



# **Holocaust Memorial Days in the OSCE Region**

An overview of governmental practices

December 2012

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## Preface

The Holocaust was a watershed event in modern history. The genocide carried out against Jews and Roma and Sinti, and the mass murder of so many others demonstrated graphically that the worst manifestations of anti-Semitism, racism and intolerance remain a continuing danger. This is why, almost 70 years after the liberation of the concentration camps, international co-operation on Holocaust remembrance is more important than ever.

All OSCE participating States have committed themselves to promote remembrance of the Holocaust. Many have joined the Taskforce for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research (ITF). Most participating States have established national days of remembrance to encourage governments, parliaments, civil society, religious communities, schools and citizens in general to honour the victims and reflect on the causes and implications of this tragedy. Commemoration activities serve as a powerful reminder of the need to continue our vigilance against anti-Semitism and all other forms of intolerance, and to engage with the moral challenges of our time.

This is the third edition of *Holocaust Memorial Days in the OSCE Region*. It updates and expands on previous editions, providing an overview of how and when OSCE countries commemorate the Holocaust. In addition to providing facts and figures, it presents a collection of good practices and ideas that may reinforce and inspire public officials and others engaged in this area. This publication is unique in that it is based entirely on official information provided to the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and to the ITF by governments. It shows the significant role governments play in sponsoring Holocaust remembrance activities and how these activities can help ensure that Holocaust commemoration is accepted and practised widely as a foundation on which to build human dignity, mutual respect and tolerance. In particular, the many educational activities underway in OSCE participating States show that governments and educators are aware of the importance of engaging the next generation in efforts to remember the past in order to build a better future. Assisting OSCE participating States in these efforts will remain a priority for ODIHR.

I would like to offer special thanks to the ITF for its close co-operation with ODIHR in the preparation of this publication.

Ambassador Janez Lenarčič  
ODIHR Director  
12 December 2012

## Introduction

### OSCE commitments and activities to promote Holocaust remembrance

OSCE participating States have committed themselves to “promote remembrance of and, as appropriate, education about the tragedy of the Holocaust, and the importance of respect for all ethnic and religious groups”. This commitment was set out in OSCE Ministerial Council Decision No. 12/04<sup>1</sup> and reiterated in Decision No. 10/05.<sup>2</sup> The commitments are an important element in the OSCE’s focus on the promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination.

This publication draws together an overview of governmental and other practices in the OSCE area to commemorate the Holocaust. It is intended to promote remembrance by publicizing and facilitating the exchange of good practices. The publication shows that most OSCE governments, as well as a many local and municipal authorities, schools, civil society organizations, religious groups and others are actively involved in Holocaust commemoration activities.

This compilation is part of the multifaceted effort by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) to contribute to the Organization’s goal of promoting Holocaust remembrance. ODIHR has also produced a related publication, *Preparing Holocaust Memorial Days: Suggestions for Educators*<sup>3</sup>, which was prepared in close co-operation with Yad Vashem<sup>4</sup> and has been translated into 12 languages.

On 21 July 2010, ODIHR and the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research (ITF) signed a Memorandum of Understanding for Co-operation aimed at developing a close partnership on Holocaust remembrance, education and research.<sup>5</sup> Article 5 of the Memorandum of Understanding stipulates that “The ITF and ODIHR will prepare and carry out joint work programmes in fields of mutual interest, aiming to initiate joint activities, projects, guidelines, reports and publications where deemed relevant.” A conference organized by ODIHR in close co-operation with the ITF is planned for 19 November 2012, to explore the relationship between Holocaust education and education to combat anti-Semitism in order to identify current challenges, to explore how best to combat anti-Semitism

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<sup>1</sup> OSCE Ministerial Council Decision No. 12/04, “Tolerance and Non-Discrimination”, Sofia, 7 December 2004, <<http://www.osce.org/mc/23133>>.

<sup>2</sup> OSCE Ministerial Council Decision No. 10/05 “Tolerance and Non-Discrimination”, Ljubljana, 6 December 2005, <<http://www.osce.org/mc/17462>>.

<sup>3</sup> The full text of the publication is available at <<http://www.osce.org/odihr/17827?download=true>>.

<sup>4</sup> Yad Vashem is the Jerusalem-based Holocaust Martyrs’ and Heroes’ Remembrance Authority, which, among its many activities, serves as the world’s largest repository of information on the Holocaust; see <<http://www.yadvashem.org>>.

<sup>5</sup> Memorandum of Understanding for Co-operation between OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research (ITF), Jerusalem 21 July 2010, <[http://www.holocausttaskforce.org/images/itf\\_data/documents/10\\_international\\_organizations/memorandum\\_of\\_understanding\\_itf\\_osce\\_odihr.pdf](http://www.holocausttaskforce.org/images/itf_data/documents/10_international_organizations/memorandum_of_understanding_itf_osce_odihr.pdf)>.

and promote Holocaust remembrance through education, and to strengthen international co-operation in both areas.

Since the last edition of this publication in 2010,<sup>6</sup> the importance of Holocaust education and remembrance has been emphasized at a variety of meetings sponsored by the OSCE. For example, at the OSCE High Level Conference on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination in Astana from 28 to 30 June 2010, a number of speakers highlighted the issue of Holocaust remembrance. In November 2010, ODIHR organized a conference in Vienna on education to combat anti-Semitism, for representatives of ministries of education. At the meeting, the Austrian Minister of Education and others discussed the need for Holocaust education, while ODIHR and the representatives of other intergovernmental organizations presented tools and activities to promote Holocaust remembrance and combat anti-Semitism through education.<sup>7</sup>

At the high-level meeting on confronting anti-Semitism in public discourse organized by the Lithuanian Chairmanship of the OSCE and ODIHR in Prague, on 23 and 24 March 2011, participants recommended that OSCE participating States invest in educational initiatives that “increase knowledge and understanding about the history of the Jews, the Holocaust and the history of the State of Israel”, and that “[p]oliticians should counter hate speech and Holocaust denial with truthful and informative responses...”.<sup>8</sup>

The ODIHR/Anne Frank House “Teaching Materials to Combat Anti-Semitism” address the Holocaust as part of the history of anti-Semitism, introducing students to the personal stories of victims and survivors.<sup>9</sup> Since 2010, the teaching materials have been finalized by partner organizations in Austria, Hungary, Latvia and Spain. The materials are now available in 14 OSCE participating States.

Among the many issues raised in ODIHR’s annual report *Hate Crimes in the OSCE Region*<sup>10</sup> is the continuing problem of vandalism directed against Holocaust memorials in OSCE participating States.

The Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Anti-Semitism, Rabbi Andrew Baker, also addresses questions related to Holocaust remembrance during his country visits and in his statements.<sup>11</sup>

## **International co-operation on remembrance of the Holocaust**

Many international organizations promote Holocaust remembrance among their member states. Most notably, in 2005, the United Nations designated 27 January as the International Day of

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<sup>6</sup> The text of the 2010 edition is available at <<http://www.osce.org/odihhr/41252>>.

<sup>7</sup> The report of the meeting is available at <<http://www.osce.org/odihhr/74252>>.

<sup>8</sup> The report of the meeting is available at <<http://www.osce.org/odihhr/77450>>.

<sup>9</sup> Further information about the teaching materials is available at <<http://www.osce.org/odihhr/antisemitism>>.

<sup>10</sup> The full text of the report for 2010, issued in 2011 is available at <<http://tandis.odihhr.pl/hcr2010/>>; the full report for 2009, issued in 2010 is available at <<http://www.osce.org/odihhr/73636?download=true>>.

<sup>11</sup> Further information on the activities of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Anti-Semitism is available at <<http://www.osce.org/node/44357#1>>.

Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust.<sup>12</sup> The date is the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp in 1945. In its resolution establishing the Day of Commemoration, the General Assembly urged member States to develop educational programmes to teach future generations the lessons of the Holocaust, in order to help to prevent future acts of genocide. It decided to establish the “Holocaust and the United Nations Outreach Programme” and also to mobilize civil society for Holocaust remembrance and education in order to help to prevent future acts of genocide. The Outreach Programme works together with an international network of civil society groups, Holocaust memorial institutions, experts and survivors to ensure that their stories are heard and heeded as warnings of the consequences of anti-Semitism and other forms of discrimination. The programme’s activities and information also serve to combat Holocaust denial.<sup>13</sup>

In November 2007, the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Social, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) adopted unanimously a resolution calling on the Organization to explore, in consultation with Member States, what role it could play in promoting awareness of Holocaust remembrance through education and in combating all forms of Holocaust denial.<sup>14</sup> In 2008, UNESCO established a platform for Holocaust education and developed a CD ROM entitled “Education for Holocaust Remembrance”. On the occasion of the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust in 2012, UNESCO organized a conference on the international dimensions of Holocaust education.<sup>15</sup>

The member states of the Council of Europe have decided to implement in schools a Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust and for the Prevention of Crimes against Humanity. The day is chosen with regard to the history of each Member State. The initial undertaking was agreed by the ministers of education of the Member States at their Standing Conference in Krakow in 2000 and confirmed in a declaration at their meeting in Strasbourg in 2002<sup>16</sup>.

The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) has also been involved in Holocaust remembrance activities. In December 2009, the FRA published an online *Toolkit on the Holocaust and Human Rights Education in the European Union*, aimed at raising awareness among young people.<sup>17</sup> The tool was developed by Yad Vashem and *Mémorial de la Shoah*.<sup>18</sup> In

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<sup>12</sup> The full text of United Nations General Assembly resolution 60/7 of 2005 is available at <<http://www.un.org/en/holocaustremembrance/docs/res607.shtml>>.

<sup>13</sup> Further information on the Outreach Programme is available at <<http://www.un.org/en/holocaustremembrance/>>.

<sup>14</sup> The full text of UNESCO’s resolution 61 (2007) on Holocaust remembrance is available at <<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0015/001560/156046e.pdf#61>>.

<sup>15</sup> For further information on this and other UNESCO-sponsored Holocaust commemorative activities, see <<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/education/themes/leading-the-international-agenda/human-rights-education/holocaust-remembrance/2012/>>.

<sup>16</sup> The text of the Strasbourg declaration is available at <[www.mizks.gov.si/fileadmin/mizks.gov.../Deklaracija\\_Holokavst\\_ang.doc](http://www.mizks.gov.si/fileadmin/mizks.gov.../Deklaracija_Holokavst_ang.doc)>.

<sup>17</sup> The publication is available on line at <http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/toolkit-holocaust-education/index.htm>.

<sup>18</sup> More information on *Mémorial de la Shoah*, the largest information and research centre in Europe on the genocide against the Jews is available at <[www.memorialdelashoah.org](http://www.memorialdelashoah.org)>.

2011, FRA published a report entitled *Human rights education at Holocaust memorial sites across the European Union: An overview of practices*.<sup>19</sup>

An especially noteworthy organization devoted entirely to the goal of Holocaust commemoration is the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research (ITF).<sup>20</sup> Initiated in 1998, the ITF currently has 31 member countries, 29 of which are OSCE participating States. ITF Member States have committed themselves to establishing a Holocaust memorial day. Under its Grant Strategy 2010-2013 the ITF explicitly supports projects designed to develop “strategies for Holocaust Memorial Days in a way that injects substance, real meaning and educational value into these events”.<sup>21</sup> The ITF also co-operated closely with ODIHR when preparing this publication.

## Background and methodology

This is the third edition of *Holocaust Memorial Days in the OSCE Region*; previous editions were published in 2010 and 2008.<sup>22</sup> The publication is based on information systematically collected by ODIHR from governments of OSCE participating States. Although the publication is aimed primarily at describing governmental practices, many governments also provided information on non-governmental activities to commemorate the Holocaust and on activities sponsored jointly by governments and non-governmental groups. The publication was developed in close co-operation with the ITF. Its purpose is to share information on when and how OSCE participating States commemorate the Holocaust. It is hoped that sharing such information may encourage governments to draw on each others’ good practices and innovations in order to enrich their own activities and better fulfil their commitments to promote remembrance of the tragedy of the Holocaust.

As in previous editions, information is arranged by country. For each country that provided information, sub-sections are devoted to the date chosen to mark the Holocaust and its significance; official activities to commemorate the Holocaust, including the level of government participation; school activities; additional practices to commemorate the Holocaust; commemoration of the Roma and Sinti genocide; and commemoration of other victims groups of National Socialism. Since this publication is devoted specifically to Holocaust memorial days, it does not include general information about national activities on Holocaust education, World War II commemoration, or commemoration of other genocides or events, except to the extent that these activities relate directly to Holocaust memorial days.

In order to collect the information for this publication, ODIHR sent a note verbale to all OSCE participating States in November 2011, asking them to submit information through an online questionnaire on the Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Information System (TANDIS) website

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<sup>19</sup> The publication is available on line at <[http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/FRA-2011-Holocaust-education-overview-practices\\_EN.pdf](http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/FRA-2011-Holocaust-education-overview-practices_EN.pdf)>.

<sup>20</sup> Full information on the ITF is available on its website: <<http://www.holocausttaskforce.org/index.php>>.

<sup>21</sup> For further information on the ITF Grant Programme, see <<http://www.holocausttaskforce.org/project-funding.html>>.

<sup>22</sup> The text of the 2010 edition is available at <<http://www.osce.org/odihr/41252>>; the text of the 2008 edition is available at <<http://www.osce.org/odihr/30445>>.



or by e-mail.<sup>23</sup> The questionnaire was prepared by ODIHR, in co-operation with the Subcommittee on Holocaust Memorial Days of the Museum and Memorials Working Group of the ITF. Participating States that are also member states of the ITF were requested to co-ordinate with their national ITF delegation.

The information included for each state depends on the completeness and the date of its response. Some states responded promptly to ODIHR's inquiry and, therefore, included only information through the end of 2011, while many states that responded later also included information for 2012. This publication focuses on providing information on activities and developments since the previous edition, or other information received from governments since that time. Although the publication also includes some basic information from previous editions, those editions and the ITF website should also be consulted if a more comprehensive or longer term description of national practices is desired. The individual country summaries that form the bulk of this publication are based solely on the responses received from governments.

Forty-four OSCE participating States replied to ODIHR's request for information.<sup>24</sup> Of these, 27 states responded to the questionnaire through TANDIS<sup>25</sup> and nine provided separate, written communications.<sup>26</sup> Eight OSCE participating States that are also members of the ITF confirmed that ODIHR could use the information provided on the ITF website.<sup>27</sup> Two participating States that had provided information for previous editions did not provide updated information; in these instances, the information included in this publication is a summary of an earlier submission.

In this publication, the term "Holocaust memorial day" is used to describe remembrance days that are designed specifically to remember the Jewish victims of the National Socialist extermination policy. The Holocaust is also frequently referred to as the *Shoah*, the Hebrew word for the tragedy. At the same time, this overview also covers special remembrance days dedicated to commemorating the Roma and Sinti genocide, as well as other days designated to honour victim groups of National Socialism.<sup>28</sup>

## Days designated for Holocaust remembrance

Thirty-seven OSCE participating States informed ODIHR that they have established an official memorial day dedicated specifically to the Holocaust.<sup>29</sup> Four other participating States reported

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<sup>23</sup> The text of the questionnaire is in Annex 2 of this publication.

<sup>24</sup> Albania, Andorra, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom and United States.

<sup>25</sup> Andorra, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, San Marino, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom and United States.

<sup>26</sup> Albania, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Holy See, Latvia, Slovenia and Turkey.

<sup>27</sup> Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Norway and Romania.

<sup>28</sup> This corresponds with the structure of the questionnaire developed by ODIHR and the ITF, see Annex 2.

