



## Holocaust Remembrance Days in IHRA Member Countries (as of January 2014)





**Prepared by the Steering Committee on Holocaust Remembrance Days  
Under the IHRA Multi-Year Workplan**


<p><b>OSCE/ODHIR</b>, the International Partner of the IHRA, has compiled a comprehensive list of Holocaust Memorial Days in OSCE participating states on its website, <a href="#">Holocaust Memorial Days in the OSCE Region</a></p>	
<p>Argentina</p> 	<p>In compliance with General Assembly Resolution 60/7, since 2006 the National Government has organized a central remembrance act. The event is organized by National authorities, such as the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Justice, Security and Human Rights, the Minister of Education and the National Secretary of Human Rights, together with foreign ambassadors, civil society organizations and Holocaust survivors.</p> <p>Argentina legislated April 19, the day of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, as the national Day for Cultural Diversity in 2000.</p>
<p>Austria</p> 	<p>The National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism/General Settlement Fund was established in 1995.</p> <p>In 1997, the Austrian Parliament legislated May 5, the date of the liberation of the Mauthausen concentration camp, as the nation's <a href="#">Annual Day of Remembrance</a> against Violence and Racism in Memory of the Victims of National Socialism. An annual commemoration ceremony is held in the Austrian Parliament.</p>

<p>Belgium</p> 	<p>In December 2004, the Belgian government declared January 27 as Remembrance Day of the Genocide Committed by Nazi Germany. Commemorative events related to war are regularly organized throughout the country on three main levels.</p> <p>May 8, the anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe, is still commemorated as Peace Day and has included Holocaust memorial events. High-level officials, including the Belgian king and the prime minister, have participated in annual official memorial ceremonies.</p>
<p>Canada</p> 	<p>In 2002, the Canadian Parliament declared January 17 as Raoul Wallenberg Day, celebrated annually on the anniversary of his disappearance.</p> <p>In 2003, the Canadian Parliament passed the <a href="#">Holocaust Memorial Day Act</a>, legislating observance of Yom HaShoah, a Holocaust memorial observance taking place on Nisan 27 according to the Jewish lunar calendar (usually April-early May). It is customary for high-ranking ministers to participate in the annual national ceremony held in Ottawa.</p>
<p>Croatia</p> 	<p>In 2003, the Croatian government legislated January 27 as the Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust and for the Prevention of Crimes Against Humanity. The Croatian government organizes annual teacher-training seminars on January 27. In 2012, an official commemoration ceremony took place at the Croatian Parliament.</p>
<p>Czech Republic</p> 	<p>The Czech Republic legislated January 27 as a Day of Remembrance for the Victims of the Holocaust and the Prevention of Crimes Against Humanity in 2004. The Czech Senate holds an annual commemorative event attended by the prime minister.</p> <p>The Terezin Memorial organizes annual commemorations of Yom HaShoah, a Holocaust memorial observance taking place on Nisan 27 according to the Jewish lunar calendar (usually April-early May); the final execution of prisoners at the Small Fortress in May; and Kever Avot ceremonies in September.</p>




<p>Denmark</p> 	<p>Denmark has observed January 27 as <a href="#">Auschwitz Day</a> since 2003. The Danish Ministry of Education organized educational activities throughout the country in relation to Auschwitz Day and has continued these efforts since legislating International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Municipalities and local organizations generally coordinate remembrance events in various cities, often including memorial services, survivor testimonies, films and exhibits.</p>
<p>Estonia</p> 	<p>In 2002, the government of Estonia declared January 27 the Day of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust. The Estonian Jewish community and representatives of the Estonian Ministry of Education often cooperate to hold commemorative events. The Estonian government organizes a commemorative event at the former Klooga concentration camp, which was liberated in September 1944. The Minister of Education issues a circular instructing secondary schools vis-à-vis commemoration.</p>
<p>Finland</p> 	<p>January 27 has been an official Holocaust Remembrance Day in Finland since 2002. In Finnish, the day is called Memorial Day for Victims of Persecution (<i>Vainojen uhrien muistopäivä</i>). The <a href="#">Finnish Holocaust Remembrance Association</a> has been responsible for arranging the annual main commemoration event.</p> <p>November 6 is a nationally important day of commemoration for Finland. On that day in 1942, eight Jewish refugees were deported from Finland and turned over to the German Security Police.</p>
<p>France</p> 	<p>In 2002, European education ministers adopted a declaration establishing a Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust and for the prevention of crimes against humanity in all Council of Europe member states' schools. France chose the date of 27 January, the date of the liberation of the Auschwitz extermination camp. The <a href="#">Mémorial de la Shoah</a> organizes numerous events to commemorate this remembrance day.</p> <p>Since the 1990s, France has commemorated July 16—the anniversary of the Vel' d'Hiv Roundup, the German-ordered mass arrest and expulsion of the Jews of Paris by French police in 1942.</p>

