the memories of the Forum in Jerusalem, from the profound and meaningful words of world leaders to the images of warmth and camaraderie at the gatherings and events surrounding the Forum itself.

The greatest evils can only be defeated by collective action. This was true before and during the Holocaust and it is as true now as we are surely learning today in our own generation.

Honouring the memory of the victims of the Shoah is a perpetual duty. We must continue with our task of educating the next generation about the dangers of antisemitism, enact meaningful legislation and fully enforce it.

We must not only look back on this event as an act of memory but we will also see it as a historic commitment in service to a peaceful and tolerant future. Nothing symbolizes better the defeat of the Nazi ideology than world leaders gathering in the City of Peace, united in their words and in their belief for a future free from antisemitism, racism and xenophobia.



Dr Moshe Kantor

Founder and President of the World Holocaust Forum Foundation
President of the European Jewish Congress
Chancellor of the Yad Vashem Council



LEADERS OF NATIONS AND HEADS OF DELEGATIONS AT THE FIFTH WORLD HOLOCAUST FORUM

pages 11, 12

Left to right, first row

HE Ilir Meta, President of the Republic of Albania
HE Armen Sarkissian, President of the Republic of Armenia
HE Alberto Fernández, President of the Argentine Republic
HE General David John Hurley, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia
HE Alexander Van der Bellen, Federal President of the Republic of Austria
HE Ogtay Asadov, Chairman of the National Assembly of the Republic of Azerbaijan
HE Vladimir Andreichenko, Chairman of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Belarus
HM Philippe, King of the Belgians

Left to right, second row

HE Željko Komšić, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina
HE Rumen Radev, President of the Republic of Bulgaria
The Rt Hon. Julie Payette, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada
HE Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, President of the Republic of Croatia
HE Nicos Anastasiades, President of the Republic of Cyprus
HE Andrej Babiš, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic
HE Mette Frederiksen, Prime Minister of Denmark
HE Charles Michel, President of the European Council

Left to right, third row

HE Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission
HE David Sassoli, President of the European Parliament
HE Sauli Niinistö, President of the Republic of Finland
HE Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic
HE Salome Zourabichvili, President of Georgia
HE Frank-Walter Steinmeier, President of the Federal Republic of Germany
HE Prokopios Pavlopoulos, President of the Hellenic Republic
HE Cardinal Kurt Koch, Representative of the Holy See

Left to right, fourth row

HE János Áder, President of Hungary
HE Guðni Thorlacius Jóhannesson, President of the Republic of Iceland
HE Sergio Mattarella, President of the Republic of Italy
HE Reuven Rivlin, President of the State of Israel
HE Ināra Mūrniece, Speaker of the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia
HE Viktoras Pranckietis, Speaker of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania
HRH Henri, Grand Duke of Luxembourg
HE Igor Dodon, President of Moldova

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Left to right, first row

HE Serge Telle, Minister of State, Head of Government of the Principality of Monaco
HE Milo Đukanović, President of Montenegro
HM Willem-Alexander, King of the Netherlands
HE Stevo Pendarovski, President of the Republic of North Macedonia

Left to right, second row

HRH Haakon, Crown Prince of Norway
HE Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, President of the Portuguese Republic
HE Klaus Iohannis, President of Romania
HE Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation

Left to right, third row

HE Aleksandar Vučić, President of the Republic of Serbia
HE Zuzana Čaputová, President of the Slovak Republic
HE Borut Pahor, President of the Republic of Slovenia
HM Felipe VI, King of Spain

Left to right, fourth row

HE Stefan Löfven, Prime Minister of Sweden
HRH Charles, Prince of Wales
HE Michael R. Pence, Vice President of the United States of America
Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives





YAD VASHEM
THE WORLD
HOLOCAUST
REMEMBRANCE
CENTER





'And to them will I give in my house and within
my walls a memorial and a name (Yad Vashem) ...
that shall not be cut off.'

(Isaiah 56:5)

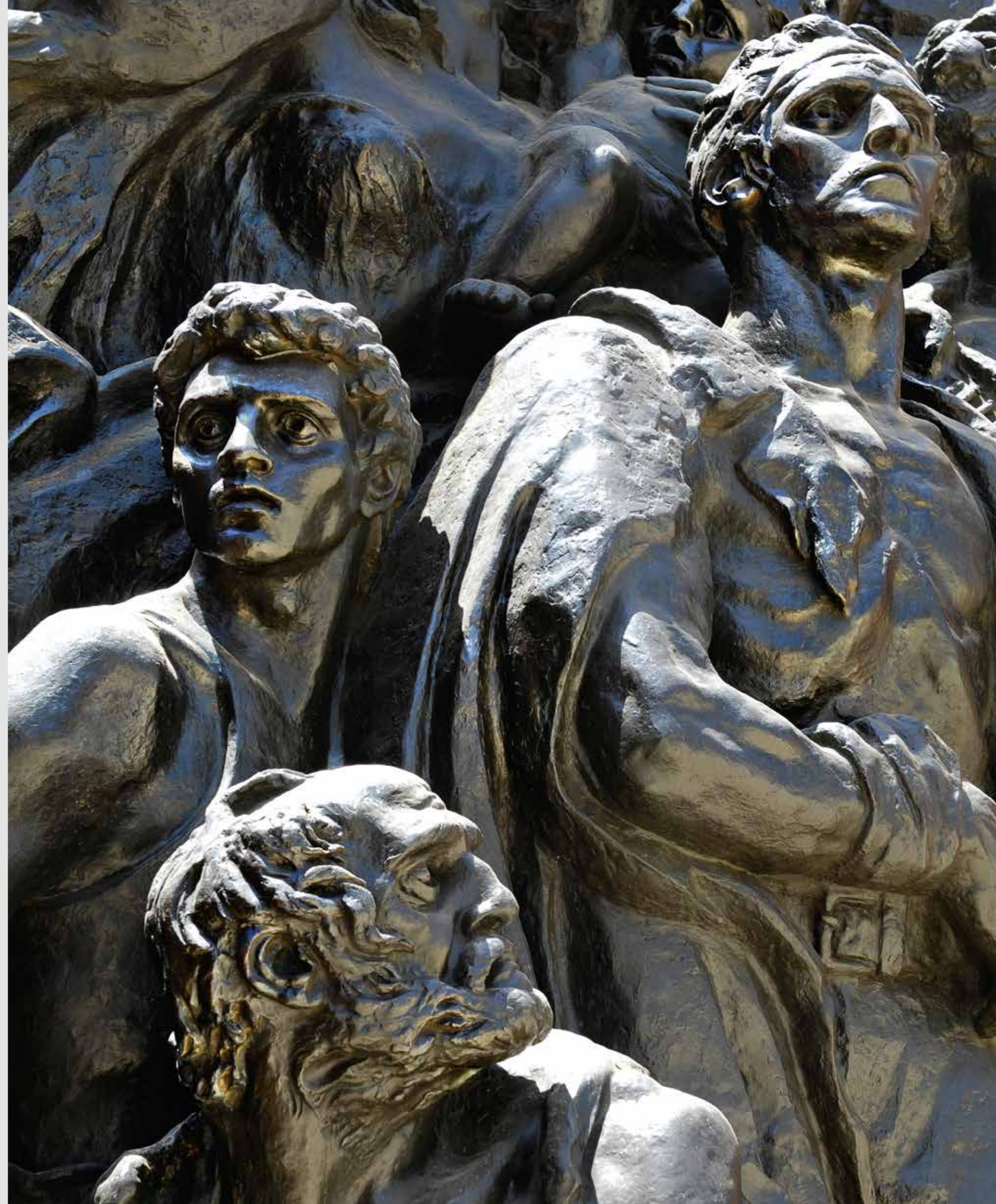
Established in 1953 by an act of the Knesset, Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center, is entrusted with the task of commemorating, documenting, researching and educating about the Holocaust: remembering the six million Jews murdered by the German Nazis and their collaborators, the destroyed Jewish communities, and the ghetto and resistance fighters, and honouring the Righteous Among the Nations who risked their lives to rescue Jews during the Holocaust. Yad Vashem encompasses 45 acres on the Mount of Remembrance in Jerusalem and is comprised of various museums, research and education centers, monuments and memorials. Among these are the Museum Complex, the Hall of Remembrance, the Valley of the Communities and the Children's Memorial.

Yad Vashem continually strives to meaningfully impart the memory and meanings of the Holocaust to future generations. In order to meet the challenges facing Holocaust remembrance more than half a century after the end of the Second World War, Yad Vashem has created an environment of multidimensional learning and commemoration comprised of four basic components: documentation, research, education and remembrance.

The historic gathering of the Fifth World Holocaust Forum took place in a specially erected marquee in Yad Vashem's Warsaw Ghetto Square.

Lying at the heart of the Mount of Remembrance, Warsaw Ghetto Square has become a key site in Holocaust commemoration at Yad Vashem. The large Square is the location of the State of Israel's official opening ceremony of Holocaust Remembrance Day each year, dominated by the red brick Wall of Remembrance bearing bronze reliefs sculpted by Warsaw-born Nathan Rapoport. Rapoport's work is a tribute to the bravery and spirit of the Jewish ghetto fighters who audaciously and against all odds stood up to the Nazis in an unprecedented uprising.

The Yad Vashem monument echoes Rapoport's double-sided *Ghetto Heroes* monument erected in 1948 in Warsaw in the place where the Jewish uprising started. It comprises two central elements: the first a low relief titled *The Last March*, depicting Jews led to their murder; the second the dynamic sculpture *The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising*, representing the heroism of the fighters. The biblical quotation 'In thy blood, live' (Ezekiel 16:6) connects the two main components of this site, thus conveying a message of the Jewish people's continuity.



The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising by Nathan Rapoport, detail





אשכול
ASCHUL

ח'גלגל
CHELMNO

אשכול
WASKA

אשכול
MAJDANEK

אשכול-אשכול
AUSCHWITZ-OSWIECIM



סמל וקרוב
Expulsions to the Kutno and



וידין
VIDIN
ברקוביצה
BERKOVITSA
רוסה
RUSSE
לום לום
LOM LOM
ניקופול
NIKOPOL
פרינאנד
FERDINAND

ОДЕССА
ODESSA

אודסה

BRAILOV בר אילוב	ILINTSY אילינצ'י
VAPNIARKA ואפניארקה	BAR באר
NEMIROV ניימירוב	VOROSHILOVKA וורושילובקה
CHERNEVTSY צ'רנבצ'י	GAYSIY גאייסיין
YALTUSHKOVO יאלטושקוב	LOZOVA לוזובה
BRATSLAV בר אצל'ב	MURAFI מוראפי
KOPAYGOROD קופאגורוד	SHARGOROD שארגורוד

MUROV. KURILOVTSY מורב קורילוצ'י	MOGILOV מוגילוב
TROSTIANETS טרוסטיאניץ	PODOLSKI פודולסקי
ISRAILOVKA אישראילובקה	LUCHINETS לוצ'יניץ
TEPLIK טפליק	TULCHIN טולצ'ין
SHPIKOV שפיקוב	YARISHEV יארישב
TIVROV טיברוב	ULENOV אולנוב
YARUGA יארוגה	DZHURIN דז'ורין
YANOV יונב	TOMASHPOL טומאשפול

KRASNOYE קראסנוייה	VIDICHANY וידיצ'אן
OZERINNTSY אוזירינצ'י	SOBOLEVKA זובולבקה
ZHABOKRICH זאבוקריץ'	TERNOVKA טרנובקה
CHECHELNIK צ'י'צ'לניק	OLGOPOL אולגופול
KRIZHOPOL קריז'ופול	BERSHA ברשא
TALNOYE טאלנה	SMYELA סמיולה
SHPOLA שפולה	ZVYENIGOROD זווייניגורודקה

CHERKASSY	BOGUSLAV בוגוסלאב	GORODISHCHE גורודישצ'ה
KORSUN קורסון	ROTMISTROVKA רוטמיסטרובקה	LADIZHINKA לאדיז'ינקה
GOLOSKOVO גלוסקוב	KAMYENKA קאמיינקה	UMA וומאן

ANANYEV אנאנייב	BALTA באלטה	RIBNITSA ריבניצה
		TIRASPOL טיראספול

'Wherever men and women are persecuted because of their race, religion or political views, that place must – at that moment – become the centre of the universe.'

Elie Wiesel

**OPENING
STATE DINNER
PRESIDENT'S
RESIDENCE**





'The future lies in the choice we make together, as countries and nations. I hope and pray that from this room the message will go out to every country on Earth, that the leaders of the world will stand united together in the fight against racism, antisemitism and extremism, in defending democracy and democratic values. This is the call of our time. This is our challenge. This is our choice.'

Reuven Rivlin,

President of the State of Israel

On 22 January 2020, HE Reuven Rivlin, President of the State of Israel, hosted an official dinner at the President's Residence on the occasion of the Fifth World Holocaust Forum.

Dr Moshe Kantor, President of the World Holocaust Forum Foundation and the European Jewish Congress, attended the state dinner alongside more than 40 world leaders including President of France Emmanuel Macron, President of Germany Frank-Walter Steinmeier and President of Italy Sergio Mattarella. Among the Israeli dignitaries were Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Foreign Minister Israel Katz, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau, Chairman of the Kahol Lavan Party Benny Gantz, Speaker of the Knesset Yuli Yoel Edelstein, IDF Chief of Staff Aviv Kochavi, President of the Supreme Court Esther Hayut and Mayor of Jerusalem Moshe Lion.

President Rivlin, His Majesty King Felipe VI of Spain and Israel Prize laureate Professor Yehuda Bauer delivered their remarks.

The Israeli President opened his remarks by saying, 'On behalf of the State of Israel and the People of Israel, welcome to Jerusalem. Thank you all for being here. This is a historic gathering, not only for Israel and the Jewish People, but for all humanity. This evening as we remember the victims of the Holocaust, and World War Two, we also mark the victory of freedom and human dignity. Tomorrow we will gather at Yad Vashem to remember and to promise, 'Never again.'

He concluded: 'At a time when more and more survivors are leaving us, this gathering is an expression of our shared commitment to pass on the historical fact and lessons of the Shoah to the next generations.'

In his speech on behalf of the leaders, HM King Felipe VI of Spain said, 'Having a precious, rich and complex Jewish past and a vibrant Jewish

community, Spain decided to create a solid framework of rules and initiatives to fight relentlessly against antisemitism and every form of xenophobia and racism. There are, of course, many more Nations – both present here and others – that are making similar efforts and progress; but, while I remain optimistic, I know – we all know – that we will always need to persevere together so that those words we have repeated so many times, 'never again', remain our guiding and unwavering principle.'

Yehuda Bauer, Professor Emeritus of History and Holocaust Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Academic Advisor to Yad Vashem and one of the world's foremost scholars of the Holocaust pointed out in his remarks, 'The war, as we all know, cost some 35 million dead in Europe alone, of whom some 5.6 to 5.7 million were Jews who died in the Holocaust. But some 29 million were non-Jews! From Europe and North America! Who died in large part because of the hatred of Jews, and the majority of these victims were Soviet citizens. Antisemitism is not a Jewish illness, but a non-Jewish one. It is a cancer that kills and destroys your nations, and your societies, and your countries!'

At the end of the evening, on behalf of the World Holocaust Forum Foundation, Dr Moshe Kantor presented a commemorative gift for the participants – the Navigator to Jerusalem – and bestowed it upon President Rivlin thanking him for hosting the Fifth World Holocaust Forum in Jerusalem.



President of the State of Israel Reuven Rivlin (left) with President of France Emmanuel Macron



Dr Moshe Kantor (left) with Representative of the Holy See Cardinal Kurt Koch (centre) and Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau



President of the State of Israel Reuven Rivlin (left) with Speaker of the United States House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi



'We are also here, perhaps primarily, to show our unyielding commitment in bringing all the necessary efforts of our respective countries in order to fight the ignorant intolerance, hatred and the total lack of human empathy that permitted and gave birth to the Holocaust. Because preventing those civilizational sicknesses is a collective but also an individual responsibility. There is no room for indifference in the presence of racism, xenophobia, hate speech and antisemitism.'

His Majesty Felipe VI, King of Spain

→
President of the State of Israel Reuven Rivlin (left) with President of Germany Frank-Walter Steinmeier



↓
Dr Moshe Kantor (left), HM King Felipe VI of Spain (centre) and HM King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands



→
President of the State of Israel Reuven Rivlin (left) with HM King Philippe of Belgium



↓
HRH Grand Duke Henri of Luxembourg (left) with Dr Moshe Kantor (right)



→
Dr Moshe Kantor (left) with President of the State of Israel Reuven Rivlin (centre) and Prime Minister of the Czech Republic Andrej Babiš



↓
President of the State of Israel Reuven Rivlin (left) with President of Argentina Alberto Fernández (right)



→
President of the State of Israel Reuven Rivlin (left) with Governor General of Canada Julie Payette



↓
President of the State of Israel Reuven Rivlin (left) with President of Serbia Aleksandar Vučić





'Fifteen years ago I founded the World Holocaust Forum because I saw that antisemitism was not just a ghost of the past, but a shadow hanging over the future. We can only be confident that those atrocities will not happen again if the lessons of the past, of the tragedy of the Holocaust are learned. One of those lessons is clear: only by uniting, did the leaders of the free world succeed in defeating that evil. Only by uniting again will they win once more.'