<sup>29</sup> Albania, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the former

that although they have not officially established a memorial day, they commemorate the Holocaust on the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, 27 January.<sup>30</sup> Others reported that the Holocaust is officially commemorated as a specific part of broader commemorative observances<sup>31</sup> or that other Holocaust remembrance activities are undertaken.<sup>32</sup> Three participating States reported that there are no commemorative events on the Holocaust.<sup>33</sup> One of these three participating States noted that there are plans to organize an event in 2013.<sup>34</sup> Ten participating States have not provided information.<sup>35</sup>

The International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, 27 January, is the date most frequently observed by OSCE participating States to remember victims of the Holocaust. Of the participating States that provided information to ODIHR, 26 reported having established 27 January as their official memorial day.<sup>36</sup> Ten additional participating States informed ODIHR that although 27 January has not been officially established as their memorial day, that date is marked by Holocaust commemorations.<sup>37</sup>

Two participating States, Canada and the United States, officially commemorate the Holocaust on *Yom HaShoah*. The day was established by law in Israel in 1959. Its full name in Hebrew, “Yom Hashoah Ve-Hagevurah”, means the “Holocaust Martyrs’ and Heroes’ Remembrance Day”. Commemorations begin at sunset before the day that corresponds with the 27<sup>th</sup> day of the month of Nisan of the Hebrew calendar.

*Yom HaShoah* marks the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, an event also marked by Poland. Poland has officially designated 19 April, the date of the beginning of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, as the Day of Remembrance of Holocaust Victims and for Prevention of Crimes Against Humanity, which is observed in all schools.

A number of other countries have established their Holocaust memorial day on a date of special national significance with regard to the Holocaust:

- Austria observes 5 May, the day on which the Mauthausen concentration camp was liberated, as National Day against Violence and Racism in Memoriam of the Victims of National Socialism;

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Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Monaco, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom and United States.

<sup>30</sup> Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Russian Federation and Turkey.

<sup>31</sup> Netherlands.

<sup>32</sup> Holy See.

<sup>33</sup> Andorra, Georgia, Iceland.

<sup>34</sup> Georgia.

<sup>35</sup> Armenia, Cyprus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.

<sup>36</sup> Albania, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Norway, Poland, Portugal, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, and United Kingdom.

<sup>37</sup> Austria, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Georgia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Netherlands, Turkey, Russian Federation, and United States.

- Bulgaria dedicates 10 March to the Remembrance of the Holocaust and to the Rescue of Bulgarian Jews, since this was the date on which the deportation of Bulgarian Jews was prevented;
- France observes its Holocaust remembrance day on the Sunday closest to 16 July, the day when the round up of Jews in the *Vélodrome d'Hiver* began in 1942;
- Hungary's Holocaust Memorial Day is 16 April, the day when the ghettoization and deportation of Hungarian Jews began in 1944;
- Latvia's official Commemoration Day of the Genocide against the Jews is on 4 July, the date on which the synagogue on Gogola Street in Riga was burned in 1941;
- Lithuania's National Holocaust Remembrance Day is on 23 September, the day of the liquidation of the Vilnius ghetto in 1943;
- The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia officially commemorates the Holocaust on 11 March in remembrance of the deportation of 7,200 local Jews to Treblinka;
- Romania commemorates the Holocaust on 9 October, the date of the first deportation of Jews from Romania; and
- The Slovak Republic commemorates the victims of the Holocaust on 9 September, since on that date in 1941 the Slovak Government of the time introduced 290 repressive laws against Jews.

Nineteen participating States reported that they commemorate the Holocaust on more than one day.<sup>38</sup> Most of these hold commemorations on the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, as well as on one or more other nationally designated remembrance days.

Several participating States<sup>39</sup> mark the anniversary of the pogrom of 9 November 1938. The pogrom, a wave of attacks against Jews and Jewish institutions in National Socialist Germany, is generally referred to in English using the German term *Kristallnacht* (Night of the Broken Glass).<sup>40</sup>

## Victim groups remembered and honoured

In addition to commemorating the Jewish victims of the Holocaust, six participating States reported that they have special commemoration days and events for the Roma and Sinti genocide under National Socialism.<sup>41</sup> Of these, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine observe 2 August as Roma and Sinti Genocide Remembrance Day.<sup>42</sup> The day marks the killing of 2,897 Roma women, elderly men and children in the gas chambers of Auschwitz-Birkenau, an event known

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<sup>38</sup> Albania, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Latvia, Luxembourg, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Ukraine and United States.

<sup>39</sup> Austria, Germany, the Russian Federation, Serbia. According to information received from the Holy See, the event is also marked by some Catholic churches.

<sup>40</sup> This term is today used less often in German due to the concern the term may carry a positive connotation. The term "November pogrom" avoids such connotations.

<sup>41</sup> Austria, Hungary, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine.

<sup>42</sup> See ODIHR's recent press release at <<http://www.osce.org/odihr/81364>>.

as the liquidation of the “Zigeunerlager” (“gypsy camp”). Around 23,000 Roma and Sinti were detained in the camp as of December 1942 and subsequently lost their lives.<sup>43</sup>

Austria commemorates the Roma and Sinti genocide in November and includes Roma in commemorations on 5 May. Serbia commemorates the Roma and Sinti genocide on 16 December. Several other participating States explicitly reported that Roma victims are included in their respective Holocaust commemorative events.<sup>44</sup>

A number of participating States reported to ODIHR that they have special commemoration days or events for other victim groups of National Socialism, or that other groups of victims are included explicitly in Holocaust commemoration activities. Such victim groups include, for example, resistance fighters, people with disabilities, homosexuals, victims of specific massacres, and other victims of World War II. Some states also pay honour to the “Righteous Among the Nations”, individuals who risked their lives to save Jews. Details on national practices can be found in the individual country sections.

## Government Activities

Governments that observe a Holocaust memorial day reported that they engage in many different types of commemorative activities on their designated days. The majority of governments hold commemoration ceremonies either in official premises or at meaningful memorial sites. Official commemorations typically include speeches, moments of silence and wreath laying, sometimes accompanied by prayers or candle lighting. In general, governments reported that there is high level official participation in such events, often including the head of state or head of government. Many governments also reported that they issue official statements on their Holocaust remembrance days.

In addition, governments reported a number of other official activities that could be regarded as innovative or good practices. Some of these include:

- Organizing official ceremonies at the municipal level, as well as at the national level;
- Giving survivors an active role in the event so that they can share their experiences through testimonies or readings;
- Increasing the visibility of Holocaust related sites, as well as of buildings and places related to Jewish history, by organizing and/or participating in events at these sites;
- Highlighting the international dimension of Holocaust remembrance by involving embassies abroad or their resident diplomatic corps in Holocaust memorial day activities;

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<sup>43</sup> Mirga, Andrzej, “The Legacy of the Survivors: Remembering the Nazi Persecution of Roma and Sinti – a Key to Fighting Modern-day Racism”, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR), <http://www.un.org/en/holocaustremembrance/docs/paper10.shtml>.

<sup>44</sup> Czech Republic, Denmark, Italy, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United States.

- Reaching out to and co-operating with different community groups, museums, memorials, specialized bodies, universities, civil society and youth organizations when organizing events;
- Acknowledging the critical role of community groups and civil society in the area of Holocaust education, remembrance and research by participating in events organized by non-governmental organizations, or giving government patronage to such events;
- Raising awareness of the Holocaust through film screenings and poster exhibitions in public buildings;
- Featuring different aspects of the Holocaust by selecting an annual theme for remembrance activities and by sponsoring conferences on topics related to the Holocaust;
- Publishing articles and airing television and radio announcements to inform the wider public about Holocaust Memorial Day activities;
- Creating special websites to feature activities related to the Holocaust memorial day, including at the local level;
- Lending official support or patronage to cultural events dedicated to the Holocaust, such as to the opening of exhibitions, to concerts and to book presentations; and
- Providing government funding for Holocaust remembrance foundations, centres or memorials.

## School Activities

In response to ODIHR's questionnaire, many governments provided information on Holocaust education in their school systems. It was clear from the responses that many OSCE participating States have integrated Holocaust education into their school curriculums, often spanning many age groups and a range of subjects. In some cases these activities are the direct result of government policies, while in other instances it is the schools or local school districts that have decided to undertake Holocaust education. As noted earlier, since the focus of this publication is on Holocaust memorial days, general information on Holocaust education has not been included unless there was an indication that it relates specifically to Holocaust memorial days.

