

Holocaust Remembrance Day



UAW-FORD DIVERSITY DIGEST
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January 27th is the International Day of Commemoration to remember the victims of the Holocaust (Shoah). The date chosen is the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp in 1945. This is a solemn day to mourn the loss of over six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust. Additionally, over 11 million others fell to Nazism, and its collaborators, during Hitler's campaign of genocide against people that were perceived as a racial or political threat. A horrifying testament to the evil that man can commit.

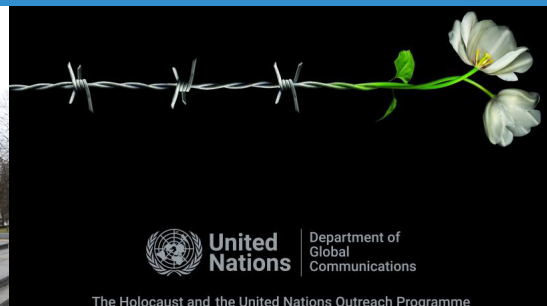
The United Nations adopted this day with Resolution 60/7, urging every member nation of the U.N. to honor the victims of the Holocaust and develop educational programs about its history to help prevent future acts of genocide. It rejects any denial of the Holocaust and condemns all manifestations of religious intolerance, incitement, harassment or violence against persons or communities based on ethnic origin or religious belief. It also calls for actively preserving the Holocaust sites that served as Nazi death camps, concentration camps, forced labor camps, and prisons. The essence of the text is intended to ensure remembrance of those murdered and educate future generations.

Auschwitz concentration camp, Poland



When Soviet soldiers arrived in the camp to liberate the prisoners, they found thousands of starving survivors and the final remains of the gas chambers and crematoria. As the Red Army approached, the Nazis attempted to destroy the camp before fleeing and forcing 60,000 prisoners on a westward "death march." Over one million men, women and children were murdered at Auschwitz-Birkenau, and over 90% of them were Jewish. It was a network of several camps, combining forced labor and extermination camps. Auschwitz-Birkenau is a symbol of horror and what can happen when evil and its actions go unchecked.

We commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day on the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. The 2022 theme for guiding the United Nations Holocaust remembrance and education is "Memory, Dignity and Justice".³ We remember all the victims of the Holocaust and persecution of other groups, and of those killed in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur. As a country and as fellow human beings, let the Holocaust be a reminder that, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."⁵ Be the change you want in the world.



The Holocaust and the United Nations Outreach Programme

Sources: 1. <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/international-holocaust-remembrance-day> 2. <https://www.hmd.org.uk/resource/27-january-1945-liberation-of-auschwitz-birkenau/> 3. <https://www.un.org/en/outreach-programme-holocaust/page/2022> 4. <https://www.archives.gov/news/topics/holocaust-remembrance-day> 5. Quote attributed to Edmund Burke, however cannot be verified Photo Sources: Top right: <https://www.britannica.com/place/Auschwitz> REUTERS/Kacper Pempel Middle left: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/28/magazine/for-some-holocaust-survivors-even-liberation-was-dehumanizing.html> Bottom left: [usatoday.com - CZAREK SOKOLOWSKI, AP](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2022/01/27/holocaust-remembrance-day-2022/10888880002) Bottom middle: [un.org](https://www.un.org/en/outreach-programme-holocaust/page/2022) Bottom right: <https://jewishheartnj.org/news/commemorate-international-holocaust-remembrance-day-with-action>