Dr Moshe Kantor, Founder and President of the World Holocaust Forum Foundation, President of the European Jewish Congress





↑
President of the State of Israel Reuven Rivlin (left) with President of Greece Prokopios Pavlopoulos

←
President of Moldova Igor Dodon (left) with Prime Minister of the State of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu

→
President of the State of Israel Reuven Rivlin (left) with Prime Minister of Denmark Mette Frederiksen





WORLD HOLOCAUST
FORUM 2020



PRESIDENT'S
RESIDENCE

JERUSALEM | 22 JANUARY 2020
בית הנשיא | ירושלים

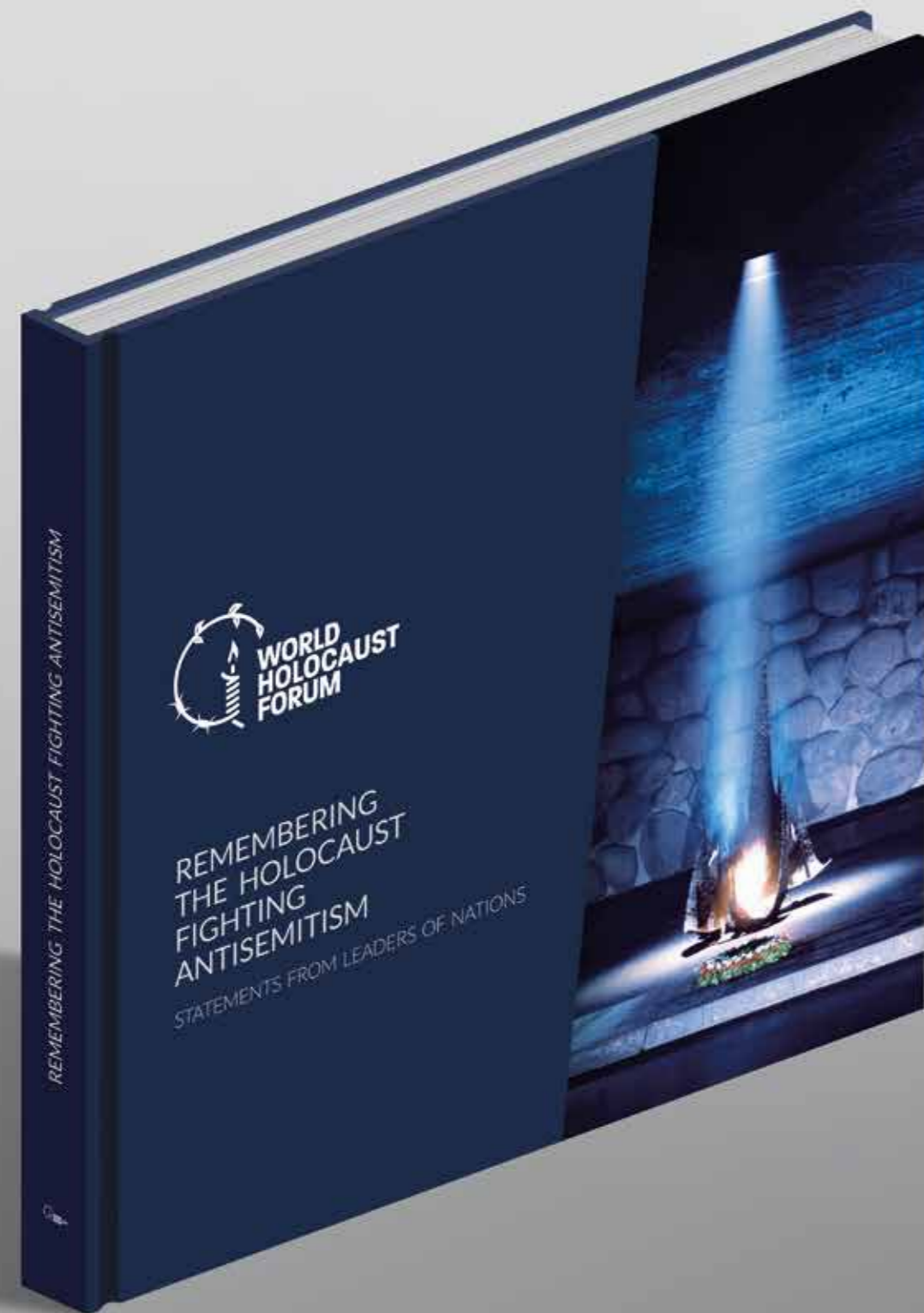


NAVIGATOR TO JERUSALEM

The Navigator to Jerusalem is a device showing the direction to Jerusalem from the national capitals and other major cities around the world. The Navigator was offered by Dr Moshe Kantor and the World Holocaust Forum Foundation to all the leaders of nations and heads of delegations present at the Fifth World Holocaust Forum in Jerusalem. The gift served as a token of appreciation to the leaders for joining in the global fight against antisemitism and supporting Holocaust remembrance.

Dr Moshe Kantor presented this commemorative gift at the opening state dinner that took place at the Residence of the President of the State of Israel Reuven Rivlin, on 22 January 2020. The first Navigator was bestowed upon President Rivlin for hosting the Fifth World Holocaust Forum in Jerusalem and for his outstanding contribution to the success of this unprecedented and historical event.





STATEMENTS FROM LEADERS OF NATIONS

World leaders invited to the Fifth World Holocaust Forum have each contributed a personal message to a special commemorative book published by Yad Vashem and the World Holocaust Forum Foundation. This Leaders' Book illustrates the strong commitment to Holocaust remembrance and the fight against racism and antisemitism expressed by over 50 world leaders. It conveys a clear and vital message—Holocaust distortion and antisemitism have no legitimate place anywhere in the world, at any time.

This book was presented at the official dinner at the President's Residence on 22 January 2020. Here you will find excerpts from a few of the statements.

His Holiness Pope Francis

'I express my fervent hope that by continued vigilance and positive education the iniquities perpetrated during one of the darkest periods of our history will be eliminated from the face of the earth. Reiterating the Holy See's commitment to pursuing the path of friendship between all, I appeal to men and women of good will everywhere to remain steadfast in efforts for promoting dialogue, mutual understanding, and human fraternity as the basis of lasting peace.'





HE Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada

'Holocaust remembrance, education and research are essential to stop the scourge of antisemitism and hatred that is becoming all too common once again. [...]

'Discrimination, hatred and violence targeting Jewish people must be denounced and condemned wherever it is found. Together, united by a commitment to peace and respect for the inherent dignity of each person, we must remain vigilant in the fight against all manifestations of antisemitism, while preserving the memories of those who lived, stood against, and died during the horrors of the Shoah. We owe them this.'



HE Donald J. Trump

President of the United States of America

'The courageous survivors of the Holocaust continuously relive the nightmares of their experience. But they have preserved to bear witness so that all of us today and in the future never forget the Nazis' unconscionable attempt to destroy the Jewish People. Their undaunted spirit compels us to ensure that their stories live on. Those who are filled with hate must never succeed in their efforts to minimize, deny, or erase the Holocaust from our memories or our history books. We have a fundamental and collective duty to ensure that each new generation knows the truth.'



HE Andrzej Duda

President of the Republic of Poland

'[The Holocaust] is the most terrifying component of the common heritage of all mankind. It reminds us of what man is capable of doing when possessed by hatred and chauvinism, in oblivion of divine and human rights, when one breaks the bonds of solidarity and fraternity that unite all his neighbours.'

'When human lives are endangered,
when human dignity is in jeopardy,
national borders and sensitivities
become irrelevant.'

Elie Wiesel

**THE FIFTH WORLD
HOLOCAUST FORUM**
REMEMBERING
THE HOLOCAUST,
FIGHTING
ANTISEMITISM



WORLD HOLOCAUST FORUM 2020

Remembering the Holocaust
Fighting Antisemitism





←
Dr Moshe Kantor (left) with
HM King Philippe of Belgium

↓
Dr Moshe Kantor (left) with
HRH Crown Prince Haakon
of Norway

→
HRH Prince Charles, Prince of
Wales (left), with Vice
President of the United States
of America Mike Pence





↑
President of Portugal Marcelo
Rebelo de Sousa (left) with
HM King Felipe VI of Spain

→
Dr Moshe Kantor (left) with
President of Bulgaria Rumen
Radev



European Jewish Congress Executive
Vice-President and CEO Raya Kalenova (left)
with President of the European Council
Charles Michel



(Left to right) Dr Moshe Kantor, President of Austria Alexander van der Bellen, First Lady of Austria Doris Schmidauer, Elke Bűdenbender and her husband President of Germany Frank-Walter Steinmeier



→ Speaker of the United States House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi (left) with Chairman of the Directorate of Yad Vashem Avner Shalev



→ Dr Moshe Kantor (left) with President of Georgia Salome Zourabichvili

→
Vice President of the United States of America Mike Pence (left) with Dr Moshe Kantor



↓
HM King Philippe of Belgium (left) with HM King Felipe VI of Spain and HRH Prince Charles, Prince of Wales



President of the European Parliament David Sassoli (left) with President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen and President of the European Council Charles Michel

→
Dr Moshe Kantor (left) with President
of Croatia Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović



↓
Dr Moshe Kantor (left) with First Lady
of Argentina Fabiola Yáñez (centre)
and President of Argentina Alberto
Fernández



President of Germany Frank-Walter
Steinmeier (left) with HRH Crown
Prince Haakon of Norway (centre)
and HM King Felipe VI of Spain

→
Dr Moshe Kantor (left) with President
of Italy Sergio Mattarella

↓
President of Slovakia Zuzana
Čaputová (left) with President
of Slovenia Borut Pahor



President of Cyprus Nicos
Anastasiades (left) with President of
Greece Prokopios Pavlopoulos
(centre) and President of Armenia
Armen Sarkissian



↑
European Jewish Congress Executive Vice-President and CEO Raya Kalenova (left) with Special Advisor to the Chairman of the Directorate of Yad Vashem Arie Zuckerman (centre) and Dr Moshe Kantor

→
MK Benny Gantz (left) with Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev



Dr Moshe Kantor (left) with Anna Kantor



←
Dr Moshe Kantor (left) with HRH
Grand Duke Henri of Luxembourg

↙
European Jewish Congress Executive
Vice-President and CEO Raya
Kalenova (left) with President of
Portugal Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa



Speaker of the United States House of
Representatives Nancy Pelosi (left) with
President of the European Parliament
David Sassoli



President of Germany Frank-Walter Steinmeier (left) with Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau



↑
President of the State of Israel Reuven Rivlin (left) with Holocaust survivor Yehuda Vitsevsky (second from left)



←
President of the State of Israel Reuven Rivlin (left) with President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin



↑
 (Left to right) HRH Prince Charles,
 Prince of Wales, President of
 Germany Frank-Walter Steinmeier,
 Anna Kantor and Dr Moshe Kantor

→
 Dr Moshe Kantor (left) with HRH
 Prince Charles, Prince of Wales



President of Georgia Salome
 Zourabichvili (left), President of
 France Emmanuel Macron (centre)
 and Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau



↑
HRH Prince Charles, Prince of Wales (left), with President of France Emmanuel Macron

→
Dr Moshe Kantor (left) with President of Germany Frank-Walter Steinmeier



Chairman of the National Assembly of Azerbaijan Ogtay Asadov (left), Speaker of the Saeima of Latvia Ināra Mūrniece (centre) and Chairman of the House of Representatives of Belarus Vladimir Andreichenko



Opening remarks by HE Reuven Rivlin President of the State of Israel

On 27 January 1945 the gates of hell were opened. Auschwitz, the greatest machine of human destruction history has ever known, was liberated. The horror that the soldiers of the Red Army saw when they entered the camp was inconceivable.

Private Zinovy Tolkachev, a Jewish artist and a soldier in the Red Army, described what he saw thus: 'The earth groaned with the voices of the victims. I could not tear myself away from that cursed plot of land ... and the horrific human hell-hole. My entire body rocked in a slow sob.'

Corpses littered the grounds of the camp. Thousands of sick and dying people, including children. Half-naked skeletons – 'muselmans', 'the living dead'. One million six hundred thousand people, nearly a million and a half of them Jews, were murdered at Auschwitz.

In pencil, on Auschwitz camp notepaper, Private Tolkachev wrote and wrote again, 'So that I remember. So that I don't forget. So that I remember. So that I don't forget.'

We are also standing here today, kings, leaders, heads of state, at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, 'So we remember. So we don't forget.' On behalf of the Jewish people, and as President of the State of Israel I thank you from the bottom of my heart for coming here.

Thank you for your solidarity with the Jewish people.

Thank you for your commitment to Holocaust remembrance.

Thank you for your commitment to the citizens of the world who believe in liberty and human dignity.

At the end of November 1943, the three Allied leaders who led the fight against Germany and the Axis met for the first time in Tehran. This was not a meeting of friends. It was a meeting where the leaders were suspicious of each other, where deep differences divided them. But those three leaders made a choice. They chose to rise above their differences with a single aim – the defeat of fascism, the defeat of Nazi Germany. This was an alliance for humanity.

For millions of my people who were exterminated in the Holocaust, and for the millions of victims of the Second World War, the Allies' choice came too late. But they managed to stand up to the Nazi monster and

say – no more. At the end of the day, liberty, human dignity and the alliance of humanity won the Second World War.

That is not to be taken for granted.

What would have happened in a world where the Allies were not united? In a world where race theory dominated? We can only imagine.

Today we mark the ability of the international community then to unite, to work for a common goal, and the duty and the imperative of the international community today to continue to work together on the basis of shared values as we face antisemitism and racism, radical forces that spread chaos and destruction, hatred and fear of human dignity and humanity itself.

At the end of the Second World War what was called the Age of Responsibility began. In the shadow of the trauma, the fear of the destruction of the Holocaust and the horrors of war, the countries of the world chose to act responsibly.

Since then, democracies have produced incredible advances for humanity. Liberation. Education. Control over deadly diseases. We must not see democracy as something to be taken for granted. Our memories of the destruction and ruination of the Holocaust and the Second World War are fading. But we must remember.

Today, too, leaders of the world – we need to be responsible.

Honoured guests, the Jewish people is a people that remembers. We remember, not from a sense of superiority and not to wallow in the memories of the horrors or a sense of self-justification. We remember because we know what it is not to remember, when history repeats itself. Not only human beings were destroyed in the crematoria of Auschwitz. Human dignity, liberty and solidarity also went up in the smoke of the crematoria.

Nazi Germany tried to destroy the Jewish people in an act of freeing the world of the Jews. But Nazi race theory cost the lives of over 66 million people. Let us be clear – antisemitism does not stop with the Jews. Antisemitism and racism are a malignant disease that destroys and pulls societies apart from within, and no society and no democracy is immune.

Honoured guests, the State of Israel is not compensation for the Holocaust. This is our home and this is our homeland. It is where we came from and where we returned to after 2,000 years of exile. Israel is a strong

democracy and a proud member of the family of nations. We are not a people waiting for redemption, but a state that looks for partnership – that demands partnership.

Full partnership in the fight against racism, and the old-new antisemitism that is breaking out today in worrying ways. It takes the guise of superiority, national purity and xenophobia that worms its way into the heart of leadership and takes a terrible price in human life.

Antisemitism is a chronic disease. It comes from left and right, taking on and discarding forms during history. Antisemitism has not changed. It is us who have changed.

The State of Israel is not a victim. We will always defend ourselves by

'Today we mark the ability of the international community then to unite, to work for a common goal, and the duty and the imperative of the international community today to continue to work together on the basis of shared values as we face antisemitism and racism, radical forces that spread chaos and destruction, hatred and fear of human dignity and humanity itself.'

ourselves and the state of the Jewish people will always stand surely for the safety and the security of the Jewish communities of the world. The State of Israel is an inseparable part of the international community which works together for human and scientific progress, for strengthening democratic values around the world, for halting the forces of radicalism that sow terror, bereavement and destruction and that threaten every citizen of the world that believes in freedom.

That is how we have acted, and that is how we will continue to act. I thank you all again – leaders, partners in truth – for coming here. We

thank you for your commitment to the security of Jewish communities, particularly in these difficult times.

We thank those countries that have already adopted the IHRA definition of antisemitism, a comprehensive definition that includes all types of contemporary antisemitism, and call on all countries to do the same. This definition is a meaningful tool in the fight against antisemitism, both in education and political discourse and in the field of law enforcement.

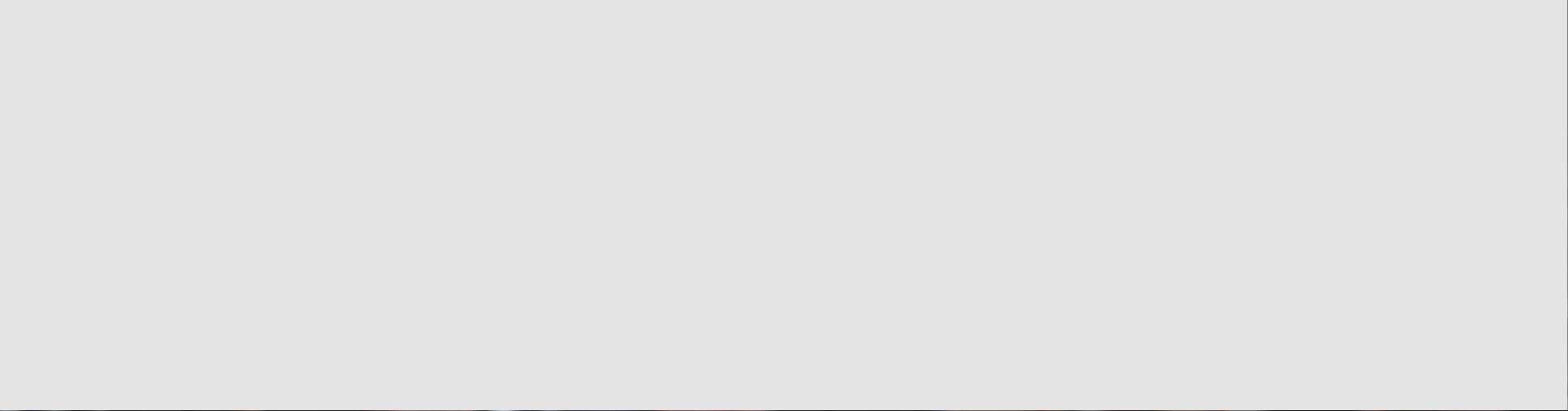
Together, we will continue to fight antisemitism and racism, we will fight Holocaust denial, we will educate our sons and daughters, we will remember and research so that history does not repeat itself. The Age of Responsibility – the responsibility of all of us sitting here – is not over.

Dear Holocaust survivors: you are our miracle. Your strength of spirit built houses and planted trees, and your heroism ensured our freedom in a Jewish and democratic, democratic and Jewish state. Your love of the land, your love of Israel, are the beacon that will always guide us.

May the memory of our brothers and sisters, the victims of the Holocaust and those who waged war on Nazism, including the Righteous Amongst the Nations, be forever engraved on our hearts.