Most governments reported that there are school activities related to Holocaust memorial days in their countries. At a minimum, these generally include lessons, which may comprise special lectures or workshops for students. Often students are encouraged to write essays or poems, or to create artwork to commemorate the Holocaust. In addition, governments reported many other innovative activities or good practices in schools on Holocaust memorial days, including:

- Organizing meetings with Holocaust survivors;
- Visiting Holocaust-related sites, such as museums, memorials, deportation sites or monuments;
- Hosting travelling exhibitions in schools;
- Conducting research projects at the local level, including by encouraging students to work with archival sources, photographs or testimonies;
- Introducing students to documentaries, survivor videos and films on the Holocaust as well as on the rescue of Jews;
- Organizing exhibitions of student art, poems or research with regard to the Holocaust;

- Holding essay, art or poetry competitions about the Holocaust and awarding prizes to students who win the competitions;
- Providing special teacher-training seminars, including at memorial sites;
- Circulating special instructional materials and booklets to schools;
- Hosting websites related to Holocaust remembrance and education, where students can find resources and teachers can find materials and guidance for lessons;
- Highlighting the fate of Jewish and other children during the Holocaust with special projects, especially on the fate of local children;
- Co-operating with community organizations, museums and memorials, as well as with civil society; and
- Enabling students to participate in the official national Holocaust remembrance ceremonies.

## **Albania**

### ***Holocaust Memorial Day***

Albania observes 27 January as its Holocaust memorial day. The day is called the “Day of Commemoration” or “Day of Memory”. It was established by Law Number 9280, adopted on 23 September 2004, and proclaimed by the President of the Republic in decree number 4345 of 11 October 2004. Article 2.1 of the law sets 27 January as the commemorative date.

In addition, Albanian schools observe 10 December each year as a day of tolerance, featuring various activities on Holocaust remembrance.

### ***Official Commemorative Activities***

On 27 January, governmental institutions at both the national and local levels schedule commemorative activities in memory of the victims of the Holocaust – particularly the Jewish victims – and those who sacrificed their lives in the fight for freedom against Nazism.

Official commemorative events take place at central institutions, including the Council of Ministers and the ministries, as well as at local institutions, including municipalities. Government officials at all levels participate in the commemorative events, including the President, the Prime Minister and other ministers, the Chairman of the Parliament, heads of municipalities and communes and other official employees at all levels.

### ***School Activities***

Schools and universities participate in events on 27 January through a number of activities aimed at remembrance of the Holocaust and its victims, in particular the Jewish victims. Activities organized at schools include expositions of paintings and drawings, poems and essays. A consistent theme of activities is “never again”. At the same time, schools focus on the importance of learning the lessons of the Holocaust as they apply to today’s crises in the world. Elementary, middle and high school educators seek to integrate multicultural, anti-bias and social justice themes into their lesson plans.

In addition, to the official Day of Commemoration, 10 December of each year is designated as a day devoted to “Good understanding and tolerant attitudes in schools”, following an order issued by the Minister of Education and Science in February 1998. Each 10 December, various activities on Holocaust historical events are held at schools.

### ***Additional Practices***

A wide range of organizations and institutions are involved in various types of events around the 27 January Day of Commemoration. Those participating include museums, non-profit organizations (Amnesty International, the Centre for Human Rights, the History Teachers Association), scientific institutions, the Academy of Sciences, the Institute of History, cultural associations, theatres and the electronic and print media. The types of activities organized include academic discussions, expositions of paintings and drawings, poems, essays, concerts, speeches, television shows and visits with families that protected Jews during World War II. In addition, an Albanian scholar, Professor Shaban Sinani, produced a book entitled *Jews in Albania: The Presence and Salvation*.

Information provided by the Permanent Mission of Albania to the International Organizations in Vienna, in a communication dated 10 January 2012.



## **Andorra**

The Government of Andorra has not designated a special day of commemoration for the victims of the Holocaust.

Information provided by the Ministry of Education and Youth of the Principality of Andorra, in a communication dated 7 October 2011, in response to ODIHR's online questionnaire.

## **Armenia**

ODIHR did not receive any information from Armenia.

## **Austria**

### ***Holocaust Memorial Day***

Austria observes 5 May as its “National Day against Violence and Racism in Memoriam of the Victims of National Socialism”. The date is the anniversary of the liberation of the Mauthausen concentration camp. It has been marked since 1998, following a resolution adopted unanimously by the lower house of the Austrian Parliament, the National Council, on 11 November 1997.

While 5 May is the official Holocaust memorial day, a number of other days, including 27 January and 9 November (the date of the 1938 pogrom), are also occasions for commemoration of the Holocaust in public places in Vienna and other Austrian cities, with activities largely being organized by civil society groups.

### ***Official Commemorative Activities***

Every year on 5 May, a commemoration session is held at the Austrian Parliament. Each year another group of those persecuted during the Holocaust stands in the centre of the event. While the majority of memorial days have been designated to the memory of Austrian Jews, other groups have also been specially honoured. In 2012, persons with disabilities who were murdered during the Holocaust were at the centre of the commemoration; in 2011 child victims were specially honoured; and in 2010 Soviet prisoners of war who escaped from Mauthausen and were subsequently murdered with the participation of the population of the surrounding territory were honoured. In 2011, the memorial lecture was given by Ruth Klüger, an author, who was born in Vienna and survived Auschwitz.

Government officials also participate in commemorative events on the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, 27 January. Senior officials including the Vice Chancellor and Minister for Foreign Affairs, have issued declarations on this occasion, and the President of the Parliament has also been involved in commemorative events.

On the Austrian National Holiday, 26 October, the President and the members of the Federal Government lay a wreath for the victims of National Socialism and the fallen of World War I and World War II. Those honoured thus include the Austrian soldiers in the Wehrmacht of Nazi Germany, something that has in recent years become the subject of critical debate.

On 27 April 2012, the anniversary of Austrian independence from Germany, the official commemoration of the day included laying flowers at the memorial for the victims of National Socialism in the Burgtor in Vienna and a special meeting of the Council of Ministers, attended by survivors of National Socialist persecution and representatives of the Jewish community.

### ***School Activities***

Since 1997, schools have sponsored activities around 5 May to honour victims and to raise awareness of the fate of those murdered and persecuted by the Nazis. Since 2005, the organization Letter to the Stars has organized encounters between Holocaust survivors from around the world and Austrian schoolchildren. In addition, each year on 12 March, the anniversary of the *Anschluss*, the union of Austria and Germany in 1938, the associations of the politically persecuted, in co-operation with the Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance and pupils of Viennese schools, commemorate victims of the Gestapo at three locations in Vienna. In 2012, a Vienna high school project involved a search for former pupils who were expelled in 1938 because they were Jews.

### ***Additional Practices***

Remembrance events organized have multiplied and intensified over the past two decades. They encompass a range of activities on several dates. On 27 January 2012, for example, notable events included:

- A discussion sponsored by the psycho-social centre ESRA, the Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance, and AMCHA Austria, with participation of the co-authors of the book *What Remains of the Shoah (Was bleibt von der Shoa)*;
- A dramatic reading of “*Das Mädchenorchester in Auschwitz*” (The Girls’ Orchestra of Auschwitz) by members of *Erstes Wiener Lesetheater und Zweites Stegreiftheater*, with the presence of the President of the Austrian Parliament; and
- Events supported by Austria’s main religious communities, political parties and academic and cultural organizations commemorating the Holocaust in the framework of the Action Week against Racism, Anti-Semitism and Right-Wing Extremism.

The anniversary of the *Anschluss*, 12 March, is also an occasion for Holocaust remembrance activities. Youth groups have been active in sponsoring commemorations in past years. Each year, on the anniversary of the November Pogrom of 1938, the Vienna Volkstheater gives a memorial performance to commemorate the events.

### ***Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti Genocide***

Each November, leading politicians, representatives of the Roma and Sinti community and others commemorate the fate of the Roma and Sinti during the National Socialist era at the memorial of the detention camp for Roma and Sinti, which was established in November 1940 in the village of Lackenbach, Burgenland.

### ***Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism***

As noted above, the parliament devotes special attention to a different group of victims of National Socialism each year. Other groups that have been commemorated include former resistance fighters (2007) and Roma and Sinti (2004).



A commemoration ceremony on the 66<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Mauthausen Concentration Camp, near Linz, in Oberösterreich (Upper Austria), 8 May 2011.

