



International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance

Media Kit



IHRA Plenary meetings in Berlin. Credit: Trevor Good

About us

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) is an intergovernmental body of 31 member countries, eight observer countries and seven permanent international partners. Members all share a commitment to the Stockholm Declaration and thus work to implement national policies and programs in support of Holocaust education, remembrance, and research on an international scale.

IHRA (formerly the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, or the ITF) was initiated in 1998 by former Swedish Prime Minister Göran Persson. Persson was motivated by a visit he paid to Neuengamme near Hamburg, an experience which deeply affected him. Around that time a survey of high school students in Sweden indicated a lessening commitment to democratic values and the spreading of doubt about whether the Holocaust had actually taken place.

Persson decided to establish an international organization that would expand Holocaust education worldwide, and asked President Bill Clinton and former British Prime Minister Tony

“It happened once. It should not have happened but it did. It must not happen again, but it could.”

Excerpt from the opening address by Göran Persson, the Prime Minister of Sweden, at the Ceremonial Opening of the Stockholm International Forum, 26 January 2000.

Blair to join him in this effort. Persson also developed the idea of an international forum of governments interested in discussing Holocaust education, which took place in Stockholm from 27-29 January 2000. The Forum was attended by the representatives of 46 governments including; 23 Heads of State or Prime Ministers and 14 Deputy Prime Ministers or Ministers. The [Declaration of the Stockholm International Forum on the Holocaust](#) was the outcome of the Forum’s deliberations and is the foundation of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

The conference marked a defining moment in the history of Holocaust education; never before had

this issue been put on the political agenda. Never before had it been made so clear that governments, not individual communities, have a responsibility to ensure that the horrors of the Holocaust are never forgotten.

What makes the IHRA unique?

There is no other international body that brings together both experts in the field of Holocaust-related studies and political representatives to focus on the sole mandate of Holocaust-related issues. IHRA provides a network for experts to share knowledge, best practices, points of concern and recommendations directly with governmental representatives. This offers special opportunity for the expert level to directly shape policy-making throughout IHRA member countries, in turn supporting educational and cultural remembrance of the Holocaust on an international level.

How do we work?

Once a country becomes a member of IHRA, they form a national delegation to represent their country. Each country nominates delegates to each of IHRA's four working groups; Academic, Communication, Education and Museum and Memorials. In addition, IHRA has three specialized committees which focus on areas IHRA believes to be of contemporary importance; these committees look at the genocide of the Roma, antisemitism and Holocaust denial and comparative approaches to Genocide studies. The IHRA is also in the process of implementing a Multi-Year Work Plan, a series of long-term projects, which focus on killing sites, access to archives, educational research, and Holocaust Memorial Days.

IHRA has a permanent office located in Berlin which coordinates the work of the organization. The IHRA also has an Honorary Chairman,

Professor Yehuda Bauer, and an Advisor to IHRA, Professor Steven Katz.

Each year IHRA is chaired by a different country on a voluntary basis. Twice a year all the delegates, around 250 people, meet in the Chair country for a four day programme of meetings, discussions and presentations culminating in a day-long Plenary session. At this session, each country is represented by their Head of Delegation and together the Heads of Delegation form the IHRA Plenary. This is the decision-making body of IHRA which operates on a consensus basis.

What do IHRA delegates do?

IHRA's working groups are composed of academics, educators, curators, administrators and survivors. They discuss new fields of research, projects, and areas of concern in their respective areas of expertise and make recommendations to the Plenary for consideration by the political level. They also propose and carry out bilateral and multilateral projects in IHRA member and observer countries with the aim of promoting Holocaust education, remembrance and research.

What about our Grant Programme?

One of IHRA's key roles is to contribute to the funding of relevant external projects through its grant strategy. The purpose of the Grant Programme is to foster international dialogue, the exchange of expertise, and to increase government involvement in program creation. IHRA supports projects with strong multilateral elements in order to create sustainable structures for Holocaust education, remembrance, and research. Any country can apply for a grant but it is important that they have a partner organization in another country, strong governmental involvement and can demonstrate a long-term impact.

Since its inception, the IHRA has funded 390 projects, across 44 countries worldwide. The IHRA's Grant Programme provides far more than financial backing alone, however: by contributing the international expertise of its Working Groups and the Funding Review Committee, the IHRA offers valuable advice and thorough evaluation, ensuring that funded projects perform to the highest possible level.

The Grant Strategy consists of two programmes:

- 1) Develop strategies for Holocaust Memorial Days in a way that injects substance, real meaning and educational value into these events.
- 2) Raise awareness and promote research into the causes of the Holocaust, its driving forces and

mechanism, with a view to preventing genocide, ethnic cleansing, racism, antisemitism, and xenophobia.

The IHRA calls for grant applications from organizations and institutions in the field of Holocaust education, remembrance, and research that wish to carry out projects which fit within the remit of one of these two programmes. The IHRA encourages grant applications that cut across the IHRA's mandate fields with activities combining education, remembrance, and research. Applications with the following special focuses are encouraged: genocide of the Roma, new research fields, projects that further support IHRA's Multi-Year Work Plan, Holocaust denial, new technologies and social media, and public campaigns and installations.

What have we achieved?