President of the State of Israel Reuven Rivlin (right) with Yehuda Bauer, Professor Emeritus of History and Holocaust Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem



↑
President of Austria Alexander van der Bellen (left), First Lady of Austria Doris Schmidauer (centre) and President of the State of Israel Reuven Rivlin

←
Governor General of Canada Julie Payette

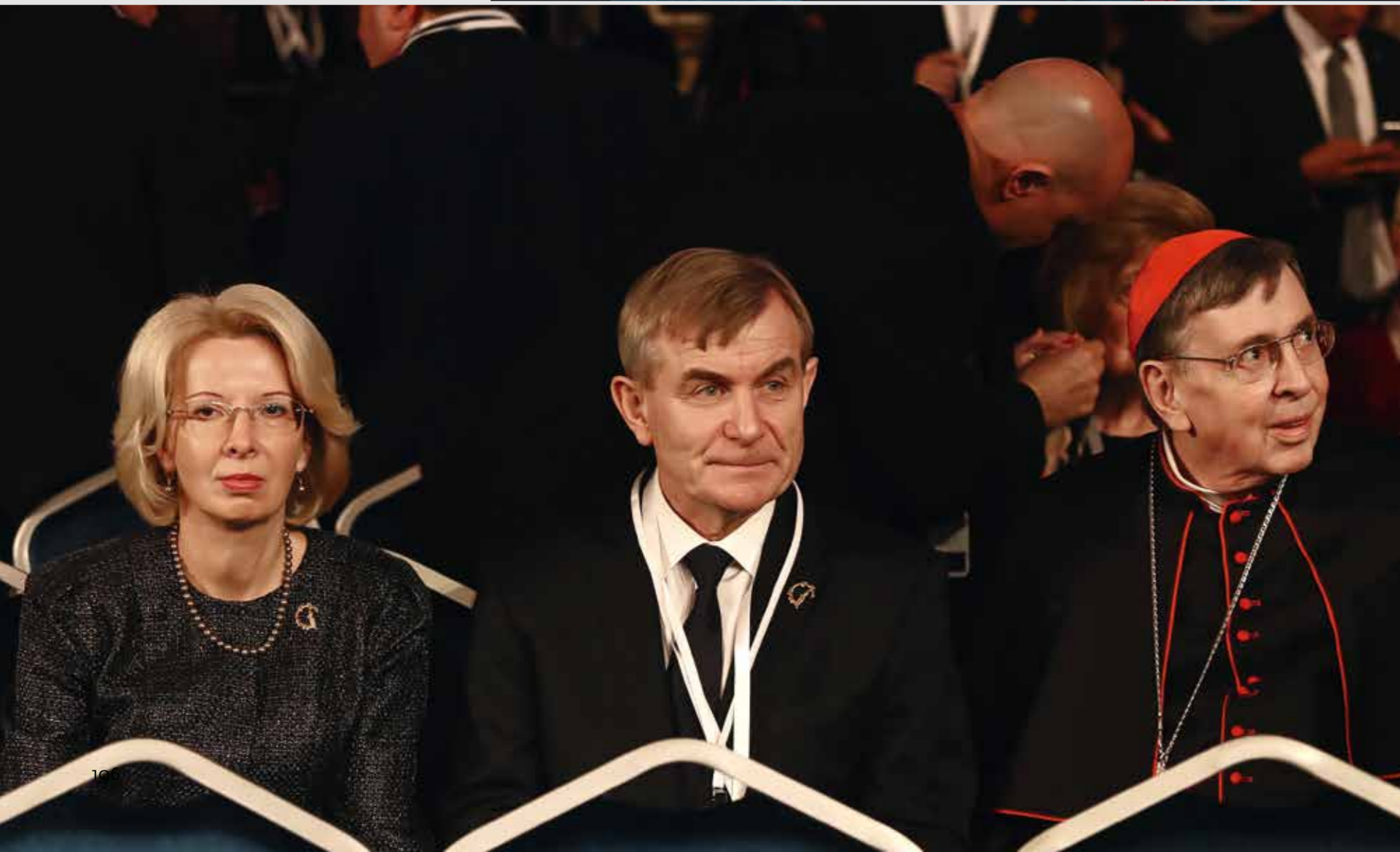


→
President of Bulgaria Rumen Radev (left)
with President of Albania Ilir Meta

↓
Speaker of the Saeima of Latvia Ināra
Mūrniece, Speaker of the Seimas of
Lithuania Viktoras Pranckietis and
representative of the Holy See Cardinal
Kurt Koch



President of Serbia Aleksandar Vučić (left)





HE Benjamin Netanyahu

Prime Minister of the State of Israel

Translated from Hebrew

Honoured dignitaries, President Reuven Rivlin, compliments on initiating this important conference.

My brothers and sisters Holocaust survivors,
Righteous Among the Nations.

The Righteous Among the Nations who risked not only their own lives, but the lives of their families to save Jews during the Holocaust.

English

The trees on this hallowed ground of Yad Vashem are a testament to their remarkable, extraordinary courage.

Your Majesties, Your Royal Highnesses, Presidents, Vice President, Prime Ministers, and the many distinguished guests and dignitaries assembled here.

Your presence in Jerusalem honours the memory of the six million victims of the Holocaust. Israel and the Jewish people thank you.

Translated from Hebrew

Auschwitz and Jerusalem: an abyss – and a peak. Auschwitz – extermination. Jerusalem – revival. Auschwitz – enslavement. Jerusalem – freedom. Auschwitz – death. Jerusalem – life.

Seventy-five years ago, our people – the Jewish People – emerged from the largest killing field in the history of humanity. The survivors do not forget anything: the helplessness, the endless suffering, the flames and the smoke, the bereavement and the loss. But they also remember, with deep gratitude, the day of liberation, the entry of the Red Army into Auschwitz, the immense sacrifice of the Allies, soldiers and peoples alike.

I come here, with President Rivlin and President Putin, from a moving ceremony, the dedication of the monument in memory of the victims of the siege of Leningrad. This is one example of the inconceivable price of the victory over the Nazis.

But especially today, it must be said: for the six million of our people, including 1.5 million children, the gates of hell were broken into too late. Too late.

And therefore, at the foundation of the revival of the State of Israel is one main imperative: there will never be a second Holocaust. As the Prime Minister of Israel, this is my supreme obligation.

English

Ladies and gentlemen,

Israel is eternally grateful for the immense sacrifice that was made by the Allies, by the peoples and the soldiers, to defeat the Nazis and save our common civilization. Without that sacrifice, there would be no survivors today.

Yet we also remember that some 80 years ago, when the Jewish people faced annihilation, the world largely turned its back on us, leaving us to the most bitter of fates.

For many, Auschwitz is the ultimate symbol of evil. It is certainly that. The tattooed arms of those who passed under its infamous gates, the piles of shoes and eyeglasses seized from the dispossessed in their final moments, the gas chambers and crematoria that turned millions of people into ash, all these bear witness to the horrific depths to which humanity can sink.

But for the Jewish people, Auschwitz is more than the ultimate symbol of evil.

It is also the ultimate symbol of Jewish powerlessness. It is the culmination of what can happen when our people have no voice, no land, no shield.

Today we have a voice, we have a land and we have a shield. Today our voice is heard in the White House and in the Kremlin, in the halls of the United Nations and the American Congress, in London, Paris and Berlin, and in countless capitals around the world, many of them represented here by you.

Today we have a land – our ancient homeland which we brought back to life, to which we ingathered the exiles of our people, and in which we built an advanced and powerful state.

And today we have a shield. And what a shield it is. Time after time, the strength of our arms, the courage of our soldiers and the spirit of our people have prevailed against those who sought to destroy us. Our hand is extended in peace to all our neighbours, and a growing number of them are seizing it to build with Israel bridges of hope and reconciliation.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Jewish people have learned the lessons of the Holocaust: to take, always to take seriously the threats of those who seek our destruction; to confront threats when they are small; and above all, even though we deeply, deeply appreciate the great support of our friends, to always have the power to defend ourselves by ourselves. We have learned that Israel must always remain the master of its fate.

'Time after time, the strength of our arms, the courage of our soldiers and the spirit of our people have prevailed against those who sought to destroy us. [...] We have a voice, we have a land and we have a shield.'

The Jewish state has learned the lessons of the Holocaust. Has the world learned the lessons of the Holocaust?

There are some signs of hope – and this extraordinary gathering is one of them. Today the dangers of racism, hateful ideologies and antisemitism are better understood. Many recognize a simple truth: that what starts with the hatred of the Jews doesn't end with the Jews. Represented here today are governments that understand that confronting antisemitism in all its forms protects their societies as well.

And Israel deeply appreciates this. We also appreciate, as many understand, as President Macron said yesterday, that anti-Zionism is merely the latest form of antisemitism. These are all real signs of hope and understanding and cognizance of how to protect our civilization and our world.

And yet, I am concerned. I am concerned that we have yet to see a unified and resolute stance against the most antisemitic regime on the planet – a regime that openly seeks to develop nuclear weapons and annihilate the one and only Jewish state.

Israel salutes President Trump and Vice President Pence for confronting the Tyrants of Tehran that subjugate their own people, and threaten the

peace and security of the entire world. They threaten the peace and security of everyone in the Middle East and everyone beyond. I call on all governments to join the vital effort of confronting Iran.

In any case, I wish to assure again our people and all our friends, Israel will do whatever it must do to defend our state, defend our people and defend the Jewish future.

Translated from Hebrew

Ladies and gentlemen,

As the Prime Minister of Israel, I promise that the words 'never again' will be no empty slogan but an eternal call to action. With this call to action, we will continue our marvelous journey of the revival of our people that emerged from the valley of dry bones. From bones [*atzamot*] to independence [*atzmaut*], and from independence to strength [*otzma*], from Auschwitz to Jerusalem, from darkness – to light. In the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light.'







Dr Moshe Kantor

President of the World Holocaust Forum
Foundation and the European Jewish Congress

I would like to begin by expressing my deepest gratitude to President Rivlin, who two years ago strongly supported the idea to lead the Fifth World Holocaust Forum in Jerusalem, under the special partnership of Yad Vashem and the European Jewish Congress.

I would like to address here today three points:

Why is antisemitism a threat to humanity and not only to the Jewish people?

What is the situation today of antisemitism and especially for European Jews?

What are the practical steps that must be taken to stop this threat?

When granting equal rights to the [Jews] of France, Napoleon Bonaparte said the national attitude towards Jews is the barometer of society's civilization.

And why is that?

Historically, Jews were always among the most loyal citizens of their countries, and did their best to integrate and to become pillars of society in all walks of life.

And so, for all those who wanted to dismantle the fabric of society, extremists from both right and left, the Jews were a symbol of society's foundations.

Rejection of the Jews was a rejection of the world order. They were always the first target, but by no means the last.

The Nazis erased one third of the Jewish people, six million, but in total, more than 60 million people were killed during the Second World War, and the world just stopped at the gates of destruction.

If extremists are not stopped at the gates of antisemitism, they will eventually take over executive power in their states.

And what is the situation today?

Who could imagine that just 75 years after the Holocaust, Jews would again be afraid to walk the streets of Europe wearing Jewish symbols?

Who would have imagined that synagogues would be attacked and cemeteries desecrated on a regular basis?

As President of the European Jewish Congress, I can only offer you a

picture of communities hiding behind high fences and thick security doors.

More than 80% of them feel unsafe in Europe today, while more than 40% are considering leaving Europe entirely and in recent years 3% have done so annually.

If we think about this figure for a moment, it means that at this rate in only 30 years there could be no Jews in Europe.

What must be done?

Firstly, we must educate – about the Holocaust and about the dangers of antisemitism, racism and xenophobia, and particularly from an early age.

'Who could imagine that just 75 years after the Holocaust, Jews would again be afraid to walk the streets of Europe wearing Jewish symbols? Who would have imagined that synagogues would be attacked and cemeteries desecrated on a regular basis?'

Secondly, we must introduce meaningful legislation and, thirdly, fully enforce it.

In this regard, there is so much that we can learn from one another.

For example: Germany adopted a law, two years ago, against online hate speech, addressing one of the most powerful platforms for antisemitism and racism today – the internet.

The United States has recently addressed the growing antisemitism on university campuses, with an executive order that permits restricting of federal funds from universities that do not combat antisemitism.

France passed legislation against boycotts of people and products based on nationality, addressing the new type of antisemitism that targets the Jewish state. A few weeks ago, they passed a resolution acknowledging that anti-Zionism is antisemitism.

Great Britain is a model of how to effectively respond to antisemitism. It created a taskforce, consisting of law enforcement agencies, legal institutions and civil society organizations, to effectively coordinate and act against antisemitism.

And Russia, where we find maybe the lowest rates of antisemitism due to a very uncompromising, long-term policy towards antisemitism. Antisemitic incidents are treated with maximum severity, therefore practically eliminating antisemitism in the public arena.

These five positive examples of strong leadership should be common all over Europe and the world.

In conclusion, we have to equate legally and practically the words and actions of antisemitism to the words and actions of extremism and terrorism.

Otherwise it will be too late when extremism takes over executive power, country by country, which means your power and our mutual future.

We are together today, united in our words and in our belief for a future free from antisemitism, racism and xenophobia. Together we will plant the seeds of trust and belief so that our daily prayers for salvation will be answered.

I thank each and every one of you for being here and for your dedication, belief and commitment.

'What must be done? Firstly, we must educate - about the Holocaust and about the dangers of antisemitism, racism and xenophobia, and particularly from an early age. Secondly, we must introduce meaningful legislation and, thirdly, fully enforce it.'



the Holocaust
Antisemitism
2020 Jerusalem, Israel



**WORLD
HOLOCAUST
FORUM 2020**
Remembering the Holocaust
Fighting Antisemitism







HE Vladimir Putin

President of the Russian Federation

Mr President, Mr Prime Minister, colleagues, friends, ladies and gentlemen,
Today we are brought together at the international forum to honour the victims of the Holocaust by a shared responsibility, our duty to the past and the future.

We mourn all the victims of the Nazis, including the six million Jews tortured in ghettos and death camps and killed cruelly during raids. Forty percent of them were citizens of the Soviet Union, so the Holocaust has always been a deep wound for us, a tragedy we will always remember.

Before visiting Jerusalem, I looked through original documents, reports by Red Army officers after the liberation of Auschwitz. I must tell you, colleagues, it is very difficult, unbearable to read these military reports, documents describing in detail how the camp was set up, how the cold-blooded killing machine worked.

Many of them were handwritten by soldiers and officers of the Red Army on the second or third day after the liberation of the prisoners and convey the shock that the Red Army soldiers and officers experienced from what they saw there, from testimonies that caused pain, indignation and compassion.

Red Army Field Marshal Konev, who then led the military operation to capture the densely populated Silesian industrial region of Germany, used tactics to spare as many civilians as possible and, having received a report about the atrocities committed at Auschwitz, forbade himself from even seeing this camp. Later he wrote in his memoirs that he had no right to lose his moral strength, so that a fair sense of revenge would not have blinded him during military operations and would not have caused additional suffering and casualties among the civilian population of Germany.

January 27 marks the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. In this hell, where people from different countries were brought for torture, monstrous experiments and mass killing, hundreds of thousands of people of different ethnicities died. More than half of them were Jews.

The crimes committed by the Nazis, their deliberate, planned and, as they said, 'final solution to the Jewish issue', is one of the darkest and most shameful pages of modern world history.

But we should not forget that this crime also had accomplices. They were often crueller than their masters. Death factories and concentration camps were served not only by the Nazis, but also by their accomplices in many European countries.

'Today we are brought together at the international forum to honour the victims of the Holocaust by a shared responsibility, our duty to the past and the future. We mourn all the victims of the Nazis, including the six million Jews tortured in ghettos and death camps and killed cruelly during raids.'

In the occupied territories of the Soviet Union, where these criminals were operating, the largest number of Jews were killed. Thus, about 1.4 million Jews were killed in Ukraine, and 220,000 people were killed in Lithuania. I draw your attention, friends, to the fact that this is 95 percent of the pre-war Jewish population of this country. In Latvia, 77,000 Jewish people were killed. Only a few hundred Latvian Jews survived the Holocaust.

The Holocaust was deliberate annihilation of people. But we must remember that the Nazis intended the same fate for many other peoples. Russians, Belarusians, Ukrainians, Poles and many other peoples were declared *Untermenschen*. Their land was meant to serve as living space for the Nazis, providing for their prosperous existence, while the Slavs and other peoples were meant either to be exterminated or to become slaves without rights, culture, historical memory and language.

Back in 1945, it was first of all the Soviet people who put an end to these barbaric plans. As it has just been said, they protected their

Fatherland and liberated Europe from Nazism. We paid a price no nation could even imagine in their worst dreams: a toll of 27 million deaths.

We will never forget this. The memory of the Holocaust will serve as a lesson and a warning only if it remains fully intact, without any omissions. Unfortunately, today the memory of war and its lessons and legacy often fall subject to the immediate political situation. This is completely unacceptable. It is the duty of current and future politicians, state and public figures to protect the good name of the living and fallen heroes, civilians and victims of the Nazis and their allies.

We must use everything we have – our informational, political and cultural capabilities as well as the reputation and influence our countries have in the world – to this end. I am sure that everyone present here today, in this audience, shares these concerns and is ready to protect truth and justice together with us.

We are all responsible for making sure that the terrible tragedies of this war will not happen again, that the generations to come will remember the horrors of the Holocaust, the death camps and the siege of Leningrad – Prime Minister Netanyahu has just said that today a

'The crimes committed by the Nazis, their deliberate, planned and, as they said, "final solution to the Jewish issue", is one of the darkest and most shameful pages of modern world history.'

monument to the victims of the siege was unveiled here in Jerusalem – Babi Yar, and the burned-down village of Khatyn, remember that we must remain alert and must not overlook when the first seeds of hate, chauvinism and antisemitism take root, or when people start to indulge in xenophobia or other similar manifestations.

Destruction of the past and lack of unity in the face of threats can lead to terrible consequences. We must have the courage to be straight about this and do everything to defend peace.

I think an example could and should be set by the founding countries of the United Nations, the five powers that bear special responsibility for the preservation of civilisation.

We have discussed this with several of our colleagues and, as far as I know, have received a generally positive response to holding a meeting of the heads of state of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council: Russia, China, the United States, France and Britain. We can hold it in any country, in any place that our colleagues would find convenient. Russia is ready for such a serious discussion. We intend to send this proposal to the leaders of the Five [permanent members of the UN Security Council] without delay.

We are faced with many challenges. We discussed one of them recently at the initiative of German Chancellor Angela Merkel. This is about Libya. But we will have to return to this issue at the Security Council and adopt a relevant resolution.

There are many other problems as well. I consider it important and symbolic to hold the proposed meeting this year. After all, we are celebrating 75 years since the end of World War II and the foundation of the United Nations.

A summit of the states that made the main contribution to the routing of the aggressor and the formation of the post-war world order can play a big role in searching for collective ways of responding to current challenges and threats and would demonstrate our common commitment to the spirit of allied relations, historical memory and the lofty ideals and values for which our predecessors, our grandfathers and fathers, fought shoulder to shoulder.

In conclusion, I would like to thank our Israeli colleagues for a warm, very hospitable reception here in Jerusalem, and to wish peace, prosperity and all the best to everyone at the conference and, of course, to the citizens of Israel.