Photo: BMI/Fotoarchiv der KZ-Gedenkstätte Mauthausen/Matyus

Information taken from the website of the ITF, July 2012. The Permanent Mission of Austria to the OSCE confirmed, in a communication dated 6 July 2012, that ODIHR could use this information for publication purposes and provided additional information. The Permanent Mission also indicated websites where further information is available: [www.jetztzeichenetzen.at](http://www.jetztzeichenetzen.at) and [http://www.holocausttaskforce.org/images/itf\\_data/documents/03\\_member\\_states/austria/austrian\\_national\\_report\\_2009.pdf](http://www.holocausttaskforce.org/images/itf_data/documents/03_member_states/austria/austrian_national_report_2009.pdf).

For more information on the activities of Austria in the area of Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, see <http://www.holocausttaskforce.org/membercountries/member-austria.html>.

## **Azerbaijan**

### ***Holocaust Memorial Day***

Azerbaijan observes 27 January as the “Day of the Victims of the Holocaust Genocide”. The day was chosen to coincide with the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust.

Holocaust victims are also commemorated during the events held on the anniversary of the victory over fascism, celebrated each year on 9 May.

### ***Official Commemorative Activities***

The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan annually addresses his condolences to the Jewish community in the country on 27 January. Ceremonies devoted to Holocaust victims are organized annually on the day, with the participation of the Jewish community, the Embassy of Israel and relevant State organizations.

Other high-level central and local executive bodies and State organizations participate in commemoration activities. In particular, the State Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the Work with Religious Organizations participates each 27 January in meetings organized by Jewish communities to commemorate the Holocaust.

The State Committee on the Work with Religious Organizations recommends to religious communities in Azerbaijan that they provide the public with information about national genocide days, hold commemorative ceremonies and recognize the Holocaust in their religious services. The State Committee also regularly publishes articles about the Holocaust in its newspaper *Jamiyyat ve Din* (Society and Religion) and its journal *Dovlet ve Din* (State and Religion).

### ***School Activities***

State secondary schools and institutions of higher education are involved in commemoration activities.

### ***Additional Practices***

Numerous seminars are devoted to the theme of the Holocaust, as are exhibitions and documentary films. On 27 January 2012, the United Nations Department of Public Information in Azerbaijan, together with the Embassy of Israel, organized an event that included an exhibition and a film.

Each year, in connection with the Holocaust memorial day, the “Alley of Martyrs” in Baku is the site of visits. Meetings, roundtables, conferences and other gatherings are organized in various State, public and private institutions, in both Muslim and other communities. In some instances, commemoration of Holocaust victims is held concurrently with remembrance of victims of other events and tragedies occurring in Azerbaijan in the twentieth century.

Jewish communities have been particularly active in holding Holocaust commemoration events, but other religious groups including, Muslims and others also regularly participate.

Information provided by the State Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the Work with Religious Organizations, February, 2012.

## **Belarus**

### ***Holocaust Memorial Day***

There is no officially designated Holocaust memorial day in Belarus. However, since 2006, Belarus has observed 27 January as the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust.

In addition, commemorative events are held annually on 2 March, the date of the major anti-Jewish pogroms in the Minsk ghetto, and on 9 May, Victory Day.

### ***Official Commemorative Activities***

The Commissioner for Religious and Ethnic Affairs of the Republic of Belarus and other representatives of his office participate on a regular basis in publicly sponsored commemorative events dedicated to the Holocaust.

From 20 to 23 October 2008, President Alexander Lukashenko took part in the commemorative events dedicated to the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liquidation of the Minsk ghetto, which were held at the “*Yama*” (a Russian word for “pit”) memorial.

### ***School Activities***

Belarusian authorities support countrywide contests for schoolchildren and university students on the topic “Holocaust: Remembrance and Future”.

### ***Additional Practices***

The Union of the Belarusian Jewish Public Associations and Communities, which includes more than 45 public Jewish associations registered in Belarus, is one of the main sponsors of commemorative events dedicated to the Holocaust. It is also as a participant in other publicly sponsored events, which are attended by representatives of many different national associations.

### ***Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism***

Because one third of the citizens of Belarus died under Nazism, Belarusians see the crimes of Nazism as a genocide of all the inhabitants of the country; this is why there is not a separate day for commemorating only Jewish victims.

Information provided by the Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Belarus to the OSCE, in a communication dated 10 January 2012.



## Belgium

### *Holocaust Memorial Day*

Belgium observes 27 January as “Remembrance Day of the Genocide Committed by Nazi Germany”. It is generally referred to as Holocaust Remembrance Day. The day was designated by a decision of the Belgian Federal Government in 2004.

Prior to this decision, 8 May, the anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe, had been Belgium’s official Holocaust memorial day. The 8 May anniversary continues to be marked as Peace Day and includes Holocaust remembrance activities.

### *Official Commemorative Activities*

On 8 May, a number of official ceremonies are held, each of which is attended by a government delegation. One example is the annual ceremony at the Antwerp Deportation Monument that is attended by official representatives of Belgium’s national and local governments and by Jewish organizations.

High level officials including the Head of State, His Majesty King Albert II, and the Prime Minister have participated in Holocaust commemoration events.

An annual commemorative trip to Auschwitz is organized each January on the initiative of the Minister of Defence, whose portfolio includes war victims, and the National Institute for War Disabled, War Veterans and War Victims (*Instituut voor Veteranen – Nationaal Instituut voor Oorlogsinvaliden, Oud-strijders en Oorlogsslachtoffers/Institut des Vétérans – Institut National des Invalides de Guerre, Anciens Combattants et Victimes de Guerre*), with the participation of survivors, witnesses and secondary school students. A variety of activities focusing on the Holocaust and on the issue of peace and tolerance education also take place on Peace Day.

### *School Activities*

Local government “communes”, which have authority over education, contribute actively to the remembrance of the Holocaust by offering remembrance education and by organizing activities, such as school visits to the Kazerne Dossin and the Fort Breendonk National Monument. As noted above, secondary school students take part in an annual commemorative trip to Auschwitz.

### *Additional Practices*

Various events are organized by civil society organizations throughout the country, with high level federal and/or local government officials attending. Jewish organizations sometimes co-organize and always participate in these events. Several commemorative activities are organized

on *Yom HaShoah*. Special ceremonies are held at monuments or sites that have a specific connection to the Holocaust, such as museums and memorials.

Every year, one Jewish association organizes a ceremony at the National Monument to the Jewish Martyrs of Belgium in Anderlecht, attended by hundreds of children from Jewish and non-Jewish schools. This ceremony is dedicated to victims of the Holocaust, to the resistance in the Warsaw Ghetto and to the three resistance fighters that freed the prisoners who were on deportation convoy Nr. 20 from the Dossin Barracks in Mechelen (Belgium) to Auschwitz on 19 April 1943, saving 119 lives. The same association also organizes an annual pilgrimage to the Dossin Barracks in Mechelen, which is held in the first weeks of September and at which the Federal Government is represented every year.

Information provided by the Permanent Representation of Belgium to the OSCE, in a communication dated 8 November 2011, in response to ODIHR's online questionnaire.

For more information on the activities of Belgium in the area of Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, see <<http://www.holocausttaskforce.org/membercountries/member-belgium.html>>.

## **Bosnia and Herzegovina**

### ***Holocaust Memorial Day***

Bosnia and Herzegovina has not officially established a Holocaust memorial day in law, due to the absence of State-level legislation on official holidays. However, the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina does mark 27 January as the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust.

### ***Official Commemorative Activities***

The Council of Ministers marks 27 January by addressing the public through a press release as part of its programme of marking important human rights dates. In addition, the Office of the President of Bosnia and Herzegovina has in the past lent its patronage to memorial events that have taken place on premises owned by the Jewish community.

### ***School Activities***

Learning about the Holocaust is largely integrated in schools throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina.

### ***Additional Practices***

There is a permanent exhibition on the Holocaust in the Jewish Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo.

Information from the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, January 2012, provided to ODIHR by the Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the International Organizations in Vienna, in a communication dated 13 March 2012, and information from the Ministry of Civil Affairs, 2007.

