



International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance

Press Release: 31 Member Countries, eight Observer Countries and seven Permanent International Partners Reaffirm their Commitment to the Stockholm Holocaust Declaration

15 years ago, the Stockholm International Forum on the Holocaust was held, bringing together high-ranking political leaders and officials from more than forty countries to meet with civic and religious leaders, Holocaust survivors, educators, historians and others who have dedicated their work to promoting Holocaust education, commemoration and research.

Nobel Prize laureate Elie Wiesel served as the Forum's Honorary Chairman and Professor Yehuda Bauer was the senior Academic Advisor to the Forum.

The Stockholm Declaration was signed by participating countries at the closing session of this conference and became the founding document of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA). In this Declaration the participating states pledged their commitment to promoting Holocaust education, remembrance and research. Over the years IHRA has grown to include 31 member countries, eight observers countries and seven Permanent International Partners. It remains a unique organisation; bringing together politicians as well as experts from the fields of academia, education, communications, and memorials and museum.

On the 15th anniversary of this momentous occasion, the participating countries come together to reaffirm their commitment to the Stockholm Declaration through the following statement, in the knowledge that much great work has been done but that antisemitism, xenophobia and genocide are not confined to the past but continue to be real threats:

Reaffirmation of the Stockholm Declaration

Today, 70 years after the liberation of Auschwitz, the 31 member and eight observer countries of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), together with our seven Permanent International Partners, have collectively reaffirmed our strong and unqualified support for the founding document of our organisation, the Stockholm Declaration of the year 2000, and the solemn commitments which our governments then undertook.

The unprecedented character of the Holocaust will always hold universal meaning for us. We are committed to remembering and honouring its victims, to upholding the terrible

truth of the Holocaust, to standing up against those who distort or deny it and to combatting antisemitism, racism and prejudice against the Roma and Sinti.

We are determined to continue to develop our international cooperation on Holocaust education, remembrance and research and the prevention of future genocides.

IHRA Member Countries

Argentina	Greece	Romania
Austria	Hungary	Serbia
Belgium	Ireland	Slovakia
Canada	Israel	Slovenia
Croatia	Italy	Spain
Czech Republic	Latvia	Sweden
Denmark	Lithuania	Switzerland
Estonia	Luxembourg	United Kingdom
Finland	The Netherlands	United States
France	Norway	
Germany	Poland	

IHRA Observer Countries

Albania
Bulgaria
El Salvador
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Moldova
Portugal
Turkey
Uruguay

Permanent International Partners

United Nations
UNESCO
OSCE/ODIHR
International Tracing Service (ITS)
European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)
Council of Europe
Claims Conference

Background Information

IHRA is an intergovernmental body whose purpose is to place political and social leaders' support behind the need for Holocaust education, remembrance and research both nationally and internationally.

IHRA (formerly the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, or ITF) was initiated in 1998 by former Swedish Prime Minister Göran Persson. Persson decided to establish an international organisation that would expand Holocaust education worldwide, and asked President Bill Clinton and former British Prime Minister Tony 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 on 27-29 January 2000. The Forum was attended by 23 Heads of State or Prime Ministers and 14 Deputy Prime

Ministers or Ministers from 46 governments. 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.

IHRA currently has 31 member countries and eight observer countries. Membership is open to all countries, and members must be committed to the Stockholm Declaration and to the implementation of national policies and programmes in support of Holocaust education, remembrance, and research. Member countries are encouraged to develop multilateral partnerships and to share best practices.

The national government of each member country appoints and sends a delegation to IHRA meetings that is composed of both government representatives and national experts. In addition to the Academic, Education, Memorials and Museums, and Communication Working Groups, specialised committees have been established to address antisemitism and Holocaust denial, the situation of the Roma and the genocide of the Roma, comparative genocide, and special challenges in Holocaust education. The IHRA is also in the process of implementing a multi-year work plan that focuses on killing sites, access to archives, educational research, and Holocaust Memorial Days.

The IHRA has an annually rotating Chairmanship, and the appointed Chair is responsible for the overall activities of the organisation. The Chairmanship is supported by the Executive Secretary, who is the head of the Permanent Office located in Berlin. The IHRA also has an Honorary Chairman, Professor Yehuda Bauer, and an Advisor to the IHRA, Professor Steven Katz. This year's Chairmanship is held by the United Kingdom and the Chair is Sir Andrew Burns, the United Kingdom Envoy for Post-Holocaust Issues since 2010. Sir Andrew Burns is also the UK representative on the International Commission for the International Tracing Service at Bad Arolsen and was British Ambassador to Israel from 1992 to 1995.

One of IHRA's key roles is to contribute to the funding of relevant projects through its grant strategy. The purpose of the Grant Programme is to foster international dialogue and the exchange of expertise, increase government involvement in programme creation, and target projects with strong multilateral elements in order to create sustainable structures for Holocaust education, remembrance, and research.

#Stockholmdeclaration

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Declaration of the Stockholm International Forum on the Holocaust of the year 2000

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, anti-semitism 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.