Thank you.



→
Governor General of Canada Julie
Payette (left) with Governor-
General of Australia David Hurley

↘
First Lady of Armenia Nouneh
Sarkissian (left) with President of
Armenia Armen Sarkissian



President of Hungary János Áder (left)
with President of Austria Alexander
van der Bellen





(Left to right) President of Croatia Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, First Lady of Argentina Fabiola Yáñez, President of Argentina Alberto Fernández, Vlassia Pavlopoulou-Peltsemi and her husband President of Greece Prokopios Pavlopoulos



(Left to right) Vice President of the United States of America Michael R. Pence, Sara Netanyahu, Prime Minister of the State of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu and President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin



Prime Minister of Denmark Mette Frederiksen (left) with her husband Bo Tengberg



↗
First Lady of North Macedonia Elizabeta Pendarovska (centre) and President of North Macedonia Stevo Pendarovski (right)

→
President of Finland Sauli Niinistö





HE Michael R. Pence

Vice President of the United States of America

President Rivlin, Prime Minister Netanyahu, Your Majesties, Presidents, Excellencies, honoured survivors and distinguished guests,

It is deeply humbling for me to stand before you today, on behalf of the American people, as we mark the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.

On this occasion, here on Mount Herzl, we gather to fulfill a solemn obligation – an obligation of remembrance: to never allow the memory of those who died in the Holocaust to be forgotten by anyone, anywhere in the world.

The word 'remember' appears no fewer than 169 times in the Hebrew Bible – for memory is the constant obligation of all generations.

And today we pause to remember what President Donald Trump rightly called 'the dark stain on human history' – the greatest evil ever perpetuated by man against man in the long catalogue of human crime.

The faces of a million and a half children reduced to smoke under a silent sky for the crime of having a single Jewish grandparent. The night Elie Wiesel called 'seven times sealed' consumed the faith of so many then, and challenges the faith of so many still.

Today we remember what happens when the powerless cry for help and the powerful refuse to answer.

The town's name was Oświęcim. As part of their plan to destroy the very existence of Polish culture, the Nazis gave Polish towns German names. And this one they called Auschwitz.

When soldiers opened the gates of Auschwitz on January 27, 1945, they found 7,000 half-starved, half-naked prisoners, hundreds of boxes of camp records that documented the greatest mass murder in history. Before the war was over, in its five years of existence, more than 1.1 million men, women and children would perish at Auschwitz.

As my wife and I can attest first-hand, from this past year, one cannot walk the grounds of Auschwitz without being overcome with emotion and grief. One cannot see the piles of shoes, the gas chambers, the crematoriums, the lone boxcar facing the gate to the camp, and those

grainy photographs of men, women, and children being sent to their deaths without asking: 'How could they?'

Today we mourn with those who mourn and grieve with those who grieve. We remember the names and the faces and the promise of the six million Jews who were murdered in the Holocaust.

**'Today we remember what happens
when the powerless cry for help and the powerful
refuse to answer.'**

Today we also pay tribute to those who survived, who all these years have borne witness to that evil and have served mankind by their example.

And today we honour and remember the memory of all the Allied forces, including more than two million American soldiers, who left hearth and home, suffered appalling casualties, and freed a continent from the grip of tyranny.

And, finally, we pay tribute to the memory of those non-Jewish heroes who saved countless lives – those the people of Israel call the Righteous Among the Nations.'

In an age of indifference, they acted. In an age of fear, they showed courage. And their memory and their example should kindle anew the flame of our hearts to do the same in our time.

We must be prepared to stand as they did against the wave of their times. We must be prepared to confront and expose the vile tide of anti-semitism that is fueling hate and violence all across the world. And we must stand together.

In that same spirit, we must also stand strong against the leading state purveyor of antisemitism, against the one government in the world that denies the Holocaust as a matter of state policy and threatens to wipe Israel off the map. The world must stand strong against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

And, finally, we must have the courage to recognize, all the leaders and all the nations that are gathered here, that, today, we have the responsibility and the power to ensure that what we remember here today can never happen again.

Prime Minister, as we honour and remember the six million Jewish martyrs of the Holocaust, the world can only marvel at the faith and resilience of the Jewish people who, just three years after walking in the valley of the shadow of death, rose up from the ashes to reclaim a Jewish future and rebuild the Jewish State.

And I'm proud to say, as Vice President of the United States, that the American people have been with you every step of the way since 1948. And so we will remain.

As President Trump declared in his historic visit to Jerusalem, the bond between our two peoples is 'woven together in the fabric of our hearts'. And so it shall always be.

Today we remember not simply the liberation of Auschwitz but also the triumph of freedom – a promise fulfilled, a people restored to their rightful place among the nations of the Earth. And we remember – we remember the long night of that past, the survivors and the faces of those we lost, the heroes who stood against those evil times. And today we

**'We must be prepared to confront
and expose the vile tide of antisemitism that is
fueling hate and violence all across the world.
And we must stand together.'**

gather nearly 50 nations strong, here in Jerusalem, to say with one voice: never again.

Through pogroms, persecutions and expulsions in the ghettos, and finally even through the death camps, the Jewish people clung to an ancient promise that He would 'never leave you or forsake you' and that

he would leave this people to inherit the land that he swore to your ancestors that he would give them.

And so, today, as we bear witness to the strength and the resilience and the faith of the Jewish people, so too we bear witness to G-d's faithfulness to the Jewish people.

May the memory of the martyrs be enshrined in the hearts of all humanity for all time.

May G-d bless the Jewish people, the State of Israel, the United States and all the nations gathered here.

And may He who creates peace in the heavens create peace for us and for all the world.

Oseh shalom bimromav. Hu ya'aseh shalom aleinu. V'al kol Yisrael V'imru. Amen.





↑
President of Romania Klaus Iohannis (left) with President of Hungary János Áder (centre) and President of Austria Alexander van der Bellen

→
Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina Željko Komšić



HRH Prince Charles, Prince of Wales (left), with Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev (centre) and President of Italy Sergio Mattarella

HRH Prince Charles

Prince of Wales



Survivors of the Shoah, President Rivlin, Your Majesties, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a particular honour, although one of the most solemn kind, to be present here today and, on behalf of the United Kingdom, to commemorate all those so tragically lost in the Shoah.

To come to this sacred place, Yad Vashem – 'A Memorial and a Name' – is to be faced with that for which no name, no words and no language can ever possibly do justice.

The magnitude of the genocide that was visited upon the Jewish people defies comprehension and can make those of us who live in the shadow of those indescribable events feel hopelessly inadequate.

The scale of the evil was so great, the impact so profound, that it threatens to obscure the countless individual human stories of tragedy, loss and suffering of which it was comprised. That is why places like this, and events like this, are so vitally important.

For many of you here, and for Jewish people across the globe, those stories are your stories: whether you witnessed and somehow endured the appalling barbarity of the Holocaust personally; or whether it touched your lives through the experience of your loved ones, or through the loss of parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts or other family you were never able to know.

But we must never forget that they are also our story: a story of incomprehensible inhumanity, from which all humanity can and must learn. For that an evil cannot be described does not mean that it cannot be defeated. That it cannot be fully understood does not mean that it cannot be overcome.

And so it is of particular significance that we should gather here, in Israel, where so many of those who survived the Holocaust sought and found refuge, and built a new future for themselves and this country.

In the same way, it has been a singular privilege, throughout my life, to have met so many Holocaust survivors who were welcomed to the United Kingdom and who began new lives there, contributing immeasurably to the welfare of our country, and the world, in the years that followed.

I have such inspiring memories of remarkable people such as Anita Lasker-Wallfisch, who somehow survived both Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen before moving to Britain after the war. There, as a wonderfully talented cellist, she co-founded the English Chamber Orchestra, of which I am proud to have been Patron for the past 43 years.

On her arm she bears the number by which tyranny had sought to make her less than human. Yet, through her music, she reminds us of the greatest beauty of which we are capable. Over the years, she has shared her story bravely and powerfully, determined that some good might come from the unspeakable evil she endured and overcame. From the horror, she brought harmony, healing and hope.

Just as each life lost in the Shoah stands for all the millions who died, each inspirational story such as that of Anita Lasker-Wallfisch, stands for the strength of spirit, the unparalleled courage, the determined defiance, of the very best of humanity when confronted with the very worst.

For my own part, I have long drawn inspiration from the selfless actions of my dear grandmother, Princess Alice of Greece, who in 1943, in Nazi-occupied Athens, saved a Jewish family by taking them into her home and hiding them.

My grandmother, who is buried on the Mount of Olives, has a tree planted in her name here at Yad Vashem, and is counted as one of the Righteous Among the Nations – *hasidei ummot ha `olam* – a fact which gives me, and my family, immense pride.

Ladies and Gentlemen, almost a lifetime has passed since the horror of the Holocaust unfolded on the European continent, and those who bore witness to it are sadly ever fewer. We must, therefore, commit ourselves to ensuring that their stories live on, to be known and understood by each successive generation.

Anita Lasker-Wallfisch has said: 'There is a risk that the Holocaust will be placed under a glass bubble just like the Napoleonic Wars or the Thirty Years War. But if we don't make the connection between

memories of past atrocities and the present, there isn't any point to it.'

She is, it seems to me, absolutely right. The Holocaust must never be allowed to become simply a fact of history: we must never cease to be appalled, nor moved by the testimony of those who lived through it. Their experience must always educate, guide and warn us.

The lessons of the Holocaust are searingly relevant to this day. Seventy-five years after the Liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, hatred and intolerance still lurk in the human heart, still tell new lies, adopt new disguises, and still seek new victims.

'We must never forget that every human being is *be-tselem Elokim*, "in the image of G-d", and even a single human life is *ke-olam malei*, "like an entire universe". The Holocaust was an appalling Jewish tragedy, but it was also a universal human tragedy, and one which we compound if we do not heed its lessons.'

All too often, language is used which turns disagreement into dehumanization. Words are used as badges of shame to mark others as enemies, to brand those who are different as somehow deviant. All too often, virtue seems to be sought through verbal violence. All too often, real violence ensues, and acts of unspeakable cruelty are still perpetrated around the world against people for reasons of their religion, their race or their beliefs.

Knowing, as we do, the darkness to which such behaviour leads, we must be vigilant in discerning these ever-changing threats; we must be fearless in confronting falsehoods and resolute in resisting words and acts of violence. And we must never rest in seeking to create mutual understanding and respect. We must tend the earth of our societies so

that the seeds of division cannot take root and grow. And we must never forget that every human being is *be-tselem Elokim*, 'in the image of G-d', and even a single human life is *ke-olam malei*, 'like an entire universe'.

The Holocaust was an appalling Jewish tragedy, but it was also a universal human tragedy, and one which we compound if we do not heed its lessons.

On this day, in this place, and in memory of the millions who perished in the Shoah, let us recommit ourselves to tolerance and respect; and to ensuring that those who lived through this darkness will forever, as in the words of the prophet Isaiah, be 'a light unto the nations', to guide the generations that follow.







HE Emmanuel Macron

President of the French Republic

Mr President of the State of Israel, dear friend, thank you.
Prime Minister,
Your Majesties, Your Royal Highness,
Ladies and Gentlemen, heads of state and government,
Mr Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council,
Mr President of the World Holocaust Forum Foundation,
Dear Chief Rabbis,
Dear survivors,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear friends,

Words may seem insufficient, but seeing you here all together already says so much. Could they ever have imagined this happening today? That we would come together to remember, relive and revive their memory. I am so moved to greet tonight the survivors of the Holocaust who are among us, the sons and daughters of deportees, the Righteous Among the Nations, the witnesses, those who bring to Jerusalem the eternal flame of memory. Thanks to them all. They do the work of humanity every day.

Almost 75 years ago, on 27 January 1945, the brave soldiers of the Red Army entered the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp in Poland, which was occupied by Nazi Germany.

Each and every one of you described the moment of shock that all of humanity experienced then. But at that time, there were no celebrations, no shouts of joy, not even shouts of anger, there were only silence and tears.

For the people of Europe exhausted by war, it was, as Simone Veil said, not even an event. For the survivors, it was barely a relief. The worst had already happened. Could anyone ever recover from that? So many children would never find their parents; so many parents would never see their children again. What they had gone through was beyond words, and for many back then it was something that could not be heard of, something unnameable, inconceivable and unforgivable.

And yet, some of the survivors have overcome the need to forget by the need to transmit, to name the unnameable, to make the living hear

the message of the dead, to tell, as Elie Wiesel said, about the child who, hiding in an underground shelter after a manhunt, asked his mother in a low, very soft voice, 'Can I cry now?' Or about the disabled beggar who started singing in a sealed train car to encourage his companions. Or about the little girl who, holding her grandmother's hand, whispered to her, 'Don't be afraid, don't be afraid to die. Life, you know, is not as beautiful as it is said to be, and I am leaving it without regret.' She was seven years old.

'We will not be indifferent to what happens, because the promise of France is indeed a promise of memory and action.'

All of this is true. All of this happened. So yes, one had to remember everything, transcribe all the words, gestures, looks, sighs and worries – everything had to be transmitted. One had to answer the appeal of Simon Dubnow who said to his companions in the Riga ghetto, 'Brothers, write everything down, write everything down to tell it to future generations.' It was necessary to continue the work of Isaac Schneersohn, who, in 1943 in Grenoble, secretly founded an organization that was going to become the Center of Contemporary Jewish Documentation. It was necessary to pursue the effort of those who, amidst extermination, gathered documentary evidences of crimes, constituting piece by piece the archives of the victims among Jews, making their contribution to the indispensable resistance. This was a much-needed fight to break the silence, overcome the denial, forever ward off the unbearable, guilty and devastating oblivion.

It took the crazy energy of the prophets of truth, Serge and Beate Klarsfeld, to find the names, faces and lives and to trace so many assassins. This fight was necessary, and I want to join with you tonight in thanking all of these combatants. There were places of remembrance

both in France and in many other countries. But all the eyes were fixed to this place: Jerusalem. There were memories and stories. They all needed one name. This name was Yad Vashem.

This place keeps the testimonies of martyrdom and heroism. The memory of radical evil and the spirit of resistance. This is why the Holocaust must not be a story that is manipulated or misused or revisited. No! There is justice, there is history with its evidence, and there is the opinion of our nations. They should not be confused, at the risk of collectively plunging into calamity. No one has the right to recall the dead to justify any current differences or existing hatred, because all those who have fallen call us to truth, memory, dialogue and friendship. Could there be a more beautiful symbol than that of seeing us united here all together? United to do useful work to combat denial, resentment or speech of revenge.

What a pride it is for me to see so many European countries united here tonight and to be present here alongside the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, dear Frank-Walter, to stand here with you and to be able to hear you.

Europe must stand united.

Never forget, never divide!

This is also a lesson to be learnt. The international community must not forget that barbarism was born from the negation of the other and the flouting of international law and the security of nations.

I agree with you, dear Vladimir, President Putin. The five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council assume a historic responsibility today, and I support your wish to reunite, 75 years later. We mentioned it a few days ago and I hope that we can do it because, historically, since the end of World War II, we have been the guarantors of an international order that is governed by law, legality and respect for everyone.

This is what we have to defend everywhere. Yes, we need this unity of Europe and the international community, because today, violent and blatant antisemitism is resurfacing in our democracies. It is there, together with its cortege of hatred and intolerance, together with racism.

Antisemitism, let me say this clearly, is not only a problem for Jews. No, it is first of all a problem for all the others, because each time in our history it has preceded a collapse that was evidence of our weakness, the weakness of our democracies. It reflected the inability to accept the face of the other. It has always been the first form of rejection of the other, and when anti-semitism arises, all forms of racism proliferate, all divisions spread, and no one can be a winner.

Yes, we are here today because we must not give up anything as we face this new antisemitism. We are fighting, as you have mentioned, dear Moshe, by different means in each of our countries: by laws, texts, by law enforcement, by resolute action, by protection in both the real

Zakhor – lo tishkach!

Remember, do not forget!

This Jewish oath has also been adopted by the French Republic.

France has engraved the memory of the Holocaust in the marble of its laws. It teaches it in schools. France inscribed the names of its heroes on the walls.'

and the virtual worlds, because hate speech is everywhere, and we need to educate. There is no doubt we missed something. We must be clear-headed so that our children today can believe what they believe. We must not let them plunge back into the infamy of the worst prejudices and feed the hatreds that we thought we had done away with.

Yes, memory is also a promise. Our presence in Yad Vashem and the presence of our youth in Yad Vashem is a promise, because by making them relive the intolerable, by showing them the example of the Righteous, by making them merely touch the barbarism, we make them understand that today's indifference to antisemitism and racism is a venom. Indifference means complicity. And I firmly believe that our antidote to hatred is education.

One of the most prominent French authors, Charles Péguy, condemned those whom he often called 'accustomed souls', meaning people who let things happen. We will not be indifferent to what happens, because the promise of France is indeed a promise of memory and action.

Zakhor – lo tishkach!

Remember, do not forget!

This Jewish oath has also been adopted by the French Republic. France has engraved the memory of the Holocaust in the marble of its laws. It teaches it in schools. France inscribed the names of its heroes on the walls. France, through its President Chirac, looked in the face of its history and recognized the irreparable responsibility of the French state for the deportation of Jews. France knows how much it owes to those who hid and protected our citizens in villages and in churches, saving 240,000 French Jews, 59,000 of them children, while 11,000 were deported. France knows what it owes to its spirit and forces of resistance.

Our nation will always have an implacable response to those who deny, relativize or become complacent about what happened. Our survivors are our heroes, and they have become the messengers. They have inspired future generations of messengers. Our children, in turn, will become uncompromising witnesses. Thanks to this place and what they will have learnt, they will know that we have no right to forget, that the tale of the lives of those who disappeared must live forever. The future generations will also be inspired by the example of the Righteous. Our children will have to defend democracy and humanism, which are so fragile.

May we all together inspire our youth today so that they find courage and stand up, proud of our values, and so that they say, knowing all that they will have seen, experienced and understood, 'Never again! Never again!'

Remembering the Holocaust Fighting Antisemitism

January 23, 2020 Jerusalem, Israel



WHO
FOR

Remembering
Fighting





(Left to right) President of France Emmanuel Macron, HRH Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev and President of Italy Sergio Mattarella



(Left to right) Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau, Rebbetzin Chayita Lau, Elke Bűdenbender, President of Germany Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Anna Kantor, Dr Moshe Kantor, Karen Pence and Vice President of the United States of America Michael R. Pence



HE Frank-Walter Steinmeier

President of the Federal Republic of Germany

Recites blessing in Hebrew

Blessed be the Lord for enabling me to be here at this day. What a blessing, what a gift, it is for me to be able to speak to you here today at Yad Vashem.