## **Bulgaria**

### ***Holocaust Memorial Day***

Bulgaria observes 10 March as the date dedicated to the remembrance of the Holocaust and the rescue of the Bulgarian Jews. The date was designated by the Council of Ministers in its Decision No. 5 as the “Day of the Salvation of the Bulgarian Jews and of the Victims of the Holocaust and of the Crimes against Humanity”, which is also known as the “Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust and of the Victims of Crimes against Humanity”. The date marks the anniversary of the day in 1943 when the Deputy Speaker of the Bulgarian National Assembly, Dimar Peshev, together with Metropolitan Bishop Stephan of Sofia, Metropolitan Bishop Cyril of Plovdiv and many other prominent public figures – with the support of members of the general population – prevented the planned deportation 50,000 Bulgarian citizens of Jewish origin to the Nazi concentration camps. The day was first marked with an official commemoration in 2002.

### ***Official Commemorative Activities***

Traditionally, a commemorative meeting is held in front of a plaque dedicated to the memory of Dimar Peshev, located near the National Assembly building. Representatives of the Bulgarian Government, the National Assembly, other institutions and civil society groups pay homage to the victims of the Holocaust, as well as to individuals who rescued Bulgarian Jews.

The President of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Speaker of the National Assembly, deputies, and high-level officials from the Government and regional public institutions have participated in commemorative events on 10 March.

Government officials at different levels also take part in various cultural events dedicated to the special meaning of the Day of Remembrance on 10 March, as do municipal officials. The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sciences provides support, information, documentation and resources for the 10 March commemorations.

### ***School Activities***

Teaching about the Holocaust and crimes against humanity is imbedded in State educational requirements. The Centre for Jewish Studies and the regional structures of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science provide schools across the country with materials to support the 10 March commemoration. Events are held yearly in schools throughout the country. Such activities have included:

- Giving lessons entitled “10 March – a lesson on dignity”, which are specifically dedicated to Holocaust commemoration, and are delivered in classes on history and civilization, Bulgarian language and literature, and arts and philosophy, as well as in the class of the head teacher;

- Studying monuments and sites related to the history of the rescue of the Bulgarian Jews, carried out in the form of extracurricular activities;
- Organizing and holding meetings with persons who witnessed the historical events of 1943;
- Tracing different sources of information (such as photos, documents, newspapers, magazines and texts), regarding what happened in 1943;
- Holding competitions for drawings, poems or essays on the occasion of “10 March – a lesson on dignity”; and
- Watching documentaries and movies telling the story of the rescue of the Bulgarian Jews.

The University Centre for Jewish Studies, based at Sofia University, supports many of these educational activities.

### *Additional Practices*

National and local public institutions, as well as the Bulgarian Jewish organization Shalom (which has branches all over the country), are involved in the organization of commemorative events.

Information provided by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science of the Republic of Bulgaria, in a communication dated 26 October 2011, in response to ODIHR’s online questionnaire.

## Canada

### *Holocaust Memorial Day*

At the federal level, the Government of Canada observes Holocaust Memorial Day – *Yom HaShoah*, which is determined each year by the Jewish lunar calendar. The day commemorates the deaths of millions of Jews who perished as a result of the National Socialist policy of hatred and genocide during World War II, as well as other victims and survivors. This day is meant to ensure that the memory of the Holocaust is never forgotten, as well as to ensure the continued protection of human rights and vigilance against all forms of anti-Semitism. The commemoration day was established in 2003, when the Canadian Parliament passed the Holocaust Memorial Day Act, and was celebrated for the first time in 2004.

Canadian governments (federal, provincial/territorial) and non-governmental organizations also observe 27 January as the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust.

In addition, Canada has officially declared 17 January as Raoul Wallenberg Day, designated for reflection on the evils of racism and hate and the profound impact that an individual who speaks out can have.

At the provincial level, Ontario was the first province in Canada to pass a Holocaust Memorial Day Act, in 1998. By April 2001, all ten provinces had passed Holocaust memorial day acts. Each act pledges the province to promote and ensure a continued commitment to human rights and multiculturalism.

### *Official Commemorative Activities*

Since 2003, the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem has led a *Zachor* coalition, a group of organizations committed to Holocaust commemoration and education, in co-ordinating a National Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremony in Ottawa, on behalf of the Government of Canada. In 2011, a commemorative event was held at Ottawa's War Museum.

High level participation by ministers and members of parliament is customary at the national ceremony in Ottawa on Holocaust Memorial Day. At the federal level, Prime Minister Stephen Harper participated in the ceremony in 2012. Furthermore, Jason Kenney, the Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism issued an official statement in 2010, 2011 and 2012. At the provincial level, where community groups organize events, the heads of provincial governments are often invited to issue official statements.

### ***Additional Practices***

In addition to the official observances, events are hosted by community groups across the country to commemorate the Holocaust and its victims on Holocaust Memorial Day – *Yom HaShoah*.

In 2011, hundreds of dignitaries and community members gathered in Ottawa to remember the victims of the Holocaust and pay tribute to its survivors. The Yad Vashem Menorah, with its six branched candelabra, representing the six million Jews who perished, stood at centre stage and was lit in memory and tribute.

Information provided by the Delegation of Canada to the OSCE, in a communication dated 5 January 2012, in response to ODIHR's online questionnaire.

For more information on the activities of Canada in the area of Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research see <<http://www.holocausttaskforce.org/membercountries/member-canada.html>>.

## Croatia

### *Holocaust Memorial Day*

Croatia observes 27 January as the Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust and the Prevention of Crimes against Humanity. The date was established by a decision of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports of the Republic of Croatia, adopted on 30 October 2003. The day has been commemorated since 2004.

### *Official Commemorative Activities*

The official commemoration in 2012 was held on 27 January in the Croatian parliament. Boris Sprem, the President of the parliament, honoured the victims of the Holocaust in a speech. Posters were displayed from the international poster competition *Keeping the Memory Alive*. The posters were subsequently displayed in the Croatian State Archives, where the exhibition was open to the public.

On 25 January 2012, Croatian President Ivo Josipović opened the Shoah Academy, established by the Jewish Community of Zagreb. On 27 January, the President gave a lecture to high school students in Zadar.

### *School Activities*

In 2012, the Education and Teacher Training Agency organized its annual seminar *Teaching about the Holocaust and the Prevention of Crimes against Humanity*, for Croatian primary and secondary school teachers, from 25 to 27 January in Zagreb and at the Jasenovac Memorial Site. Senior officials attended the opening. Zeljko Jovanović, the Minister of Science, Education and Sports, Andrea Zlatar Violić, the Minister of Culture, and Zrinka Vrabec Mojzes, the Representative of the Croatian President, delivered speeches accentuating the importance of educating youth about the Holocaust and genocide as part of the process of developing a culture of democracy and respect for human rights.

The annual seminar provides an opportunity for Croatian teachers to broaden their knowledge, learn how to deal with the issue of the Holocaust in their teaching, become involved in international education projects and connect with others, nationally and internationally. In 2012, in addition to teachers from Croatian schools and national experts (Dr. Ivo Goldstein, Naida Mihal Brandl, Loranda Miletić), several international experts took part in the seminar (Dr. Chava Baruch of Yad Vashem, Emma O'Brien of the Institute of Education of the University of London, and Dr. Wolf Kaiser of the House of the Wannsee Conference). For the occasion, the protocol of the 1942 Wannsee Conference of Nazi leaders on the "final solution" was translated into Croatian and published on the Education and Teacher Training Agency website. The second day of the seminar took place at the Jasenovac Memorial Site, where the curators guided the group through the permanent exhibition and the camp area, and held workshops and lectures.



### ***Additional Practices***

In 2012, the Education Centre of the Jasenovac Memorial Site organized an exhibition of posters made by schoolchildren. The poster project was a result of co-operation between the Education and Teacher Training Agency and Yad Vashem. The participants were eight primary and secondary vocational schools, at which teachers and students participated in the project as a part of their extra-curricular activities. Some of the posters dealt with local history, and touched not only on suffering, but also on friendship and the saving of children and adults during the Holocaust. Other posters were related to the issues of Jewish property, and some presented Jasenovac as not only a place of suffering, but also a symbol of hope and reconciliation. The exhibition was displayed later in Zagreb, during the Jewish Film Festival in May 2012.

