



International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance

Multi-Year Work Plan: Holocaust Memorial Days Report of the IHRA Visit to Ireland

January 2013

In December 2012, the Plenary approved the multi-year work plan proposal from the Steering Committee on Holocaust Memorial Days. This plan seeks to coordinate a visit of the Advisor to the IHRA to participate in programs related to Holocaust Memorial Day with a view to foster Holocaust education, remembrance and research, promote the goals of the Stockholm Declaration, and raise awareness about the work of the IHRA.

The programs were planned for January and April 2013 to coincide with International Holocaust Remembrance Day and other national days of remembrance in IHRA member countries. They would be geared to a variety of target audiences, such as the diplomatic corps, university personnel and students, policy makers, representatives of NGOs, and civil servants, among others.

Spain and Ireland offered to host visits of the Advisor to the IHRA in January 2013. The IHRA delegations, in coordination with local partners in the respective host countries, were responsible for the development of the respective programming, including remembrance activities and ceremonies.

IHRA Visit to Ireland – January 2013

As the first aspect of the program in Ireland, the Advisor to the IHRA and the Communication and Program Officer attended the National Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration Event on 27 January 2013. The event was hosted by the Lord Mayor of Dublin in Mansion House and featured a varied and content-rich program. Speakers included a number of governmental officials, academics, journalists, civil society representatives, students, and Holocaust survivors. The Advisor to the IHRA read the Stockholm Declaration and Ireland's membership in the IHRA was emphasized. The ceremony was attended by over 700 guests and received positive coverage in all the major

newspapers (an example is available here:

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2013/0128/1224329370618.html>).

The Advisor to the IHRA and the Communication and Program Officer met with several governmental representatives during their visit to Dublin, including Mr. David Donoghue, Political Director of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the chief adviser to Minister for Justice and Equality Alan Shatter, and the Minister for Education and Skills Ruairi Quinn.

All three ministries are involved in Holocaust education, remembrance and research in various capacities. Minister Shatter and Minister Quinn also take a personal interest in these issues, with Minister Quinn previously serving as the head of the Holocaust Education Trust Ireland.

Ireland currently holds the Presidency of the Council of European Union, and in this capacity Minister Shatter has proposed a more coordinated and focused approach in confronting racism, antisemitism, and prejudice across Europe. He has requested that the European Commission facilitate this and report back to EU Member States on measures that might be implemented. In addition, a conference for participants from across the EU is planned for May to give further consideration to these issues.

The Ministry of Justice is also responsible for equality, and the senior staff members on this portfolio also attended the meeting with the chief adviser of Minister Shatter. The Advisor to the IHRA discussed several ideas and strategies that could be utilized to expand equality education amongst young people, particularly in a school context, and the Ministry officials were open to all suggestions.

Ministry of Education officials were also interested in working in closer cooperation with the IHRA to develop further initiatives in Holocaust education. During the meeting the Minister for Education reviewed the current curriculum structure in secondary schools and his staff members provided several helpful examples of Holocaust education programs taught in schools around Ireland. The Minister for Education stated that he would look in to possible opportunities for cooperation and be in further contact with the IHRA in this regard.

The Advisor to the IHRA and the Communication and Program Officer also met with religious representatives from the Dublin Inter-Faith Forum and with academics at Trinity College Dublin. The IHRA's Grant Programme was explained and emphasized during all meetings in order to reach out to future potential applicants.

A number of members of Ireland's delegation to the IHRA actively participated in the various meetings and events, including Zuleika Rodgers from Trinity College and Kevin McCarthy from the Department of Education and Skills, among others. Their expertise in all of the IHRA's areas of activity, dedication to the IHRA, and participation during the visit were appreciated.

The Advisor to the IHRA additionally gave an address to the Irish Jewish Historical Society and members of the public at the Irish Jewish Museum in Dublin and attended a Trinity College Dublin seminar on Holocaust representation.

The visit demonstrated Ireland’s clear commitment to these issues and also provided a good opportunity to meet with a variety of stakeholders in Ireland. The Advisor to the IHRA had the chance to learn about a number of governmental and NGO programs and discuss potential areas of cooperation with the IHRA, particularly related to educational initiatives.

It is hoped that the visit helped raise the profile of the IHRA in Ireland and encouraged further efforts in this field. The IHRA looks forward to further opportunities to work together with Ireland in promoting Holocaust education, remembrance and research.