Here at Yad Vashem burns the Eternal Flame in remembrance of the victims of the Shoah. This place reminds us of their suffering. The suffering of millions. And it reminds us of their lives – each individual life.

This place remembers Samuel Tytelman, a keen swimmer who won competitions for Maccabi Warsaw, and his little sister Rega, who helped her mother prepare the family meal for the Sabbath. This place remembers Ida Goldish and her three year-old son Vili. In October, they were deported from the Chisinau ghetto.

In the bitter cold of January, Ida wrote her last letter to her parents. I quote: 'I regret from the very depth of my soul that, on departing, I did not realize the importance of the moment, [...] that I did not hug you tightly, never releasing you from my arms.'

Germans deported them. Germans burned numbers on their fore-arms. Germans tried to dehumanize them, to reduce them to numbers, to erase all memory of them in the extermination camps. They did not succeed.

Samuel and Rega, Ida and Vili were human beings. And as human beings, they live on in our memory. Yad Vashem gives them, as it says in the Book of Isaiah, 'a monument and a name'.

I, too, stand before this monument as a human being – and as a German. I stand before their monument. I read their names. I hear their stories. And I bow in deepest sorrow.

Samuel and Rega, Ida and Vili were human beings. And this also must be said here: the perpetrators were human beings. They were Germans.

Those who murdered, those who planned and helped in the murdering, the many who silently toed the line: they were Germans. The industrial mass murder of six million Jews, the worst crime in the history of humanity, it was committed by my countrymen. The terrible war, which cost far more than 50 million lives, it originated from my country.

Seventy-five years after the liberation of Auschwitz, I stand before you all as President of Germany – I stand here laden with the heavy, historical burden of guilt.

Yet at the same time, my heart is filled with gratitude for the hands of the survivors stretched out to us, for the new trust given to us by people in Israel and across the world, for Jewish life flourishing in Germany. My soul is moved by the spirit of reconciliation, this spirit which opened up a new and peaceful path for Germany and Israel, for Germany, Europe and the countries of the world.

'Germany's responsibility does not expire. We want to live up to our responsibility. By this you should measure us.'

The Eternal Flame at Yad Vashem does not go out. Germany's responsibility does not expire. We want to live up to our responsibility. By this you should measure us.

I stand before you, grateful for this miracle of reconciliation, and I wish I could say that our remembrance has made us immune to evil.

Yes, we Germans remember. But sometimes it seems as though we understand the past better than the present. The spirits of evil are emerging in a new guise, presenting their antisemitic, racist, authoritarian thinking as an answer for the future, a new solution to the problems of our age.

I wish I could say that we Germans have learnt from history once and for all. But I cannot say that when hatred is spreading. I cannot say that when Jewish children are spat on in the schoolyard, I cannot say that when crude antisemitism is cloaked in supposed criticism of Israeli policy. I cannot say that when only a thick wooden door prevents a right wing terrorist from causing a bloodbath in a synagogue in the city of Halle on Yom Kippur.

Of course, our age is a different age. The words are not the same. The perpetrators are not the same. But it is the same evil.

And there remains only one answer: 'Never again! Nie wieder!'

'We fight antisemitism! We resist the poison that is nationalism! We protect Jewish life!

We stand with Israel!

Here at Yad Vashem, I renew this promise before the eyes of the world.'

That is why there cannot be an end to remembrance. This responsibility was woven into the very fabric of the Federal Republic of Germany from day one. But it tests us here and now. This Germany will only live up to itself if it lives up to its historical responsibility.

We fight antisemitism! We resist the poison that is nationalism! We protect Jewish life! We stand with Israel!

Here at Yad Vashem, I renew this promise before the eyes of the world. And I know that I am not alone. Today we join together to say: 'No to antisemitism! No to hatred!'

From the horror of Auschwitz, the world learned lessons once before. The nations of the world built an order of peace, founded upon human rights and international law. We Germans are committed to this order and we want to defend it, with all of you. Because this we know: peace can be destroyed, and people can be corrupted.

Esteemed Heads of State and Government, I am grateful that together we make this commitment today: a world that remembers the Holocaust. A world without genocide.

'Who knows if we will ever hear again the magical sound of life? Who knows if we can weave ourselves into eternity – who knows?' Salmen Gradowski wrote these lines in Auschwitz and buried them in a tin can under a crematorium. Here at Yad Vashem they are woven into eternity: Salmen Gradowski, Samuel and Rega Tytelman, Ida and Vili Goldish. They were all murdered. Their lives were lost to unfettered hatred.

But our remembrance of them will defeat the abyss. And our actions will defeat hatred. By this, I stand. For this, I hope.

'Blessed be the Lord for enabling me to be here at this day.'

Recites blessing in Hebrew

Remembering the Holocaust Fighting Antisemitism

January 23, 2020 Jerusalem, Israel



WORLD HOLOCAUST FORUM

Remembering
Fighting Antisemitism





Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau

Chairman of the Council of Yad Vashem

President Rivlin,
Prime Minister Netanyahu,
President of the World Holocaust Forum Dr Kantor,
Leaders of the world,

You are gathered here, leaders of the world, everyone in this country; we have met last night, and I see you today and I thank you for your kind, and warm, and touching words you gave us in your speeches; your brotherhood, your friendship, your love and your commitment for the future we will never forget. We appreciate it very, very deeply.

Survivors,
Brothers and sisters,
People of Israel,
Morai verabotai,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Twenty-five years ago was 50 years since the liberation of Buchenwald concentration camp, liberated by the American army on April 11, 1945. I was invited to give a speech to the survivors who had survived the camp and survived 50 years thereafter. I came with my late brother Naphtali, my hero, who saved my life. We came from Israel to Germany – to the city of Weimar, of which Buchenwald is a suburb. And I started my words with this comment:

'This is my second visit to Buchenwald. The first one was fifty and a half years ago. And what is the change? When I came here for the first time, I was a child of seven and a half years. No father any more, no mother any more, but a brother. I came here – I had no name. I was just a number: Häftling Nummer eins-eins-sieben-null-drei-null, Prisoner 117030. Prisoner! Seven and a half years old. What a crime could I do to become a prisoner? With no name and almost no identity.'

Fifty years later, I come from my old new homeland, the State of Israel. I have a name. My name is Yisrael Meir Lau. I am not a prisoner any more. I am the Chief Rabbi of Israel. What a change! With such a change from the first visit to the second one you would say, 'Let us forget it. Let us open a new page, a new chapter, let us forgive and let us forget.'

So I came especially to tell you: I cannot forgive, because I am not authorized to forgive. My parents, before they were taken away, they did not ask me to forgive. They asked me to continue the chain, so the Jewish chain will be forever unbroken.

This is what they said to me. I do remember my mother saying, 'Remember that you are a Jew. Wherever you go, remember that you are a part of a rabbinic chain. Your father, I don't know what happened to him. It has been two years since I last heard from him. Your father was the 37th generation of a rabbinic dynasty, you are the 38th – continue the chain. Go on!' These were her last words: she did not speak about forgiveness then.

You also ask me to forget. How can I forget the beatings, the freezing cold, the starvation. I always remember the stars in the very dark tunnel that lasted five and a half years, the Righteous Among the Nations. To some of them I owe my life. I do remember. But I also remember the suffering, I do remember the torture, I do remember the victims, and I can never forget.

Now I want to tell you, dear friends here, in Yad Vashem, we appreciate very much your arrival. We appreciate very much your promise to fight antisemitism and racism. This is a promise, this is an obligation, this is a duty of mankind and we will never forget what you have said here today. And we appreciate every word you have said to us, and we believe that you said it from the bottom of your heart. We do believe that this evening here in Yad Vashem in Yerushalayim can be a bridge for the whole of mankind, not only around the Holocaust, but around survival of the world of mankind.

What do I mean? If you open the first book of the Bible, the Book of Genesis, and you read the story of Noah's ark. There was a flood and Noah was told by the Lord Almighty, 'Build an ark, and all the animals and your family, get into the ark, and you will be saved. You will survive the flood.'

For 150 days they were in the ark! Who was there? Snakes, leopards, tigers, lions, bears, and other animals like cows, donkeys, hens and doves. In 150 days under the same roof, no one was hurt by the other!

They behaved because they knew that they must behave, because there is a common enemy outside of the ark: the flood. And if they do not behave, Noah will send them out of the ark, and they will disappear. So they understood, 'We must live in friendship because we have a common enemy.'

People! Leaders of the world! Don't we have today common enemies? Don't we have a reason to understand what the snake understood in the ark of Noah?

'This is a promise, this is an obligation, this is a duty of mankind and we will never forget what you have said here today. [...] We do believe that this evening here in Yad Vashem in Yerushalayim can be a bridge for the whole of mankind, not only around the Holocaust, but around survival of the world of mankind.'

Can we not understand that there are common enemies today? Disease, starvation, ignorance, crime, nuclear weapons. These are common enemies.

So let us behave like friends, let us understand what the animals understood. Let us understand that this message can come here, from Yad Vashem, from Yerushalayim, as the prophet Isaiah, the prophet Micah said in the same words – *Ki mitzion tetze Torah, udvar Hashem miYerushalayim*. The voice of the Lord Almighty comes and is spread all over the world, from Jerusalem. A city with a history of four thousand years. We can never forget, and we have to behave like friends and brothers. That's our duty.

Leaders of the world! The world is in your hands. With one sentence, one signature, you can decide upon millions of people. So decide for love, friendship and peace forever. Thank you.



←
Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau



↑
Holocaust survivors Abraham Sharnopolsky (first row, left) and Alexander Berman (first row, right)

→
Holocaust survivor Yehuda Vitsevsky



Holocaust survivors Hanna Hareli (first from right) and Shimon Cohen (second from right)



←
Holocaust survivors Martha Raviv
and Avraham Ivanor

↙
Holocaust survivor Yizkhak Terner



Holocaust survivor Esther Meron
(front row, right)



Avner Shalev

Chairman of the Directorate of Yad Vashem

I am writing this letter before my death, although I don't know the exact day my relatives and I will be killed just because we are Jews... How I yearn to live and reach some good in life. But everything is lost... Farewell.'

These were the last words of Fanya Barbakow before she was murdered in the Druja ghetto in 1942.

The Holocaust was the most deadly manifestation of antisemitism. It was the outcome of an extreme racist ideology, adopted by a modern state, to blame one group for all collective ills.

Nazi antisemitism was used to legitimize unprecedented cruelty: the systematic murder of millions of innocent people. Even today, the Holocaust seems almost impossible to grasp. But we must do just that, because while the Nazi plan was aimed against the Jews, antisemitic atrocities never end with the Jews.

The Holocaust was a calamity for the Jewish people and a catastrophe for all people. The Shoah proved that modernity does not ensure morality. Values do not necessarily progress along with technology.

Seventy-five years after liberation, Holocaust remembrance is more relevant than ever. It serves as a lighthouse, warning us of the danger of extreme racist ideologies.

Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center, is the gatekeeper of Holocaust memory. It is here in Jerusalem that the voices and legacy of the Shoah victims and survivors are gathered, preserved and made accessible for all humanity.

Now, memory must be translated into action. Antisemitism, and all other forms of racism, will never be diminished through silence! Tackling antisemitism today requires a range of policies and tools – locally, nationally and internationally. International forums, such as ours here today fortify a united front against any expressions of racism, anywhere.

Our mutual duty is to educate the upcoming generation, to ensure that everyone understands what constitutes antisemitism, and remembers where it had led us in the past. As an educator, I realized early on

that Yad Vashem must create the International School for Holocaust Studies. Here, professionals from around the world learn accurate facts about the Holocaust, and how to communicate its meanings to their communities, peers and students.

Our comprehensive research, numerous exhibitions and robust online presence are additional means to disseminate our knowledge to a global audience.

'Yad Vashem [...] is the gatekeeper of Holocaust memory. It is here in Jerusalem that the voices and legacy of the Shoah victims and survivors are gathered, preserved and made accessible for all humanity. [...] Memory must be the basis of action and the source of strength for building a better world.'

We are all here today because we share a deep concern about what is happening around the globe.

Your presence gives us hope: hope of overcoming Holocaust denial and distortion.

Hope of securing individual rights and human dignity in all societies. And hope that the world we entrust to our children will be kinder and more tolerant than the one we inherited from our parents.

Despite the horrors they witnessed and endured, Holocaust survivors such as Rabbi Lau, did not lose faith in humanity. They chose life and contributed to every society they joined.

In 2002, survivor representatives signed a declaration here at Yad Vashem. 'To the next generations,' they wrote, 'we pass on the Jewish message that memory leads to moral obligation. Memory must be the basis of action and the source of strength for building a better world.'



ARTISTIC PERFORMANCE

The powerful musical interludes by the National Philharmonic Orchestra of Russia together with musicians from France, Germany, Poland, Israel and the United States of America, conducted by UNESCO Artist for Peace Vladimir Spivakov, highly contributed to the commemorative and solemn atmosphere of the Fifth World Holocaust Forum and joined in sending a message of unity in the mission of remembering the Shoah. The orchestra performed 'Evening Prayer - Last Night in the Ghetto' from the *Yellow Stars* symphony by Isaac Schwartz and an abstract from Piano Sonata No. 7 by Viktor Ullmann.







The orchestra was then accompanied by an international choir of professional singers and choristers from the United States of America (the Young People's Chorus of New York City), the Russian Federation (the Grand Choir 'Masters of Choral Singing'), the United Kingdom (the Royal Opera House) and France (singers engaged with L'Opéra national de Paris and Radio France). Among the works performed by the orchestra together with the choir were the 'Dies Irae' movements from the Requiems by Mozart and Karl Jenkins, the 'Hostias' movement from the Saint-Saëns Requiem and the national anthem of the State of Israel 'Hatikvah'.







MAESTRO VLADIMIR SPIVAKOV

The outstanding violinist and conductor Vladimir Spivakov has remarkably realized his multifaceted talent in music and philanthropy. As a violinist, Spivakov received a brilliant education with the renowned teacher, Professor of the Moscow Conservatory Yuri Yankelevich. An equally important influence was the outstanding violinist of the 20th century David Oistrakh.

In the 1960s–1970s Spivakov won prizes at prestigious international competitions, such as the Marguerite Long–Jacques Thibaud Competition in Paris, the Paganini Competition in Genoa, the Montreal competition and the Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow.

In 1979 Vladimir Spivakov and his colleagues created the 'Moscow Virtuosi' chamber orchestra, which he has since led as its artistic director, conductor and soloist. Spivakov learned conducting with Professor Israel Gusman in Russia and took classes with Leonard Bernstein and Lorin Maazel in the USA. In recognition of friendship and confidence in Spivakov's conducting potential, Bernstein presented him with his baton, which Spivakov has kept ever since.

Since 1989 Vladimir Spivakov has been the artistic director of the Colmar International Music Festival that annually brings leading musicians to France. Since 2001 the 'Vladimir Spivakov Invites' festival has been held biennially in Moscow; since 2010 the festival has also taken place in other cities of Russia and Eastern Europe.

Vladimir Spivakov has been involved in social and charitable activities for many years. In 1994 the Vladimir Spivakov International Charity Foundation was established with a commitment to providing professional support to young art prodigies and creating favourable conditions for their artistic development.

In 2003 Vladimir Spivakov founded the National Philharmonic Orchestra of Russia and became its artistic director and principal conductor, as well as the president of the Moscow International Performing Arts Centre.



Many contemporary composers have dedicated their works to Vladimir Spivakov, including Alfred Schnittke, Rodion Shchedrin, Arvo Pärt, Isaac Schwartz, Viatcheslav Artyomov and others.

Vladimir Spivakov has been awarded the honorary titles of People's Artist of the USSR (1989), Armenia (1989) and Ukraine (2001). He was also honoured with the two highest decorations of France – the Order of Arts and Letters (Officer) and the Legion of Honour (Knight in 2000 and Officer in 2010) – and the Italian Order of the Star (Commander, 2012) among many other decorations and titles of various countries.

In 2006 Vladimir Spivakov was named UNESCO Artist for Peace for his 'outstanding contribution to the world of art and his activities aimed at peace and dialogue between cultures', and in 2009 he was awarded the UNESCO Mozart Gold Medal. He is the Ambassador of the Arts of the World Economic Forum in Davos.



'I tell my story for the purpose of improving humanity, drop by drop by drop. Like a drop of water falls on a stone and erodes it, so, hopefully, by telling my story over and over again, I will achieve the purpose of making the world a better place to live in.'

Pinchas Gutter

COMMEMORATION CEREMONY



After the speeches were completed, a commemoration ceremony was held, during which Holocaust survivors Rose Moskowitz from the United States and Colette Avital, Chairperson of the Center Organization of Holocaust Survivors in Israel, lit a memorial torch.

All the leaders of the delegations present at the World Holocaust Forum then commemorated the victims of the Holocaust by laying wreaths at the foot of the *Warsaw Ghetto Uprising* monument.

Cantor Shai Abramson recited the 'El Maleh Rahamim' memorial prayer, followed by Holocaust survivor Naftali Deutsch who recited Kaddish, the mourner's prayer.

The ceremony concluded with a minute of silence as the delegates stood together on the platform in front of Nathan Rapoport's *Warsaw Ghetto Uprising* monument, before the singing of Israel's national anthem, 'Hatikvah'.



Holocaust survivors Colette Avital, Chairperson of the Center of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors in Israel (left) and Rose Moskowitz



LAYING OF WREATHS BY LEADERS OF NATIONS AND HEADS OF DELEGATIONS

Leaders of the Delegations commemorated the victims of the Holocaust by laying wreaths at the foot of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising monument.



