

Holocaust Memorial Days in the OSCE Region – An overview

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Overview of the presentation

- Introductory remarks
- Political background - the role of governments in promoting Holocaust Memorial Days (HMDs)
- Overview of HMDs in the OSCE region - different approaches in different countries
- Conclusion – some discussion points

Political background

In 2004, the commitment of 56 OSCE participating States to promote remembrance of the Holocaust emerged in the context of a shared concern about the continued prevalence of anti-Semitism in the OSCE region.



The role of governments in promoting HMDs



Ms. Elena Beleacova, Director of the Bureau of Interethnic Relations of Moldova, at ODIHR/IHRA roundtable event in Chisinau.

The role of governments in promoting HMDs

Governments can

- build on and support the work done by non-governmental organizations, memorials and museums,
- raise awareness about the Holocaust among many different target groups,
- focus societies' attention on and give visibility to survivors, Holocaust-related sites, educational efforts and questions raised by researchers.

The role of governments in promoting HMDs

Holocaust Memorial Days in the OSCE Region: An Overview of Governmental Activities

<http://tandis.odihr.pl/hmd/>

- Acknowledges the special role of Holocaust Memorial Days in introducing and intensifying related activities;
- Provides a general overview of Holocaust Memorial Days in the OSCE region;
- Presents country summaries with detailed information about governmental activities.

Overview of HMDs in the OSCE region

- **37 participating States have established an official Holocaust Memorial Day for the Jewish victims of National Socialism, but many of them also include other victim groups in their commemoration (Roma and Sinti, disabled, homosexuals, etc.)**
- **The victims of the Roma and Sinti genocide are remembered on a special day in 6 participating States - 8 participating States reported that they include the victims of the Roma and Sinti genocide in their general Holocaust remembrance.**

Overview of HMDs in the OSCE region

- **26 participating States mark 27 January as their HMD – 2 participating States mark Yom Ha Shoah.**
- **9 participating States commemorate the Holocaust on a day of national significance:** Austria, Bulgaria, France, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Romania and Slovakia.
- **19 participating States commemorate the victims of the Holocaust on more than one day –** the second remembrance day often focuses on other aspects related to the Second World War.

Overview of HMDs in the OSCE region



Rabbi Andrew Baker, Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Anti-Semitism, Holocaust Memorial Day in Latvia, 2013

Overview of HMDs in the OSCE region

Additional political purposes of HMDs:

- Prevention of crimes against humanity
- Commemorating genocides
- Fighting racism and anti-Semitism
- Promoting human rights
- Promoting diversity

Discussion points

- The relationship between Holocaust Memorial Days and manifestations of anti-Semitism
- The relationship between governmental and non-governmental efforts to promote remembrance
- The relationship between the universal questions raised by the Holocaust and the national context, in which commemorations take place
- Remembering the Holocaust in different parts of the OSCE region.

Thank you!

www.osce.org/odihr

www.osce.org/odihr/antisemitism

<http://tandis.odihr.pl/>

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