The Education Centre also opened the exhibition *Awakened Flower*, and displayed materials related to the construction of the Flower Monument in 1966, which is dedicated to the victims of genocide and the Holocaust, and to the anti-fascists who perished in Jasenovac during World War II. The exhibition displayed the original sketches by Bogdan Bogdanović, an architect and creator of the monument, photographic materials made later and works created by students during their visits to the memorial site and the Education Centre.

Information taken from the website of the ITF, July 2012. The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Croatia to the OSCE confirmed in a communication dated 2 March 2012 that ODIHR could use this information for publication purposes.

For more information on the activities of Croatia in the area of Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, see <<http://www.holocausttaskforce.org/membercountries/member-croatia.html>>.

## **Cyprus**

ODIHR did not receive any information from Cyprus.

## Czech Republic

### *Holocaust Memorial Day*

The Czech Republic observes 27 January as its Holocaust memorial day. The date is called the “Memorial Day for Holocaust Victims and for the Prevention of Crimes against Humanity”. It was officially established in 2004 through the adoption of Act 101/2004.

### *Official Commemorative Activities*

Each year, an official commemorative event takes place on 27 January in the Czech Senate.

In 2011, as in previous years, the main commemorative event took place in the Knights’ Hall of the Senate. The event was hosted by the first vice-president of the Senate and was attended by the Prime Minister, the President of the Chamber of Deputies, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The event was organized by the Senate in co-operation with the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic. It was also attended by Holocaust survivors, Romani representatives and politicians.

In addition, the President of the Republic supports other commemorative events on a yearly basis that are held by the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic and the Jewish Community in Prague.

Regional and municipal authorities also hold commemorative events in co-operation with local Jewish communities.

### *Additional Practices*

A number of other public events to commemorate the Holocaust were held on 27 January 2011, sponsored by non-governmental groups.

The Jewish Museum in Prague and the Jewish Community in Prague, in association with Professor Zuzana Růžičková, a famous pianist, gave a gala concert at the Spanish Synagogue in Prague on this occasion. Works by Felix Mendelssohn, Gustav Mahler and Benjamin Britten were performed by Miroslav Vilímc, Concertmaster of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra

The Education and Culture Centre of the Jewish Museum in Prague holds annual seminars and lectures on the Holocaust for students, accompanied by discussions with survivors. A series of lectures and seminars prepared in co-operation with the Czech office of the United Nations and the United Nations Children’s Fund took place in the United Nations House in Prague from 17 to 28 January 2011.

On 24 January 2011, the Education and Culture Centre further held a performance entitled “What Is the Sun for, If It Is Not a Day?”, in which of messages of hope in poems written by children and young authors from the Terezín Ghetto were set to music by Daniel Dobiáš.

Exhibitions of the international project of the Jewish Museum in Prague, entitled “Neighbours Who Disappeared”, have been held in a number of cities marking 27 January 2011. The project was launched in 1999 under auspices of the then President Václav Havel and was prepared in co-operation with the non-governmental organization Forgotten, as well as with the support of the Terezín Memorial, the Hidden Child and the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic. The exhibitions, which focused on students between the ages of 12 and 18, rendered tribute to child victims of the Holocaust. The project’s main aim is to make young people elaborate on stories of people living in their neighbourhoods before World War II who were persecuted and exterminated.

### *Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti Genocide*

The Museum of Romani Culture in Brno commemorates Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January each year. The museum’s Holocaust memorial activities have become a regular part of its offer to schools. In 2011, the museum held an interactive programme for pupils and students in co-operation with the Jewish Museum in Prague. The programme focused on both the Holocaust and the broader issues of genocide, racism and xenophobia, and included lectures on the history, dates and events in the history of the Holocaust and the genocide against Roma and Sinti. It included discussions, meetings with survivors, screening of a short documentary film and an exhibition of photographs.



Former President of the Czech Republic, Václav Havel, at the Terezín Commemoration. Source: <<http://www.holocausttaskforce.org/membercountries/member-czechrepublic.html>>.

Information taken from the website of the ITF, July 2012. The Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the OSCE confirmed, in a communication dated 11 July 2012, that ODIHR could use this information for publication purposes.

For more information on the activities of the Czech Republic in the area of Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, see <<http://www.holocausttaskforce.org/membercountries/member-czechrepublic.html>>.

## **Denmark**

### ***Holocaust Memorial Day***

Denmark observes 27 January as the official “Auschwitz Day of Holocaust and Genocide Remembrance”. The day commemorates the victims of the Holocaust and other genocides. The aim of Auschwitz Day is to place genocide on the national agenda and encourage discussion of the ethical and political challenges raised by these crimes. Auschwitz Day is dedicated to commemorating the victims and supporting the survivors, as well as to promoting education and public awareness about the Holocaust and other genocides in schools, high schools and universities, and the public at large. The date was established in 2002 and has been observed every year since 2003.

In addition, the primary day of commemoration of World War II is 5 May, which has been marked in different ways across the country, including with remembrance of victims of National Socialism.

### ***Official Commemorative Activities***

Various remembrance activities aimed at the public are organized by local municipalities. These events are primarily held in city halls and libraries, but other venues, such as theatres and schools, have been used for events. Usually, the events involve local partners, such as libraries, museums, schools, teachers, victims groups, research institutions and universities.

Government officials usually participate in the commemorative events in their respective regions. The Minister of Education often participates in the Copenhagen event, while mayors participate in the events in their cities. Over the years, many Danish government officials have participated in the commemorative events held on 5 May. On the 60th anniversary both the Queen and the Prime Minister were present.

All Auschwitz Day events are promoted on an official website.

### ***School Activities***

The Ministry of Education hosts a broad range of educational activities, including websites, lectures and teacher seminars about the Holocaust and other genocides. The Ministry also produces articles annually related to Auschwitz Day for the website. Schools and young people are targeted with information about relevant activities.

## *Additional Practices*

Auschwitz Day is marked by a wide variety of activities, which seek to illuminate the dynamics and processes of genocide and contribute to the prevention of future genocides. Commemorative events include speeches, lectures, debates, films, concerts, exhibitions and theatrical performances.

### *Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti Genocide*

Roma and Sinti victims of the Holocaust are commemorated together with other victim groups on Auschwitz Day.

### *Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism*

All victims of the Holocaust are commemorated on Auschwitz Day. In addition to Jewish victims and Roma and Sinti, disabled persons and other victims are also honoured.

The main 5 May event is a memorial ceremony in Mindelunden, where members of the resistance to Nazism were executed. Christmas Eve is also marked in Mindelunden in commemoration of the fallen members of the resistance movement. On the morning of 5 May, flowers are laid on the graves and monuments related to the resistance movement. In the evening there is a ceremony with speeches and music. The event in Mindelunden is organized by *Kammeraternes hjælpefond* (the Aid Foundation of the Comrades) and is promoted on the official webpage, <[www.mindelunden-4maj.dk](http://www.mindelunden-4maj.dk)>.



Students participating in an education seminar on the commemoration of the Danish Auschwitz Day, January 2009.  
Photo: Lizette Kabré © The Danish Institute for International Studies



Students participating in an education seminar on the commemoration of the Danish Auschwitz Day, January 2009. Photo: Lizette Kabré © The Danish Institute for International Studies

Information provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, in a communication dated 15 November 2011, in response to ODIHR's online questionnaire. The communication also cited two websites where lists of events are posted and further information is available: <[www.27.1.dk](http://www.27.1.dk)> and <[www.mindelunden-4maj.dk](http://www.mindelunden-4maj.dk)>.

For more information on the activities of Denmark in the area of Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, see <<http://www.holocausttaskforce.org/membercountries/member-denmark.html>>.



## **Estonia**

### ***Holocaust Memorial Day***

Estonia observes 27 January as “Holocaust Remembrance Day”. All victims of the Holocaust are officially commemorated on this day. The date was established by a decision of the Cabinet of Ministers on 6 August 2002.