↑
President of the State of Israel
Reuven Rivlin

↗
Prime Minister of the State of Israel
Benjamin Netanyahu



↑
President of the Russian Federation
Vladimir Putin

↗
HRH Prince Charles, Prince of Wales

→
President of Argentina Alberto Fernández





↑
Representative of the Holy See Cardinal Kurt Koch

↗
President of France Emmanuel Macron

→
President of Germany Frank-Walter Steinmeier





↑
HM King Felipe VI of Spain



➤
President of Italy Sergio Mattarella



↑
President of Portugal Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa



↗
Prime Minister of Sweden Stefan Löfven

- President of Finland Sauli Niinistö
- ↘ President of Serbia Aleksandar Vučić



- ↑ HM King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands
- ↗ HM King Philippe of Belgium



↑
President of Montenegro Milo Đukanović



↑
Chairman of the National Assembly of Azerbaijan Ogtay Asadov



←
Governor General of Canada Julie Payette



↑
President of Romania Klaus Iohannis

↗
President of Greece Prokopios Pavlopoulos

→
Prime Minister of Denmark Mette Frederiksen





President of Iceland Guðni Thorlacius Jóhannesson

➤
Minister of State of Monaco Serge Telle





The government of Israel

Kingdom of Spain

Kingdom of Norway

Republic of Armenia

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Republic of Croatia

Kingdom of Georgia

French Republic

The State of Israel

Iceland

Principality of Monaco

Portuguese Republic

Republic of Serbia

Kingdom of Sweden

Republic of Switzerland

Holland

Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

Republic of Albania

Commonwealth of Australia

Republic of Austria

Republic of Cyprus

European Union

Republic of Finland

Republic of France

United Kingdom

Montenegro

Romania

Slovak Republic

United States of America

Republic of Ukraine

H.M. The King of the Belgians

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Argentine Republic

Republic of Austria

Canada

Czech Republic

Republic of Estonia

Federal Republic of Germany

Republic of Greece

Republic of Moldova

Republic of North Macedonia

The Russian Federation

Republic of Slovenia

The Republic of Azerbaijan

Republic of Turkey

Republic of Ukraine



RECITAL OF PRAYERS AND MINUTE OF SILENCE

Cantor Shai Abramson recited the 'El Maleh Rahamim' memorial prayer, followed by Holocaust survivor Naftali Deutsch who recited Kaddish, the mourner's prayer.



WORLD HOLOCAUST FORUM
Presenting the Holocaust Spring Collection

Naftali Deutsch
Holocaust Survivor





WORLD HOLOCAUST FORUM 2020
Remembering the Holocaust
Fighting Antisemitism

The ceremony proceeded with a minute of silence, with all the leaders going on stage, and concluded with Israel's National anthem 'Hatikvah'.



WORLD HOLOCAUST FORUM 2020

Remembering the Holocaust
Fighting Antisemitism



'We must be listened to: above and beyond our personal experience, we have collectively witnessed a fundamental unexpected event, fundamental precisely because unexpected, not foreseen by anyone. It happened, therefore it can happen again: this is the core of what we have to say. It can happen, and it can happen everywhere.'

Primo Levi

CLOSING OF THE FORUM

MEETING WITH HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS



Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Dr Moshe Kantor and the bipartisan US Congressional delegation meeting with Holocaust survivors





FAREWELL



Dr Moshe Kantor and Yuli Edelstein, at the time Speaker of the Knesset



Speaker of the United States House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi, President of Jewish Care Lord Levy and Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth Ephraim Mirvis

Yuli Edelstein, Speaker of the Knesset

'Today we only need to look around us to see that things have changed. Today we, the Jewish people, have taken our destiny into our own hands. We no longer need expressions of sympathy; the State of Israel is our brothers' and sisters' keeper! Today we are no longer merely a collection of scattered communities, we are a global people, centred here, in Jerusalem, our eternal capital! Here, where world leaders are gathered now, to honour the Jewish people, the Jewish history, the State of Israel, and most importantly, the Jewish future. We are here today, inspired by the past, to meet the challenges of building that future.'





Executive Vice-President and CEO of the European Jewish Congress Raya Kalenova, European Commission Coordinator on combatting antisemitism and fostering Jewish life Katharina von Schnurbein and Director of European Affairs of the European Jewish Congress Ariella Woitchik

→
Dr Moshe Kantor





Special Advisor to the Chairman of the Directorate of Yad Vashem Arie Zuckerman and US Congressman Joe Wilson



US Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism Elan S. Carr and National Director and CEO of ADL Jonathan Greenblatt



Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives

'Yet today it is a profoundly disconcerting and disturbing reality that the horror of antisemitism is growing, with appalling acts of hatred poisoning communities around the world, including my own country of America. [...]

We must sadly conclude that the antisemitism that led to the Shoah is alive and there is dangerous discrimination against the Roma, LGBTQ, political activists and other vulnerable communities. As Elie Wiesel said, human suffering everywhere concerns men and women everywhere. Let us therefore declare antisemitism a global crisis requiring a global response. We all have a responsibility not only to condemn, but also to confront antisemitism and bigotry in all forms.'



Paul Pelosi, Yuli Edelstein, at the time Speaker of the Knesset, and Speaker of the United States House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi



Austria's Federal Minister for the EU and Constitution Karoline Edtstadler with Dr Moshe Kantor



Executive Vice-President and CEO of the European Jewish Congress Raya Kalenova



Dr Moshe Kantor and Speaker of the United States House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi





Cellist Danielle Akta

↗
Soprano Hibla Gerzmava

→
Mezzo-soprano Aigul Akhmetshina



'I come from a people who gave the Ten Commandments to the world. Time has come to strengthen them by three additional ones, which we ought to adopt and commit ourselves to: thou shalt not be a victim, thou shalt not be a perpetrator, but, above all, thou shalt not be a bystander.'

Yehuda Bauer

GUESTS

The Forum was attended by distinguished guests, including Israeli officials, ambassadors, Members of the European Parliament, Holocaust survivors, Jewish leaders from across Europe, diplomats and representative of NGOs and civil society.



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1 President of the Council of Moroccan Jewish Communities Serge Berdugo with MEP and Vice-Chair of the European Parliament Working Group Against Antisemitism Frédérique Ries

Unless otherwise stated, all captions identify guests from left to right

2 European Commission Coordinator on combatting antisemitism and fostering Jewish life Katharina von Schnurbein and Ambassador of Israel to Belgium and Luxembourg Emmanuel Nahshon

3 Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth Ephraim Mirvis, President of Jewish Care Lord Michael Levy, Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Chief Rabbi Ari Jesner

4 President of the Official Council of Swedish Jewish Communities Aron Verständig, Vice-President of the European Parliament and Chair of the Working Group Against Antisemitism Nicola Beer, President of the Central Council of Jewish Communities in Finland Yaron Nadbornik



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5 Jeff Shear, Deputy Chair of The Gerald & Gail Ronson Family Foundation Dame Gail Ronson, Chairman of Community Security Trust Gerald Ronson CBE and Chief Executive of the Anna Freud Centre Professor Peter Fonagy

6 Anna Kantor and Director of European Affairs of the European Jewish Congress Ariella Woitchik

7 Dr Leah Goldin (left) and Head of the Goldstein-Goren Diaspora Research Center at Tel Aviv University Professor Simha Goldin (centre)

8 Chairman of the Irish Jewish Community Maurice Cohen (left)

9 Head of the Abba Eban Institute for International Diplomacy and formerly Israel's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ron Prosor, former Israeli Minister of Foreign Affairs Silvan Shalom and Member of the Executive of the World Jewish Congress Moshe Ronen

10 Chairwoman of the Jewish Community of Estonia Alla Jakobson and Chairwoman of the Jewish Community of Lithuania Faina Kukliansky

11 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi and National Director and CEO of ADL Jonathan Greenblatt

12 President of the Council of Moroccan Jewish Communities Serge Berdugo and President of the Jewish Community of Lisbon José Oulman Carp



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13 National Director and CEO of ADL Jonathan Greenblatt, President of the Central Council of Jewish Communities in Finland Yaron Nadbornik, President of the Official Council of Swedish Jewish Communities Aron Verständig, President of the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic Petr Papoušek

14 CEO of SACC by EJC Ophir Revach and President of the Jewish Community of Vienna Oskar Deutsch

15 CEO of SACC by EJC Ophir Revach, Trustee of the Kantor Charitable Foundation Liubov Kantor and Oxana Panina-Golukhov

16 UK Special Envoy on Post-Holocaust Issues Lord Eric Pickles, Treasurer of the European Jewish Fund Vladimir Kantor, UK Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government Robert Jenrick

17 Ambassador of Israel to Belgium and Luxembourg Emmanuel Nahshon, MEP and Vice-Chair of the European Parliament Working Group Against Antisemitism Frédérique Ries, President of the Coordinating Committee of Belgian Jewish Organizations Yohan Benizri

18 Vice-President of the European Parliament and Chair of the Working Group Against Antisemitism Nicola Beer and Jürgen Illing

19 United Kingdom's Special Envoy on Post Holocaust Issues Lord Eric Pickles and President of the World Holocaust Forum Foundation and the European Jewish Congress Dr Moshe Kantor

20 European Commission's Coordinator on combatting antisemitism and fostering Jewish life Katharina von Schnurbein, Director of European Affairs of the European Jewish Congress Ariella Woitchik, President of the Jewish Community of Vienna Oskar Deutsch and Vice-President of the European Parliament and Chair of the Working Group Against Antisemitism Nicola Beer



21

21 Members of the bipartisan US Congressional delegation Rep. Eliot Engel (second from left) and Rep. Joe Wilson (first from right)



22

22 President of the Jewish Community of Lisbon José Oulman Carp, UK Government Independent Adviser on Antisemitism Lord Mann and President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews Marie van der Zyl



23

23 National Director and CEO of ADL Jonathan Greenblatt, Chief Historian of Yad Vashem and Head of the Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry at Tel Aviv University Professor Dina Porat and Director of ADL Israel Carole Nuriel



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24 President of the Jewish Community of Bosnia and Herzegovina Jakob Finci and President of the Union of Jewish Religious Communities in Poland Klara Kołodziejka

25 US Congressman Ted Deutch with President of the Council of Moroccan Jewish Communities Serge Berdugo



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26 President of the Representative Council of Jewish Institutions in France (CRIF) Francis Kalifat and Director of European Affairs of the European Jewish Congress Ariella Woitchik

27 Ambassador of Israel to Romania David Saranga (first from left) and Chairwoman of the Jewish Community of Lithuania Faina Kukliansky (second from right)

28 President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews Marie van der Zyl and Head of the Secretariat of the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation Sally Sealey

29 Ambassador of Israel to the EU and NATO Aharon Leshno-Yaar with Vice-President of the European Parliament and Chair of the Working Group Against Antisemitism Nicola Beer

30 US Congressman Ted Deutch, Congresswoman Nita Lowey, President of the Council of Moroccan Jewish Communities Serge Berdugo, Congressman Eliot Engel, Congressman Brad Schneider and his wife Julie Dann, Roxanne Wilson with her husband Congressman Joe Wilson and Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman-Schultz



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31 President of the Jewish Confederation of Ukraine Boris Lozhkin, Executive Vice-President and CEO of the European Jewish Congress Raya Kalenova, Executive Vice-Chairman and CEO of the National Coalition Supporting Eurasian Jewry Mark Levin

32 President of the Jewish Community in Denmark Henri Goldstein and President of the Official Council of Swedish Jewish Communities Aron Verständig

33 Treasurer of the European Jewish Congress and Chief Rabbi of Ukraine Yaakov Dov Bleich and Vice-President of the Federal Jewish National and Cultural Autonomy of Russia Georgy Golukhov

34 Deputy Chair of The Gerald & Gail Ronson Family Foundation Dame Gail Ronson, Executive Vice-President and CEO of the European Jewish Congress Raya Kalenova and President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews Marie van der Zyl

35 Chairman of Community Security Trust Gerald Ronson CBE

36 Executive Vice-President and CEO of the European Jewish Congress Raya Kalenova and President of the Israelite Central Consistory of France Joël Mergui

37 United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Nickolay Mladenov and Treasurer of the European Jewish Congress and Chief Rabbi of Ukraine Yaakov Dov Bleich

38 Alexander Popov, Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the Luxembourg Forum on Preventing Nuclear Catastrophe Vladimir Dvorkin and Treasurer of the European Jewish Fund Vladimir Kantor



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39 Ambassador of Israel to Sweden Ilan Ben-Dov and Ambassador of Israel to Croatia Ilan Mor

40 President of the Organization of Jewish Communities in the Netherlands (NIK) Joop Elzas and President of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities Noemi di Segni

41 US Deputy Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism Ellie Cohan, US Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism Elan S. Carr and philanthropist Sheldon Adelson

42 President of the Gamaraal Foundation Anita Winter and President of the Federation of Swiss Jewish Communities Herbert Winter

43 The team of the European Jewish Congress: Public Affairs Officer Daniela Buga, Policy Analyst Johanan Seynave, Executive Vice-President and CEO Raya Kalenova, Director of European Affairs Ariella Woitchik, Campaigns and Communications Officer Maria Bagdasarova and Public Affairs Officer Eitan Bergman



44

44 Acting Director General of the World Jewish Restitution Organization Nachliel Dison, President of the Union of Jewish Religious Communities in Poland Klara Kołodziejka, President of the Jewish Community of Bosnia and Herzegovina Jakob Finci, President of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Serbia Robert Sabadoš and President of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Hungary András Heisler



45

45 President of the Latin American Jewish Congress Adrián Werthein and Fabiana Werthein



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46 Trustee of the Kantor Charitable Foundation Liubov Kantor



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47 Chairman of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Israel Isaac Herzog and Yuli Edelstein, at the time Speaker of the Knesset
48 Claire Tugendhaft, Joe Tugendhaft and President of the Jewish Community of Vienna Oskar Deutsch



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49 Members of the bipartisan US Congressional delegation Rep. Debbie Wasserman-Schultz (first from left), Rep. Eliot Engel (second from left), and Rep. Joe Wilson (first from right)

50 Ambassador of Israel to the EU and NATO Aharon Leshno-Yaar and Michel Woitchik

51 Austria's Federal Minister for the EU and Constitution Karoline Edtstadler, Holocaust survivor Amnon Berhold Klein and Chairman of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Israel Isaac Herzog

52 Secretary of the Pontifical Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews Rev. Fr Norbert Hofmann and President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity Cardinal Kurt Koch

53 President of the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece David Saltiel and Mariangela Chatzistamatiou

54 President of the Israelite Central Consistory of France Joël Mergui, MEP and Vice-Chair of the Working Group Against Antisemitism Frédérique Ries, film director Alexandre Arcady and President of the Representative Council of Jewish Institutions in France (CRIF) Francis Kalifat

55 Chairwoman of the Jewish Community of Estonia Alla Jakobson

56 President of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities Noemi di Segni and President of the Coordinating Committee of Belgian Jewish Organizations Yohan Benizri



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57 IDF Chief of the General Staff Aviv Kochavi with Holocaust survivor Yehuda Vitsevsky

58 Ambassador of Croatia to Israel Vesela Mrden Korac and Ambassador of Israel in Croatia Ilan Mor

59 President of the Jewish Community of Bosnia and Herzegovina Jakob Finci, President of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Serbia Robert Sabadoš and President of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Hungary András Heisler

60 Adv. Alessandro Ruben and Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies of Italy Mara Carfagna

61 President of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Spain Isaac Querub, MEP and Vice-Chair of the Working Group Against Antisemitism Frédérique Ries, President of the Council of Moroccan Jewish Communities Serge Berdugo, President of the Jewish Community of Lisbon José Oulman Carp and UK Government Independent Adviser on Antisemitism Lord Mann



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62 Jane Kirby and President-Elect of the Royal Society of Medicine Professor Roger Kirby



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63 President of the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic Petr Papoušek and President of the Central Council of Jewish Communities in Finland Yaron Nadbornik



64

64 Chief of Trustees of the Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families Michael Samuel MBE, Sophie Samuel and Chief Executive of the Anna Freud Centre Professor Peter Fonagy OBE



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65 Head of Bureau for World Jewish Affairs and World Religions at Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Akiva Tor (left)



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66 Rabbanit Batya Freedman and Rabbi Daniel Freedman



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67 Elliott and Yana Aintabi



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68 Vivi Goldstein and President of the Jewish Community in Denmark Henri Goldstein



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69 Alina Bekmurzina, Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the Luxembourg Forum on Preventing Nuclear Catastrophe Vladimir Dvorkin and Valeria Lozovaya

'Human beings are so made that the ones who do the crushing feel nothing; it is the person crushed who feels what is happening. Unless one has placed oneself on the side of the oppressed, to feel with them, one cannot understand.'

Simon Veil

TESTIMONIALS



THE PRESIDENT
Jerusalem, 6/2/2020
Sivan 10, 5780

Dear Dr. Kantor,


Although some months have passed since the Fifth World Holocaust Forum held in Jerusalem on January 23rd, I want to write to you to express our most heartfelt thanks and appreciation for your immense contribution to that Forum.

During this recent period, Israel, together with almost every country around the world, has been focused on confronting the terrible enemy, the Covid-19 Virus, which has changed our lives in so many ways. However, through the dedication and determination of our medical professionals and scientists, and others around the world, we are now beginning to hope we can look forward to a better and healthier future.

The success and the impact of the Fifth World Holocaust Forum, that brought together so many leaders from around the world, were due in no small part to your most valuable involvement and support. It is those leaders who are shaping the future and we all hope that the future will eventually see the eradication of the terrible scourge of racism, that Jews and all peoples will be able to live in safety and peace and that the words "Never Again" will not be a mere slogan.

I, personally, and the State of Israel, are filled with admiration and great respect for all your efforts on behalf of world Jewry, helping to revitalize Jewish life where circumstances have weakened it, promoting tolerance and fighting anti-Semitism and all forms of racism through the widespread wonderful and effective activities of the many important international organizations you have founded and lead.

Allow me to wish you continuing good health and ongoing success in your valuable endeavors, and thank you again for helping to make the Fifth World Holocaust Forum such a significant and meaningful event.

Sincerely,

Reuven (Ruvi) Rivlin

Dr. Moshe Kantor
President of the European Jewish Congress

LE PRÉSIDENT DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE

Paris, le 12 MARS 2020

Monsieur le Président,



J'ai bien reçu la correspondance que vous avez souhaité m'adresser.

Je tiens à vous en remercier vivement et vous témoigner ma gratitude pour votre accueil chaleureux lors de mon voyage officiel en Israël et dans les Territoires palestiniens, qui s'est déroulé du 21 au 23 janvier dernier.

La France est pleinement déterminée à lutter implacablement contre l'antisémitisme et n'oubliera jamais la plaie vive, au flanc de l'humanité, qu'est la Shoah.

Face à la résurgence insidieuse du fléau de l'antisémitisme, vous pouvez compter sur moi pour prendre toute ma part dans ce combat, en France comme sur la scène internationale, éclairé par l'indispensable travail de mémoire et de transmission de la vérité en faveur duquel je vous sais entièrement mobilisé.

Je vous prie de croire, Monsieur le Président, à l'assurance de mes sentiments les meilleurs.