<p>Germany</p> 	<p>In January 1996, the German government legislated January 27 as its Day of Remembrance for the Victims of National Socialism. A special session of the <i>Bundestag</i> is generally held in the presence of the Federal President and Constitutional Court.</p> <p>Commemorative events are also held all over the country on November 9, the anniversary of the "Night of the Pogrom" or "Night of the Broken Glass," the 1938 mass pogrom of German and Austrian Jews. 30,000 Jews were arrested and Jewish property and synagogues were burned and vandalized throughout the territory controlled by Nazi Germany.</p> <p>Information on various commemorative events may be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
<p>Greece</p> 	<p>The Greek Parliament legislated January 27 as a Remembrance Day for the Holocaust Victims and Heroes in 2004. As such, the Greek Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs has issued directives mandating public commemoration of the Holocaust on January 27 in Greek schools. The president and high-ranking government ministers generally participate in commemorative events at the Athens Concert Hall.</p>
<p>Hungary</p> 	<p>In 2001, the Hungarian government legislated April 16 as its National Holocaust Memorial Day. This date marks the establishment of the first Jewish ghetto in Munkács, then under Hungarian control. Governmental authorities have organized commemorative events on many levels throughout the country. The <a href="#">Holocaust Memorial Center</a> also organizes events to promote Holocaust commemoration.</p>
<p>Ireland</p> 	<p>Since 2003, Ireland has observed January 27 as Auschwitz Liberation Day. The Holocaust Memorial Trust of Ireland (HETI) organizes the primary memorial ceremony in Dublin, which has been attended by 700 people on average, including high-ranking Irish government officials. Additionally, HETI publishes annual <a href="#">brochures</a> relating to Holocaust Memorial Day.</p>

<p>Israel</p> 	<p>In 1953, the Israeli Knesset institutionalized the commemoration of Yom HaShoah, Israel's national Holocaust memorial day, which takes place on Nisan 27 according to the Jewish lunar calendar (usually April-early May). The opening ceremony for Yom HaShoah takes place at <a href="#">Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority</a>. The Holocaust and Heroism Remembrance Day National Gathering closing ceremony takes place at the <a href="#">Ghetto Fighters' House Museum</a>.</p> <p>Many ultra-Orthodox Israeli Jews prefer to observe the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month of Tevet (a fast commemorating the beginning of the siege of Jerusalem culminating in the destruction of the First Temple) and the 9<sup>th</sup> of the month of Av (regarded as the saddest day in the Jewish calendar, commemorating inter alia the destruction of the First and Second Temples).</p> <p>Israel has also observed January 27 as the International Holocaust Remembrance Day since 2005.</p>
<p>Italy</p> 	<p>The Italian government has observed January 27 as a national Memorial Day to Remember the Shoah since 2000. Italian governmental authorities have organized numerous Holocaust education events throughout the country, including an official commemoration at the Quirinale, the seat of the Italian Presidency in Rome. <a href="#">The Union of Italian Jewish Communities</a> is also very active in promoting Holocaust remembrance throughout the country.</p>
<p>Latvia</p> 	<p>The Latvian government has commemorated July 4 as its Holocaust memorial day since 1990. On that day, the Choral Synagogue on Gogola Street in Riga was burned to the ground with Jewish people locked inside it. High-ranking government officials, including the Latvian President, have attended the official ceremony at the synagogue memorial.</p>
<p>Lithuania</p> 	<p>The Lithuanian parliament declared September 23 (the date of the destruction of the Jewish ghetto in Vilnius) its National Holocaust Remembrance Day in 1994. The anniversary of the liquidation of the Vilnius Ghetto in 1943 is usually marked by ceremonies in Paneriai in the presence of state leaders, special parliamentary sessions and other remembrance events. More information about commemorations of January 27 and September 23 may be found via the <a href="#">International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania</a>.</p>

