

International Holocaust Remembrance Day

Holocaust Memorial Day or Holocaust Remembrance Day is an annual day designated by various countries to commemorate the millions of victims of Nazi Germany's genocidal policies, especially the Holocaust, as well as to honour Holocaust survivors and their rescuers. The day on which the commemoration takes place may vary between countries, as may the name for the commemoration. The days are generally not declared public holidays.

Every year around 27 January, UNESCO pays tribute to the memory of the victims of the Holocaust and reaffirms its commitment to counter antisemitism, racism, and other forms of intolerance that may lead to group-targeted violence. The date marks the anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau by Soviet troops on 27 January 1945.

The Holocaust affected countries in which Nazi crimes were perpetrated. Member States share a collective responsibility for addressing the residual trauma, maintaining effective remembrance policies, caring for historic sites, and promoting education, documentation and research, seven decades after the genocide. This responsibility entails educating about the causes, consequences and dynamics of such crimes so as to strengthen the resilience of young people against ideologies of hatred. As genocide and atrocity crimes keep occurring across several regions, and as we are witnessing a global rise of anti-Semitism and hateful discourses, this has never been so relevant.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

"Seventy-five years ago, the 100th and 322nd divisions of the Soviet Army's "1st Ukrainian Front" reached the Nazi concentration and extermination camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau, whose very name symbolizes the barbarism of the killing centres and concentration camps. (...) In the name of a racist and anti-Semitic ideology, people of all ages were deemed unworthy of living and were systematically murdered on a continental scale. (...) It is thus our duty to fight against speeches, wherever they are made, that seek to deny the existence of the Holocaust, that minimize its scale, or that attempt to absolve the murderers and their accomplices of their crimes. (...) It is precisely the role of UNESCO to make every effort to improve public awareness, strengthen intellectual defences, in a word, educate – because people are not born anti-Semitic, people are not born racist, they become so." — Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO

Other celebration days:

Austria May 5th The day that the concentration camp "Mauthausen" was liberated.

Bulgaria March 10th The day of the revocation of the plan to expel the country's Jewish population.

France July 16th remembrance marking the mass arrest of 13,152 Jews in Paris 1942 and their extermination at Auschwitz.

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What day is it celebrated?	Its fight against antisemitism, racism, and other forms of intolerance.
What happened on January 27 th ?	Education and not forgetting
Who lead the Holocaust?	Soviet troops
What does the UNESCO reaffirm?	It's the anniversary of Auschwitz's liberation
How do we stop it from happening again?	On January 27 th .
What was Auschwitz-Birkenau?	The German Nazis
Who freed Auswitz?	A concentration and extermination