Emmanuel MACRON

Monsieur Viatcheslav-Moshe KANTOR
Président
Congrès Juif Européen
73 RUE DE NAMUR
1000 BRUXELLES
BELGIQUE



President of the Republic

Paris, 12 March 2020

Mr President, (Cher Moshe) Dear Moshe,

I acknowledge receipt of the letter you addressed to me.

I would like to extend my sincere thank you and to express my gratitude for your warm welcome during my official visit to Israel and the Palestinian territories that took place from 21 January to 23 January 2020.

France is fully determined to relentlessly fight against antisemitism and will never forget the living wound that the Holocaust represents for humanity.

In the face of the resurgence of the scourge of antisemitism, I assure you that you can rely on me to take my entire responsibility in this fight, either in France or on the international stage, enlightened by the essential work of remembrance and of the transmission of truth, to which I know, you are entirely committed.

Please accept, Mr President, the assurance of my best feelings.

(En confiance & amitié)
With confidence and friendship,

Emmanuel Macron

Brussels, 27. 03. 2020

Dear President,

Dear Moshe,

Thank you very much for your kind message following my visit to Yad Vashem and for sharing with me your manifesto against extremism.

It has been a privilege and an honour to share this moment with you. This visit has left a deep and lasting impression on me that will accompany me through my mandate as President of the European Council. I would like to reassure you of my personal commitment to continue our joint combat against antisemitism. This fight will be based on the fundamental values on which the European Union is founded: human dignity, freedom, and the respect for fundamental rights. Together, we will win this struggle against resurgent extremisms.

I am very much looking forward to continuing our exchange on this vital issue.

Yours sincerely,

Best regards.


Charles MICHEL

Dr Moshe Kantor, President of the World Holocaust Forum
Foundation and the European Jewish Congress



Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

January 24, 2020

The Honorable Moshe Kantor
President
European Jewish Council ASBL
Rue de Namur 73
1000 Brussels
Belgium

Dear Mr. *Moshe* President:

On behalf of our Congressional Delegation, many thanks for your hospitality during our recent visit to Israel to observe the 75-years remembrance since the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

The Members of our Delegation were pleased join representatives of the European Jewish Congress and World Holocaust Forum Foundation at the gala you so graciously hosted at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel. The history and importance of the commemoration, meeting survivors, and the need to speak out against anti-Semitism were fundamental elements to our trip.

This historic trip was a critically important opportunity to solemnly commemorate the horrors of the Shoah and to reaffirm America's enduring commitment to fight anti-Semitism and honor our sacred pledge: Never Again.

Thank you again, Mr. President, for your leadership. Please give my best regards to Anna.

best regards,

Nancy
NANCY PELOSI
Speaker of the House

Thank you so all that you did to create an historic occasion. Congratulate



Oskar Deutsch

President of the Jewish Community of Vienna

It is of great significance that so many heads of state and royalty from all over the world came together in Jerusalem to commemorate this important day. Outstanding speeches filled the event with dignity and spirit. A highlight was the speech of German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, who welcomed the participants in Hebrew and continued his speech in English – a beautiful and worthy gesture.

At a time of increasing antisemitism and growing feelings of insecurity among Jewish people it is especially important to show strength and demonstrate unity. I am grateful to have been able to represent the Austrian Jewish Communities and be part of this historic event. The spirit of this event gives me hope and encourages me in our joint fight against antisemitism as well as against the forgetting, and for a diverse Jewish life in Austria.

The Fifth World Holocaust Forum was the quintessence of President Moshe Kantor's dedication and unique contribution to the world Jewry and a dignifying commemoration of the Shoah.



Aron Verständig

President of the Official Council of Swedish Jewish Communities

Being at the Fifth World Holocaust Forum in Jerusalem was one of the strongest and most meaningful experiences in my time as President of the Official Council of Swedish Jewish Communities. Naturally, it was very special to witness world leaders honouring the victims of the Holocaust. Leaders from all of the world, who necessarily do not agree with each other all too often, were joined in their shared commitment to fight antisemitism which feels extremely important in such times as these. As a Jewish leader myself it was also very powerful to witness the gathering of so many Jewish leaders from around the world in Jerusalem, the capital of our home.



Yohan Benizri

President of the Coordinating Committee of Belgian Jewish Organizations

The World Holocaust Forum 2020 was a truly historic event, not just for the Jewish people but for the whole world. The 75th anniversary of the liberation is a milestone of course, particularly as the last eyewitnesses of Nazi atrocities, our dear survivors, are disappearing. But a milestone is not necessarily a wake-up call, and it is seldom more significant than on the day itself.

By contrast, for an event to turn into a movement you need a vision, powerful allies and clear messages. This is what Moshe Kantor, who also serves as the President of the European Jewish Congress, delivered for the WHF 2020. The vision of a major global event to be held in Jerusalem, the capital of the Jewish State, at Yad Vashem, our collective memorial. The clout and respect necessary to invite and be honoured by the presence of so many world leaders. And finally a clear call to action, not limited to the duty of remembrance but a call to fight against contemporary antisemitism.

Attending this event alongside my King and so many other world leaders was not just an honour – I take it as a responsibility to act and I believe all participants felt this way.



Dr Josef Schuster

President of the Central Council of Jews in Germany

My participation in the World Holocaust Forum 2020 in Jerusalem was of principal concern to me. This year we mark the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the death and concentration camps: 75 years have passed since our people and the peoples of Europe were liberated from the Nazi regime. As President of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, and as a Jew whose parents managed to escape the Nazi persecution and whose maternal grandparents perished in Auschwitz, it was my deep wish to return to Israel on this occasion.

The speeches made by world leaders at the World Holocaust Forum were very touching. The President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, whom I accompanied on his journey to Israel, found the right words and tone when he underlined that 'Germany's responsibility does not expire'. The testimony of the former Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi of Israel, Yisrael Meir Lau, who survived Buchenwald Concentration Camp, also moved me especially deeply.

The World Holocaust Forum 2020 truly honoured the memory of the victims of the Shoah. It further served as a forum for world leaders to renew their pledge to fight antisemitism, secure Jewish life and stand with Israel.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to Yad Vashem and the World Holocaust Forum Foundation, headed by EJC President Moshe Kantor, for organizing this unique and memorable event.



Faina Kukliansky

Chairwoman of Lithuanian Jewish Community

This was a special event to mark 75 years since the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Nazi death camp. I was personally moved by the fact the World Holocaust Forum was held in Jerusalem and attended by 50 high-level delegations, including Holocaust survivors, among whom I met my own relatives. These people are worthy of the greatest respect and I am pleased they are always given special attention.

One wants to believe the speeches made at the Forum will not remain just empty words, that the countries and their leaders will keep the promises made and learn the lessons of history, and that the tragedy of the Holocaust will never be forgotten. It is our duty to remember that antisemitism did not end with the Second World War and as Jews we encounter it very frequently, which is why education of the public, especially young people, is so crucial.

I would like to thank Yad Vashem, EJC president Moshe Kantor and the whole EJC team led by Raya Kalenova and Ariella Woitchik. Thank you very much for this event, which I recall with great fondness now that we do not have an opportunity to meet face to face because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Until we meet again next year. *A greiser dank.*



Marie van der Zyl

President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews

The 75th anniversary of an event as cataclysmic and world-changing as the Holocaust was something that Jews around the world needed to mark. We needed to be together to remember the agony of the millions who were murdered and also to send out a positive message for Jewish people throughout the world today.

The World Holocaust Forum in Jerusalem achieved both of these things. It was deeply moving.

Tears were shed for our ancestors and those we never knew, whose dignity and lives were so tragically taken from them.

The ceremonials and speeches brought home the magnitude of the occasion and I was so proud to be there with so many world leaders, including our own Prince of Wales, who came to share in this moment in history.

For me it was simply an incredibly emotional experience that I will never forget and of which I feel honoured to have been a part. It reminded me, with the Holocaust still in living memory, of the importance of fighting antisemitism and other forms of hatred, wherever we see them. We must never give up this fight, nor ever forget those who came before us.

The European Jewish Congress deserves our praise for managing the World Holocaust Forum with such organization and sensitivity.



Alla Jakobson

Chairwoman of the Jewish Community of Estonia

It was an honour for me to participate in such a high-level event and represent the Jewish community of Estonia.

This Forum provides the understanding that the world remembers Holocaust. And each country draws very important conclusions from this tragedy.

I am grateful to the European Jewish Congress that they were able to bring together leaders of many states and Jewish communities, representatives from around the world.

For our small Community, representing a country that was one of the first to be declared *judenfrei*, it is very important to be a part of this great Jewish world, to feel its support.

It does not matter which country we came to Jerusalem from. In this city, we became united.



Lord Mann

HM Government's Independent Adviser on Antisemitism

It was a great inspiration to sit amongst world leaders all of whom had chosen to respond in person to the invitation of the President of Israel, Reuven Rivlin, and Dr Moshe Kantor of the European Jewish Congress, to painfully commemorate this historic anniversary of the liberation by Allied forces of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp. This Fifth World Holocaust Forum shone a light on the darkest moments of our past, by coming together in Jerusalem, illuminating today's ongoing reality of the Jewish people having control over their own destiny through a secure and democratic nation state.



Lord Pickles

United Kingdom Special Envoy on Post Holocaust Issues

23 January 2020 – the day world leaders gathered at Yad Vashem, Jerusalem, to attend the Fifth World Holocaust Forum – is one of those rare moments when you will always remember where you were when asked. It was an unprecedented event, attended by world leaders and royalty, ambassadors and ministers, including, from the UK, HRH the Prince of Wales, the Secretary of State for Communities and the UK Ambassador to Israel. It was also a chance to meet friends and colleagues from across the world united in challenging antisemitism and remembering the Holocaust.

I remember the powerful speech given by HRH the Prince of Wales, and the power of seeing the US Vice President Mike Pence alongside French President Emmanuel Macron and the Russian Federation President Vladimir Putin. But all of this pales into insignificance when I recall the wise and heartfelt words of Israel's president, Reuven Rivlin, when he welcomed us all to Jerusalem – the ancestral and spiritual homeland of the Jewish people since the 10th century BCE.

Many of the speeches will stay with me, as will the music, but seeing Holocaust survivors lighting a memorial torch and reciting Kaddish, the Jewish mourner's prayer, will be my abiding memory. Honouring the victims and survivors begins with our renewed recognition of the value and dignity of each person. All of us who attended the Forum must

have the courage to protect the persecuted and speak out against bigotry and hatred.

It is incumbent on all who attended the Forum to recognize our interconnectedness and the fundamental dignity and equality of every human being. If we recognize this basic fundamental fact we will help to build a world that is more accepting, secure and free. This is the best way to honour the six million Jewish men, women and children murdered in the Holocaust.



Jonathan Greenblatt

National Director & CEO, ADL

Attending the Fifth World Holocaust Forum in Jerusalem, together with an unsurpassed gathering of leaders from across the globe, was a distinct honour. For so many heads of state and other distinguished personalities to travel to Jerusalem attests to the prestige of the event and the urgency of its cause: Holocaust remembrance and combating antisemitism. As a physicist, Dr Moshe Kantor surely appreciates that the mass of this event, represented by the influential attendees, put in motion by their calls to action, generated a tremendous force for our common cause.

The need for such a force has never been greater in the post-Holocaust era. Polls show that knowledge of the Holocaust is diminishing over time, and young people across the globe know much too little – and sometimes nothing – of the Holocaust. Antisemitic incidents are at their post-war peaks in the United States and in Europe.

The Fifth World Holocaust Forum reinvigorated us all to keep up the fight against these alarming trends.

Thank you to all who contributed their influence to this seminal event, whose purpose resides at the heart of ADL's mission.



Mark Levin

Executive Vice-Chairman and CEO, National Coalition Supporting Eurasian Jewry

I have had the privilege and honour to participate in three World Holocaust Fora. To be in Jerusalem for the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp was a particularly poignant moment for me.

The unprecedented gathering of more than 47 world leaders sent a strong, unambiguous message that the murder of six million Jews will never be forgotten and, more importantly, should never be repeated.

Words alone cannot guarantee that genocide and senseless violence against Jews and other ethnic and religious minorities will not happen again. It requires governments and civil society to work together to make sure that history does not repeat itself.

This was the importance of the World Holocaust Forum 2020 under the leadership of Dr Moshe Kantor. Speaker after speaker committed to developing educational projects, creating and enforcing hate crime legislation, and looking at their history in an open and accurate manner.

However, the most emotional part of the event was hearing the inspirational messages from Holocaust survivors. Their presence and words were a stark reminder of what happens when the world ignores evil.



Katharina von Schnurbein

European Commission Coordinator on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life

There could hardly have been a more symbolic place to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz than Israel, where many survivors started a new life. The World Holocaust Forum, together with Yad Vashem, offered a unique moment for heads of state and government who had accepted the invitation of President Reuven Rivlin to renew their commitment to 'Never Again'. The legacy of the Shoah is Europe's history and responsibility and our political project of European unity is anchored in its remembrance.

As we see antisemitism, Holocaust denial and distortion on the rise, as historic revisionism is used as an instrument for political influencing, remembering and learning the lessons from the past means supporting independent research, pushing back actively against all current forms of Jew-hatred – be it online or offline – ensuring security for Jewish communities and strengthening Jewish life in our midst. As a German and as a European I was moved and honoured to witness this historic event. *Am Yisrael Chai!*



Lord Levy

President of Jewish Care, JFS and JLGB

I arrived in Jerusalem not quite knowing how I would react to the ceremony at Yad Vashem for the Fifth World Holocaust Forum.

The only vocabulary that I can use was that I was overawed. I was emotional, in tears and this took me back to the memory of my wife's family who lost their lives in Auschwitz. To the memories of the Holocaust that had been relayed to me over the years by survivors and to all the literature and media that I had read and seen over the years and to my own visit to Auschwitz.

For world leaders from so many countries to have gathered at Yad Vashem was truly amazing.

The speeches were very touching, very emotive and, in a number of cases, very personal.

The words of the German President still resonate with me today, as do the words of survivors.

For Dr Moshe Kantor, together with Yad Vashem, to put together such an event was truly remarkable. However, now that the event is over and Leaders have returned to their countries, what took place should never be forgotten and the lessons learnt should never be forgotten.

The world literally gathered together for this event and the world, now that they are back home, need to carry the memory of this event to their people.

I left Jerusalem, after being there for just 36 hours, still thinking of the event, thinking of history, thinking of the tragedy of the Holocaust and worrying about the future. I then committed to do all I can, and to influence everyone that I can, to relay my thoughts and feelings from this event.

To Dr Moshe Kantor and also to all those in the team who helped to make this event happen, my heartfelt respect and admiration.



Nicola Beer

Vice-President of the European Parliament, Chair of the Working Group Against Antisemitism

Sara Firestein. I remember the name of this little six-year-old girl. A little girl full of desires and dreams, like probably all six-year-old girls. Her dreams would be ruined in the cruellest, most despicable way. Being there, at World Holocaust Forum in Jerusalem, means giving her and everyone else a name and thus a dignified face.

Being there, feeling the pull of history, acknowledging responsibility, humility and hope and finding that only happens when we leave our comfort zone and get involved with our history and the most tragic destinies in human history. I felt honoured, touched and full of hope, through active remembrance, to remember the horrific deeds together. I gained strength and awareness of our responsibility that will always be. Let us always remember this and act accordingly. The 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau marks the end of the most despicable atrocity in history. We have to keep this memory alive, especially as our contemporary witnesses will not be there forever to teach us about what happened. Therefore we need a vivid exchange between Jewish and non-Jewish communities and, most important, training based on the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of antisemitism, to enable judges, police and other people in important positions to detect antisemitism in whatever disguise it emerges. Let us stay alert and watchful for humanity. Give a personal memory, little Sara.



Frédérique Ries

Member of the European Parliament, Vice-Chair of the Working Group Against Antisemitism

Magnificent and touching. I remember feeling humbled by the collective power of the reverence shown to the victims of the Shoah. Remembrance, much like the fight against antisemitism, isn't for Jews only, but for everyone. These words resonated in Jerusalem, they are engraved in my memory. A life-changing experience, together, to remember. And to make a commitment. Never again.



András Heisler

President of MAZSIHISZ - Federation of Jewish Communities in Hungary

On 4 June 1944 my mother was stuffed into a cattle car together with 80 other people in Hungary. After six horrendous days they arrived in Auschwitz. On the way eight people died and about a dozen lost their minds.

Seventy-five years later, in the company of kings, heads of states and prime ministers, I – as one of the leaders of the European Jewish Congress – participated in the commemoration of the liberation of the camp.

The dignity of Yad Vashem called for authentic remembrance from all participants. We heard important political speeches, important messages in Jerusalem, the captivating capital of the State of Israel.

What was the memory that stayed with me from all the many experiences I was a part of? What is it I recall with perfect clarity when I close my eyes? 'Hatikvah', the hymn of Israel, at the end of the Forum. I had heard 'Hatikvah' a thousand times before in my life, and it had always touched my heart, but in 2020 in Yad Vashem something totally different happened. The text of the hymn was signalled for the hearing-impaired. The signalling was extraordinary. The text and the melody appeared in front of us in a fantastic choreograph. A perfect harmony of melody, text and movement gave us an unearthly experience. For the first time in my life I didn't hear but saw 'Hatikvah'. It's a rare experience to be able to physically experience Hope.

My mother is 95 years old and she is just fine, thank you.



Francis Kalifat

President of the Representative Council of Jewish Institutions in France (CRIF)

The World Holocaust Forum 2020 was a historic international event. Seeing all the heads of state present in Jerusalem for the event was a very emotional moment.

Seventy-five years after the Jews throughout Europe were chased, deported and assassinated, the presence of world leaders, invited by the President of the State of Israel, in the capital of the Jewish state to celebrate the liberation of the extermination camps has a very special dimension.

Moshe Kantor, the initiator and the mastermind of the event, showed his influence in inviting so many world leaders to join the event at Yad Vashem, the collective memorial of the vanished pre-Shoah world.

As President of the European Jewish Congress, representing not only the living European Jews but also the assassinated six million, Moshe Kantor was the driving force to declare, 75 years later, that *Am Israel Hai* – the Jewish People are alive and strong in Jerusalem.

However, this event was also a clear call to action, not limited to the duty of remembrance but an appeal to the world to fight against contemporary antisemitism in all forms, including anti-Zionism.

I had the privilege to attend the event alongside French President Emmanuel Macron, who had taken the opportunity to make his first visit to Israel as President of the French Republic.