<p>Luxembourg</p> 	<p>In 2007, the government of Luxembourg rescheduled its day of remembrance to January 27 in accordance with the UN's resolution on International Holocaust Remembrance Day.</p> <p>Prior to commemorating the Holocaust on January 27, in 2002 the government of Luxembourg legislated October 10 as its National Commemoration Day, the same day as the Council of Europe's Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust and for the Prevention of Crimes against Humanity.</p>
<p>The Netherlands</p> 	<p>The Dutch government has observed January 27 as International Holocaust Remembrance Day since 2007. At least one government minister is present at the official commemoration event at the Auschwitz Monument in Amsterdam.</p> <p>In 1987, the Dutch government unified commemorative events for the nation's memorial day (May 4) and Victory in Europe Day (May 5). <a href="#">The National Committee for 4 and 5 May</a> organizes national remembrance activities and runs educational projects to raise awareness of the Holocaust and World War II in the Netherlands.</p>
<p>Norway</p> 	<p>Norway has commemorated the Holocaust on January 27 since 2002. The <a href="#">official commemoration ceremony</a> takes place at the quayside in Oslo, from where Norwegian Jews were deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau. In 2012, the Norwegian Prime Minister addressed the official remembrance ceremony.</p>
<p>Poland</p> 	<p>State and local authorities honor the victims of the Holocaust - with special ceremonies held on January 27 (the anniversary of the liberation of the German extermination camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau), and on April 19 (to commemorate the heroic Warsaw Ghetto Uprising). Official ceremonies take place in major cities and at authentic historical sites, generally in attendance by the Polish President and/or Prime Minister. Both state and local government institutions, universities, research institutes and schools are extensively involved in Holocaust commemoration.</p> <p>Annual January 27 commemoration ceremonies at the <a href="#">Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum</a> are attended by former prisoners, as well as representatives of the Polish and Russian governments, diplomatic corps, the clergy of various denominations, the community of regional and local authorities, and invited guests.</p>

<p>Romania</p> 	<p>As of October 2004, Romania has observed national Holocaust Remembrance Day on October 9 - the date when the Romanian authorities deported the first Jews from Northern Romania to Transnistria. Commemorative events take place at schools, synagogues, cemeteries and in the <a href="#">Elie Wiesel National Institute for Studying the Holocaust in Romania</a>. Government ministers and state secretaries generally attend such commemorative events, including an extraordinary session of the Romanian Parliament.</p>
<p>Serbia</p> 	<p>Serbia observes January 27 as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. In December 2011, the Serbian parliament legislated April 22 as National Holocaust, WWII Genocide and other Fascist Crimes Victims' Remembrance Day. In cooperation with the Federation of Jewish Communities of Serbia and other institutions, the Serbian government has organized commemoration ceremonies at former Holocaust-era concentration camps and killing sites.</p>
<p>Slovakia</p> 	<p>January 27 is observed as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Slovakia also legislated September 9 (the introduction of the Jewish Code of 1941) as the Day of Victims of the Holocaust and Racial Violence in 2001. The Slovak President generally attends a wreath-laying commemorative ceremony at the national memorial to the victims of the Holocaust.</p>
<p>Spain</p> 	<p>The Spanish cabinet established January 27 as the nation's official Holocaust Remembrance Day in 2004. The day has been marked with presidential and ministerial speeches annually since January 2006. Holocaust survivors from different countries have been invited to the commemoration events. More information about Holocaust commemoration events in Spain may be found via <a href="#">Sefarad Israel</a> based in Madrid.</p>
<p>Sweden</p> 	<p>January 27 has been a national remembrance day in Sweden since 1999. Remembrance ceremonies, cultural programs, lectures, seminars, theme days at schools, torchlight processions, public manifestations and evidence from survivors are arranged throughout Sweden. The role of the <a href="#">Living History Forum</a> based in Stockholm is to inspire and coordinate initiatives for January 27, including recommending school projects that can be carried out in relation to this day of remembrance.</p>

<p>Switzerland</p> 	<p>The Swiss government legislated January 27 as a Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust and for the Prevention of Crimes against Humanity in 2002. It retained this date following the United Nations resolution commemorating it as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Memorial events take place at schools and educational institutions throughout Switzerland and a message by the Swiss president is disseminated in the three official languages of the country.</p>
<p>United Kingdom</p> 	<p>Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) has been marked by all levels of government, schools, communities and the public with a wide range of events on January 27 since 2001. <a href="#">The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT)</a> has been responsible for organizing the main national event and for encouraging observance of January 27 and <a href="#">Yom HaShoah</a>. Government ministers, sometimes the prime minister, attend an annual national remembrance ceremony which takes place in different cities.</p>
<p>United States</p> 	<p>The United States Congress established Days of Remembrance as the nation's annual commemoration of the Holocaust in 1979. The <a href="#">United States Holocaust Memorial Museum</a> organizes observances and remembrance activities during the week of remembrance that runs from the Sunday before Holocaust Remembrance Day (HRD) through the following Sunday. American HRD takes place on Yom HaShoah, a Holocaust memorial observance taking place on Nisan 27 according to the Jewish lunar calendar (usually April-early May). The national remembrance ceremony takes place at the Rotunda of the US Capitol in Washington, DC.</p>
<p>It should be noted that local Jewish communities in many IHRA member countries often observe Yom HaShoah in addition to the national commemorations listed above.</p>	