Outreach in Numbers

| Event | Number of Attendees/Participants |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration Ceremony | 700 |
| Meeting at Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade | 3 |
| Meeting with Dublin Inter-Faith Forum | 14 |
| Meeting at Ministry of Justice and Equality | 3 |
| Roundtable at Trinity College Dublin | 10 |
| Meeting at Ministry for Education and Skills | 3 |
| Address to the Irish Jewish Historical Society | 50 |
| Trinity College Dublin Seminar | 10 |
| TOTAL | 793 |

Photographs from the Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration
Sunday, 27 January 2013
Mansion House, Dublin, Ireland



Dr. Steven Katz
Advisor to the IHRA



Dr. Steven Katz and Mr. Colin Wrafter, Director Human Rights Division, Department of Foreign Affairs, Ireland



Ms. Lucinda Creighton, TD, Minister for European Affairs and Dr. Steven Katz



Mary Banotti, Former MEP and Founding Trustee of HETI, Dr. Steven Katz and The Right Honourable Mrs Justice Susan Denham, Chief Justice of Ireland

Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration

Sunday 27 January 2013
Mansion House, Dublin

Programme

MC: Yanky Fachler Music: Lynda Lee, soprano; Dermot Dunne, accordion

- *Introductory remarks:* Yanky Fachler, MC
- *Words of welcome:* Naoise Ó Muiri, Lord Mayor of Dublin
- **Keynote address: Alan Shatter, TD, Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence**
- *The Stockholm Declaration:* Dr Steve Katz, Boston University and Advisor to International Holocaust Remembrance Agency
- *Ireland and Europe:* Lucinda Creighton, TD, Minister of State for European Affairs

Musical interlude

- *Holocaust survivor:* Tomi Reichental
- *The Jews of Europe in the interwar years:* Prof Anthony McElligott, University of Limerick
- *Europe and the legacy of the Holocaust:* Francis Jacobs, European Parliament Office, Dublin
- *Evian:* Leonard Abrahamson, Jewish Representative Council of Ireland
- *Nowhere to go:* Philip Berman
- *Kristallnacht:* Kevin O'Sullivan, Editor, *Irish Times*
- *Kindertransports:* Jonathon Phillips

Musical interlude

- *Ghettos:* Chris Donohoe Harbidge, National Museum of Ireland, Trustee HETI
- *Wannsee Conference:* Martin Fraser, Secretary General, Dept of the Taoiseach
- *In less than a year:* Ruairi Quinn, TD, Minister for Education and Skills
- *Holocaust survivor:* Jan Kaminski
- *Machinery of death:* Dr David Knox White, Writer
- *Victim readings:*
People with disabilities: Lisa McNabb
Poles and Slavs: Dr Ewa Stanczyk, Department of Russian and Slavonic Studies, Trinity College, Dublin
Roma: Siobhan Curran, The Roma Project in Pavee Point
Homosexuals: John Duffy, BeLonG To
Black and ethnic minorities: Dr Fidele Mutwarasibo, Immigrant Council of Ireland
Political victims: Shay Cody, General Secretary, IMPACT
Christian victims: Fr Ivan Tonge, Parish Priest, Ringsend
- *All of the victims:* HE Boaz Moda'i, Israeli Ambassador to Ireland
- *Holocaust survivor:* Suzi Diamond
- *Scroll of Names:* Stratford College, Dublin; Duiske College, Kilkenny; Oatlands College, Dublin; Our Lady's Bower, Athlone

Musical interlude

- *Tribute to Zoltan and Edit Zimm-Collis*
- *Soon:* Micheal O'Siadhail
- *Ireland and the Holocaust:* Vincent Norton, Executive Manager, Dublin City Council
- *Liberation:* Klaus Unger
- *Horror of the Holocaust:* Máire Whelan, Attorney General
- *Righteous Among the Nations:* Uto Hogerzeil
- *Displaced Persons camps:* Des Hogan, Acting CEO, Irish Human Rights Commission
- *Post-war pogroms:* Prof Robert Gerwarth, Director of War Studies, University College Dublin
- *Second generation:* David Reichental
- *Lessons for the future:* The Honourable Mrs Justice Susan Denham, Chief Justice
- *Go home from this place:* Mary Banotti, former MEP, Founding Trustee HETI
- Minute's silence

CANDLE LIGHTING

- *El Malay Rachamim:* Prayer for the Repose of the Souls of the Departed, Rabbi Zalman Lent, Cantor Alwyn Shulman, Irish Jewish community
- *Closing remarks:* Yanky Fachler