Gerald M. Ronson CBE

Chairman of the Community Security Trust

I have visited Yad Vashem many times. I always have a lump in my throat and a tear in my eye as it brings home to me the loss of my great uncles, aunts and cousins whose lives were so brutally cut short by the Holocaust. I am here because my paternal grandfather, Maurice Aaronson, escaped the pogroms of 1900s Russia. It is a reminder of a great loss – men, women and children who might have gone on to make great discoveries, play wonderful music, be parents – but we will never know because their lives and the vibrant communities they came from all across Europe were obliterated by the Nazi regime.

Seeing many of the world leaders in Jerusalem at the Fifth World Holocaust Forum marking the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Watching them pledge to always remember the men, women and children murdered during the Holocaust and their acknowledgment of the rapid growth of antisemitism across the world gave me hope that – as the great Nobel Laureate Eli Wiesel said – 'A destruction, an annihilation that only man can provoke, only man can prevent.'

Without the support of Israel's president Reuven Rivlin and my good friend Moshe Kantor, President of the European Jewish Congress, the Fifth World Holocaust Forum may never have happened. There were many great speeches from HRH the Prince of Wales, US Vice President Michael Pence, French President Emmanuel Macron and Russian Federation

President Vladimir Putin, but for me the heart of the ceremony was the testimony of the survivors and the reciting of the Kaddish, the finest way to honour the dead, testifying that all those murdered during the Holocaust will never be forgotten, as we will always remember them.

'The challenge of our times is to prevent the world regressing into extremism, as it was to prevent the threat of terrorism just a decade ago. We must never again allow the populists and the extremists to use the real suffering of people, whether as a result of a pandemic or an economic crisis, to rise to political power. We must fight the roots of racism and antisemitism and stop political extremism now, before it is too late. That is the lesson of the Holocaust and that is why leaders from across the world came to Jerusalem at the World Holocaust Forum to affirm "Never Again". We cannot face the global catastrophes without unity and cooperation.'

Dr Moshe Kantor

ANTISEMITISM TODAY

Antisemitism worldwide - a rising phenomenon



Antisemitism today knows no difference between left or right political creed, origin or religion. A heterogeneous phenomenon, antisemitism expresses itself in the crude and age-old forms of religious bigotry, in intolerance towards the other and extreme forms of nationalism and far-right Jew-hatred, but equally in the pernicious and ever-growing anti-Zionism of the far-left, which often relies on antisemitic tropes.

The normalization of antisemitism on the streets, online and in mainstream society, politics and media legitimizes and encourages acts of violence against Jewish individuals and institutions. In recent years, the most violent expressions of antisemitic hatred have once again risen to the point of becoming commonplace in Europe and beyond.

To cite just a few striking examples: on 19 March 2012 three children and a teacher were murdered at the Ozar Hatorah Jewish school in Toulouse; on 9 January 2015 four Jews were murdered at the Hypercacher supermarket in Paris while going about their weekly shopping; six days later, on 15 February 2015, a synagogue was attacked in Copenhagen, which resulted in the murder of Dan Uzan, a community volunteer; on 4 April 2017 65-year-old retired physician Sarah Halimi was brutally murdered in her own apartment in Paris, as was 85 year-old Holocaust Survivor Mireille Knoll on 23 March 2018.

Antisemitism continues to be a persistent and pernicious danger to Jews. In the view of many Jewish communities, the situation has deteriorated to the point of calling into question the very continuation of Jewish life in Europe.

Over the last two years, antisemitic violence has also severely hit the United States of America, where 11 Jews were killed in Pittsburgh's Tree of Life Synagogue on 27 October 2018, followed by another deadly shooting on 27 April 2019 during Passover in the Synagogue of Poway, California, and the stabbing of a Rabbi in Monsey, New York, on 28 December 2019.

This shocking spate of attacks has sadly demonstrated that antisemitism is a global issue that needs to be addressed with a common strategy. Moreover, antisemitism poses a wider threat to society as a whole. When a Jew is assaulted in the street for being Jewish, it is essentially an assault against democratic values, the rule of law and executive power. Among extremists, antisemitism is a common denominator and an essential element

An estimated 1,500 protesters, including a broad cross-section of the community and a large number of Labour MPs, gathered outside the UK Parliament for a demonstration against antisemitism in the Labour Party on 26 March 2018

of the politics of division and intolerance upon which extremist movements thrive and which pose an existential threat to our democratic societies. These movements both promote and feed off antisemitic tropes and conspiracy theories, which have become more commonplace in recent times.

This alarming long-term growth in antisemitic incidents shows with every passing year that it is time for decision makers and civil society actors to join forces and act vigorously against antisemitism, for the security and wellbeing of Jewish communities across the world, for a tolerant and peaceful society and for the wellbeing of our future generations.

→ Holocaust survivor Mireille Knoll, 85, and teacher Sarah Halimi, 65, were murdered in their own homes in antisemitic attacks in Paris in 2017–18

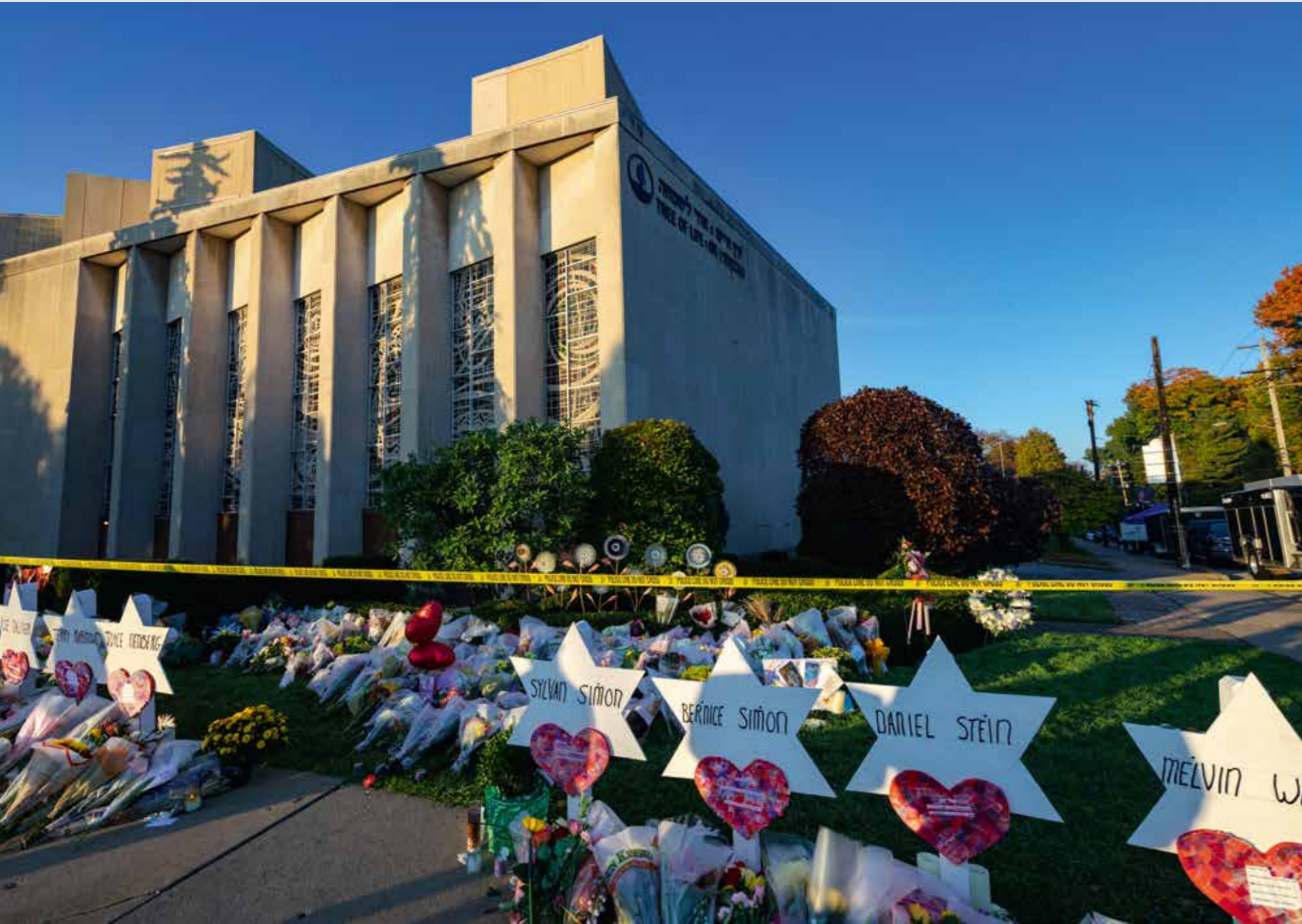
↘ On 24 May 2014 Mehdi Nemmouche opened fire with a Kalashnikov assault rifle and a handgun at the Jewish Museum in Brussels. Four people died as a result of this attack



→ Neo-nazi groups attend the 'Day of Honour' parade in Budapest in February 2018

↓ On 9 January 2015 Amedy Coulibaly attacked a Hypercacher kosher food supermarket in Paris, having pledged allegiance to ISIS, killing four people and taking several others hostage





An armed man shouting antisemitic slurs opened fire inside the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh on 27 October 2019, killing 11 congregants



↖ Far-right protesters, dressed in black and chanting slogans used by Croatia's pro-Nazi Ustasha regime, march in Zagreb in February 2017

↑ Three individuals threw firebombs at the synagogue complex in Gothenburg on 9 December 2017, where a youth event with 40 people was being hosted

← An effigy resembling an Orthodox Jew is burnt during a far-right rally in the Polish city of Wrocław in November 2015

The first ever global social media campaign to combat antisemitism 'STOP THIS STORY!'



President of the State of Israel Reuven Rivlin was one of the high-profile politicians to endorse the campaign



Ahead of the Fifth World Holocaust Forum, a social media campaign was launched with the aim of generating awareness about the problem of antisemitism. The 'Stop This Story!' campaign was the first global initiative of its kind that leveraged Instagram's AR (Augmented Reality) effects to drive a global movement.

Israeli President Reuven Rivlin, supermodel Bar Refaeli, actress Vanessa Kirby (from *The Crown*), former NBA player Omri Casspi, and many other international figures, actors, entertainers, and sportsmen and women, joined the campaign and created their unique images.

Dr Moshe Kantor, President of the World Holocaust Forum Foundation and the European Jewish Congress, initiated the unprecedented international Instagram campaign that called on the world to act and put an end to the continuing story of antisemitism.

'Antisemitism, in all its various forms, harms Jews around the world on a daily basis, whether in their homes, streets, schools, universities, synagogues and online. This phenomenon causes more than 80% of the Jews of Europe to fear for their safety and more than 40% of them to consider leaving their homes and communities,' said Dr Kantor.

'The best way to spread any message today is through social media because social networks and those who use them have the power to make the necessary changes in our societies,' Dr Kantor added. 'Instagram users are a significant demographic segment that is growing rapidly, and I have always argued that the best way to fight any form of prejudice is through education and awareness. Creating awareness of the story of antisemitism is the first step necessary to stopping it.'

Instagram's virtual effects, launched a few months before the Fifth World Holocaust Forum, have inspired millions of users around the world to tell their stories in a creative way and, through the 'Stop This Story!' digital campaign, they became for the first time agents of social change.

The campaign recruited some of the world's leading creators of AR effects and gained the support of international influencers, each with millions of followers, who created their own 'Stop This Story!' effects, superimposed on the palms of their hands. Anyone could easily and experientially share their own 'Stop This Story!' image on Instagram and join the global movement (@stopthisstory).

In addition, a video project featuring the world-renowned sex therapist, media personality and Holocaust survivor Dr Ruth Westheimer, 91, was posted on Instagram and other social media platforms in a series of stories.

Utilizing impressive visual techniques, including time lapse, the video highlights the relentless story of antisemitism through her eyes, from the 1930s to the year 2020, to show the world that antisemitism did not end with the Holocaust and is gaining ground again at frightening speed.

The results of the campaign were impressive. The video had more than ten million views with a reach of almost seven million. More than 1,000 influencers have been engaged at different levels, with 300 of them top-tier. The involvement of influencers gave the 'Stop This Story!' campaign a potential reach of 112 million people.



↑
Dr Moshe Kantor was the initiator of this unprecedented international Instagram campaign

← American rapper and producer Snoop Dog shared the 'Stop This Story' campaign on his Facebook page

→
Israeli supermodel and actress Bar Refaeli joined the campaign



↑ Media personality and Holocaust survivor Dr Ruth Westheimer was featured in the campaign's time-lapse video

→ British actress Vanessa Kirby endorsed the 'Stop This Story' campaign on her Instagram stories



WHAT WE HAD? |

- 1 LEADING VIDEO
- TRAILER VIDEO
- 35 VIDEO STORIES
- 20 DEDICATED FILTERS

BY THE WORLD LEADING FILTERS CREATORS FROM 10 COUNTRIES

RESULTS |

10.1M VIDEO VIEWS UNIQUE	6.7M REACH	2.9M FILTERS IMPRESSIONS
1000 INFLUENCERS	300 TOP TIER A-LIST INFLUENCERS	112M INFLUENCERS POTENTIAL REACH

WHAT WORKED? |

- THE CONTENT
- VIEWS & REACH
- CREATING AN AUTHENTIC MOVEMENT
(SCHOOLS ACROSS ISRAEL, JEWISH COMMUNITIES, PEOPLE, ORGANIZATIONS - FROM SOCCER TEAMS IN GERMANY AND ISRAEL TO COMPANIES)
- PR COVERAGE IN ISRAEL

AIDENCE |

74%
OF THE VIEWERS
18-34
YEARS OLD

TOP 5 COUNTRIES:
USA - 27%
ISRAEL - 16%
INDIA - 13%
UK - 11%
GERMANY - 11%

LEADING INFLUENCERS |

ISRAEL 186 OUT OF ISRAEL'S TOP 200 INFLUENCERS (INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER, PRESIDENT, MINISTERS, ORGANIZATIONS, PRESS)	GLOBAL SNOOP DOGG (35M) LUDACRIS (19M) MARTIN LAWRENCE (12M) CHARLIE SHEEN (5M) J. HOLIDAY (4M) VISHAL SINGH VANESSA KIRBY DIMITRI VEGAS & LIKE MIKE TOHI & MANY MORE...
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'For your benefit, learn from our tragedy. It is not a written law that the next victims must be Jews. It can also be other people.'

Simon Wiesenthal

SPECIAL THANKS

We wish to offer sincere gratitude to our partners **President of the State of Israel HE Reuven Rivlin** and **Yad Vashem – The World Holocaust Remembrance Center** – for believing in our vision of holding an unprecedented and historic event in Israel, and collaborating with us on the monumental effort of gathering 47 global leaders in Jerusalem to commemorate the Holocaust and unite in the staunch commitment to eradicate antisemitism. We are grateful for their assistance in realizing our vision and for their contribution to the success of the Fifth World Holocaust Forum ‘Remembering the Holocaust, Fighting Antisemitism’.

Sincere appreciation also goes to the following **47 leaders of nations and heads of delegations** for their participation in the Fifth World Holocaust Forum and to their **cabinets** for their precious support.

HE Ilir Meta

President of the Republic of Albania

HE Armen Sarkissian

President of the Republic of Armenia

HE Alberto Fernández

President of the Argentine Republic

The Hon. David Hurley AC DSC (Retd)

Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

HE Alexander Van der Bellen

Federal President of the Republic of Austria

HE Ogtay Asadov

Chairman of the National Assembly of the Republic of Azerbaijan

HE Vladimir Andreichenko

Chairman of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Belarus

HM Philippe

King of the Belgians

HE Željko Komšić

Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina

HE Rumen Radev

President of the Republic of Bulgaria

The Rt Hon. Julie Payette

Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada

HE Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović

President of the Republic of Croatia

HE Nicos Anastasiades

President of the Republic of Cyprus

HE Andrej Babiš

Prime Minister of the Czech Republic

HE Mette Frederiksen

Prime Minister of Denmark

HE Charles Michel

President of European Council

HE Ursula von der Leyen

President of the European Commission

HE David Sassoli

President of the European Parliament

HE Sauli Niinistö

President of the Republic of Finland

HE Emmanuel Macron

President of the French Republic

HE Salome Zourabichvili

President of Georgia

HE Frank-Walter Steinmeier

President of the Federal Republic of Germany

HE Prokopios Pavlopoulos

President of the Hellenic Republic

His Eminence Cardinal Kurt Koch

Representative of the Holy See

HE János Áder

President of Hungary

HE Guðni Thorlacius Jóhannesson

President of the Republic of Iceland

HE Sergio Mattarella

President of the Republic of Italy

HE Ināra Mūrniece

Speaker of the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia

HE Viktoras Pranckietis

Speaker of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania

HRH Henri

Grand Duke of Luxembourg

HE Igor Dodon

President of the Republic of Moldova

HE Serge Telle

Minister of State, Head of Government of the Principality of Monaco

HE Milo Đukanović

President of Montenegro

HM Willem-Alexander

King of the Netherlands

HE Stevo Pendarovski

President of the Republic of North Macedonia

HRH Haakon

The Crown Prince of Norway

HE Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa

President of the Portuguese Republic

HE Klaus Iohannis

President of Romania

HE Vladimir Putin

President of the Russian Federation

HE Aleksandar Vučić

President of the Republic Serbia

HE Zuzana Čaputová

President of the Slovak Republic

HE Borut Pahor

President of the Republic of Slovenia

HM Felipe VI

King of Spain

HE Stefan Löfven

Prime Minister of Sweden

HRH Charles

Prince of Wales

HE Michael R. Pence

Vice President of the United States of America

Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi

Speaker of the United States House of Representatives

Our deepest appreciation also goes to the **Prime Minister of the State of Israel HE Binyamin Netanyahu, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel** and **Minister Israel Katz** for their indispensable support in hosting the official delegations.

We offer sincere gratitude to the **Speaker of the Knesset Yuli Edelstein** and **Speaker of the United States House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi**, accompanied by a **bipartisan US Congressional delegation**, for their special participation in the side events hosted by the European Jewish Congress and the World Holocaust Forum Foundation.

Our heartfelt appreciation goes to the **Municipality of Jerusalem** for their welcome, with a special thanks to the **Israel police** for arranging the impeccable security of the event.

We were delighted to share this important event with the Presidents of the EJC-affiliated Jewish national communities and all other Jewish leaders and friends who supported us throughout the preparations of this Forum.

Our heartfelt thanks and appreciation goes to Maestro Vladimir Spivakov for his artistic guidance and wisdom.

We would like to pay a special tribute to all the survivors who joined us at Yad Vashem for this landmark event.

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