- Guidelines in over 20 languages to assist teachers and educators in the field of Holocaust education.
- Instrumental in working towards opening the International Tracing Service archive at Bad Arolsen.
- Appointment of a Vatican liaison person for IHRA issues.
- Two websites exploring, separately, the culture of remembrance and the development of memorial sites: 'Cultures of Remembrance — a Network' and 'Memorial Museums,' hosted by the Topography of Terror Foundation.
- The International Memorial Museums Charter as guidelines on ethics and concerns relevant to memorial museums for victims of the Holocaust.
- Drafted the Working Definition of Holocaust Denial and Distortion, a working tool adopted by the governmental representatives of 39 member countries to try and provide clarity to the complex topic of what constitutes Holocaust Denial and distortion.
- Promote the integration of Holocaust education in curricula throughout member countries.
- Ensured a Holocaust Memorial Day in all member countries.
- Ground-breaking conference on killing sites during the Holocaust and the first comprehensive anthology on the topic.
- Funded 390 projects through its Grant Programme, across 44 countries worldwide.
- Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with OSCE/ODHIR and with the Council of Europe.
- Implemented a Multi-Year Work Plan; four long-term projects focusing on key Holocaust-related issues.
- Held the first IHRA conference on the topic of the genocide of the Roma in London in 2014.

Facts and Figures

Member countries: 31

Observer countries: 8

Founded: 1998

Website: In 2014, the IHRA website received more than 31,000 visitors. On 27 January 2014, International Holocaust Memorial Day, the IHRA website was called up 1,186 times. The website received visitors from 180 countries worldwide.

IHRA in the Media

New York Times. [“Shedding Light on a Vast Toll of Jews Killed Away from the Death Camps”](#).

Profile of the IHRA project on killing sites.

CBC News. [Interview](#) with 2014 IHRA Chair Sir Andrew Burns on how history resonates today.

Jewish Tribune. [“IHRA reaches consensus on definition of Holocaust denial”](#).

Quotations about IHRA

“IHRA is an organization which is not only a network of some of the most renowned experts in the world but is also a crucial link between these experts and the political level. It is only through the involvement of governments that the Holocaust can be included in educational curricula and in the shared remembrance culture of entire populations.”

2014 IHRA Chair, Sir Andrew Burns. UK Envoy for Post-Holocaust Issues



“The Holocaust is not the past; seventy years is a very short time in historical terms, and all the conditions that surrounded the Holocaust are still there. The Holocaust is the present, and in order not to repeat it, or events similar to it, the IHRA must, and hopefully will, do its part.”

IHRA Honorary Chairman, Professor Yehuda Bauer. Academic Advisor to Yad Vashem

Photo credits. Right: Sir Andrew Burns. Credit: Jonathan Goldberg
Left: Professor Yehuda Bauer addresses the IHRA Plenary in Mechelen, Belgium. Credit: Government of Flanders.

Member Countries

Argentina (2003)	Greece (2005)	Romania (2004)
Austria (2000)	Hungary (2002)	Serbia (2011)
Belgium (2005)	Ireland (2011)	Slovakia (2005)
Canada (2009)	Israel (1998)	Slovenia (2011)
Croatia (2005)	Italy (1999)	Spain (2008)
Czech Republic (2001)	Latvia (2004)	Sweden (1998)
Denmark (2004)	Lithuania (2003)	Switzerland (2004)
Estonia (2007)	Luxembourg (2003)	United Kingdom (1998)
Finland (2010)	The Netherlands (1999)	United States (1998)
France (1999)	Norway (2003)	
Germany (1998)	Poland (1999)	

Observer Countries

Albania (2014)
Bulgaria (2012)
El Salvador (2014)
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (2009)
Moldova (2014)
Portugal (2009)
Turkey (2008)
Uruguay (2013)

Permanent International Partners

Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany
Council of Europe
European Agency for Fundamental Rights
International Tracing Service
Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe: Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
UNESCO
United Nations

Declaration of the Stockholm International Forum on the Holocaust

The members of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance are committed to the Declaration of the Stockholm International Forum on the Holocaust, which reads as follows:

1. **The Holocaust (Shoah) fundamentally** challenged the foundations of civilization. The unprecedented character of the Holocaust will always hold universal meaning. After half a century, it remains an event close enough in time that survivors can still bear witness to the horrors that engulfed the Jewish people. The terrible suffering of the many millions of other victims of the Nazis has left an indelible scar across Europe as well.
2. **The magnitude of the Holocaust**, planned and carried out by the Nazis, must be forever seared in our collective memory. The selfless sacrifices of those who defied the Nazis, and sometimes gave their own lives to protect or rescue the Holocaust's victims, must also be inscribed in our hearts. The depths of that horror, and the heights of their heroism, can be touchstones in our understanding of the human capacity for evil and for good.
3. **With humanity still scarred** by genocide, ethnic cleansing, racism, antisemitism and xenophobia, the international community shares a solemn responsibility to fight those evils. Together we must uphold the terrible truth of the Holocaust against those who deny it. We must strengthen the moral commitment of our peoples, and the political commitment of our governments, to ensure that future generations can understand the causes of the Holocaust and reflect upon its consequences.
4. **We pledge to strengthen** our efforts to promote education, remembrance and research about the Holocaust, both in those of our countries that have already done much and those that choose to join this effort.
5. **We share a commitment** to encourage the study of the Holocaust in all its dimensions. We will promote education about the Holocaust in our schools and universities, in our communities and encourage it in other institutions.
6. **We share a commitment** to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust and to honour those who stood against it. We will encourage appropriate forms of Holocaust remembrance, including an annual Day of Holocaust Remembrance, in our countries.
7. **We share a commitment** to throw light on the still obscured shadows of the Holocaust. We will take all necessary steps to facilitate the opening of archives in order to ensure that all documents bearing on the Holocaust are available to researchers.
8. **It is appropriate** that this, the first major international conference of the new millenium, declares its commitment to plant the seeds of a better future amidst the soil of a bitter past. We empathize with the victims' suffering and draw inspiration from their struggle. Our commitment must be to remember the victims who perished, respect the survivors still with us, and reaffirm humanity's common aspiration for mutual understanding and justice.

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