### ***Official Commemorative Activities***

The official remembrance ceremony takes place at the site of the World War II Nazi concentration camp at Klooga. Traditionally, a member of the Government gives a speech at the event. In 2011, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Urmas Paet, represented the Government at the ceremony and delivered a speech. Others who addressed the event were the Israeli Ambassador, H.E. Avi Granot; the Representative of the Council of Churches, Reverend Taavi Hollman; and Chairperson of the Estonian Jewish Community, Alla Jakobson. The Chief Rabbi of Estonia, Shmuel Kot, said a prayer. Representatives of the Estonian Jewish community and members of the diplomatic corps were present at the event. Wreaths were laid, candles were lit and music played.

The event was organized by the Christian Embassy Jerusalem, together with the Estonian Jewish community, who were responsible for promoting and raising awareness about the event.

### ***School Activities***

The Ministry of Education and Research provides materials, as well as advice, to schools concerning activities that may be undertaken on Holocaust Remembrance Day.

### ***Additional Practices***

The official commemoration event on Holocaust Remembrance Day in 2011 was followed by a concert at Tallinn Synagogue.

Information provided by the Delegation of the Republic of Estonia to the ITF, in a communication dated 31 October 2011, in response to ODIHR’s online questionnaire.

For more information on the activities of Estonia in the area of Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, see <<http://www.holocausttaskforce.org/membercountries/member-estonia.html>>.

## **Finland**

### ***Holocaust Memorial Day***

Finland observes 27 January as the “Memorial Day for the Victims of the Holocaust” (*Vainojen uhrien muistopäivä*). The day honours the memory of the Jewish victims of the Holocaust, as well as other victims of persecution during World War II. The date was established by the Prime Minister’s Office on 20 February 2001.

### ***Official Commemorative Activities***

Traditionally, the commemoration consists of a ceremony and an academic seminar. There is no fixed location. Government ministers participate in the memorial ceremony, which is organized by the Finnish Society for Yad Vashem, with the financial support of the Ministry of Education. The President of Finland has also participated in the event in the past. The commemorative event is open to the public.

Since 2009, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has assisted the Finnish Society for Yad Vashem in increasing public awareness about Memorial Day events through the use of the Ministry’s communication channels, such as its website.

### ***School Activities***

The Finnish National Board of Education reminds schoolteachers of Memorial Day for Victims of the Holocaust a few weeks before 27 January, so that they can take it into account in their teaching programmes. Municipalities and schools decide for themselves how to address the subject. The Internet portal of the National Board of Education provides teachers with ideas of how to commemorate victims, such as through drawing, writing poems and observing a moment of silence at school.



Minister of Education Henna Virkkunen giving a speech on the commemoration of the Holocaust Memorial Day in Finland, 27 January 2011.



Holocaust Memorial Day 2011, main event organized by the Finnish Society of Yad Vashem and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

Information provided by the Permanent Mission of Finland to the OSCE, in a communication dated 31 October 2011, in response to ODIHR's online questionnaire.

For more information on the activities of Finland in the area of Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, see <http://www.holocausttaskforce.org/membercountries/member-finland.html>.

## France

### *Holocaust Memorial Day*

France officially remembers the victims of the Holocaust on the Sunday closest to 16 July. The memorial day is called the “National Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Racist and Anti-Semitic crimes of the So-Called ‘Government of the French State’, and in homage to the Righteous among the Nations from France”. The timing commemorates the rounding up of Jews in the *Vélodrome d’Hiver*, a former cycle track in Paris, on 16 and 17 July 1942. The Day of Remembrance was first officially introduced in decree signed by French President François Mitterrand on 3 February 1993. A law adopted on 10 July 2000 revised the decree of 1993, by adding that tribute should be paid to the French “Righteous among the Nations”.

In addition, remembrance activities also take place around 27 January, the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust.

### *Official Commemorative Activities*

The main ceremony takes place in Paris, not far from the former site of the *Vélodrome d’Hiver* and in front of a memorial dedicated in July 1994. The ceremony includes speeches and a moment of silence and/or a prayer for the dead. The Prime Minister presides over the ceremony in Paris, speaking on behalf of the French Government. The ceremony is organized by the Department for Veterans Affairs, which is attached to the Ministry of Defence.

In each administrative region, or *département*, a ceremony is organized by the Prefect, who represents the French Republic.

### *Additional Practices*

Many other ceremonies take place in cities all over France in front of commemorative plaques or at World War II memorials in connection with the July 16 Day of Remembrance.

Commemorative activities also take place around the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust. On 26 January 2011, Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, visited the *Mémorial de la Shoah* (Shoah Memorial) in Paris. UNESCO and *Mémorial de la Shoah* jointly organize events around 27 January, as well as exhibitions, video-conferences, seminars and expert meetings. The ceremony in 2012 was marked by the testimony of Shlomo Venezia, a survivor of the Sonderkommando of Birkenau, as well as by the reading of excerpts from Helene Berr’s Journal by French actress Léa Drucker.

Within the framework of the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, and in partnership with the United Nations, the *Mémorial de la Shoah* presented its new travelling exhibition entitled “The Holocaust in Europe” in several United Nations

Information Centres in different regions of the world. The exhibition, which exists in several languages, aims at presenting a global view of the genocide and the rise of Nazism up through the Nuremberg Trials. It retraces the different steps of the persecution of the Jews, from their first exclusions until the implementation of the “Final Solution”, and explains how, before their defeat, the Nazis tried to hide any trace of their crime.



Ms. Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, consulting archives of the Shoah Memorial with Jacques Fredj, Director.



Exhibition at the Shoah Memorial, 27 January 2011.

Information taken from the website of the ITF, July 2012, and from a communication from the French Delegation to the ITF, dated 30 September 2009. The Permanent Representation of France to the OSCE confirmed, in a communication dated 31 January 2012, that ODIHR could use the information on the ITF website for publication purposes.

For more information on the activities of France in the area of Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, see <http://www.holocausttaskforce.org/membercountries/member-france.html>.

## **Georgia**

Georgia has not designated a special day of commemoration for the victims of the Holocaust. In 2013 the Council for Ethnic and Religious Minorities, within the Ombudsman Office, together with the Jewish community, plans to organize an event to commemorate the Holocaust.

Information provided to ODIHR by the Permanent Mission of Georgia to the OSCE, in communications dated 22 February 2012 and 11 September 2012.

## Germany

### *Holocaust Memorial Day*

Germany officially commemorates the Holocaust on 27 January. The day is called “Memorial Day for the Victims of the National Socialist Regime”. The focus is on remembering all of the victims of Nazi crimes. The date was introduced by President Roman Herzog in 1996.

Commemorative events are also held all over the country on 9 November, the anniversary of the “Night of the Pogrom” or “Night of Broken Glass”, which was a milestone in the systematic persecution of Germany’s Jewish community. On the anniversary of this day, commemorative events are held all over the country.

### *Official Commemorative Activities*

Every year a special ceremony is held in the Reichstag building, the seat of the *Bundestag*, the German parliament. It is attended by representatives of all branches of government. The parliament traditionally invites a wide range of institutions and groups to attend the ceremony. The President, representatives of the Federal Government and the states, and the President of the Federal Constitutional Court are among those who attend the official commemorative ceremony in the *Bundestag*.

On 27 January 2012, Professor Dr. Marcel Reich-Ranicki, prominent literary critic and survivor of the Warsaw Ghetto, addressed the commemorative session in the *Bundestag*. The ceremony began with an introduction by *Bundestag* President Professor Dr. Norbert Lammert. It was broadcast live on television.

The Federal Agency for Civic Education launched a database for memorial sites and initiatives in co-ordination with the commemoration of 27 January 2012. This database also includes websites concerning Holocaust education.

### *Additional Practices*

The official commemorative event is complemented by events that take place at historical sites and at the local level, with a view to involving young people, schools and local groups.

In observance of the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, a new exhibit opened in Berlin on 25 January 2012, entitled “Staying Together: Hungarian Holocaust Survivors Report”. The exhibit focused on the experiences of Hungarian women during the Holocaust, a topic that has not been the subject of extensive historical or literary publications. The exhibition was to be shown at the *Gedenkstätte Deutscher Widerstand* (The German Resistance Memorial Centre), in co-operation with the International Auschwitz Committee, the State Museum of Auschwitz-Birkenau, and the International Youth Meeting



Centre in Oświęcim. The exhibition was also to be shown in Budapest. Speakers at the opening ceremony included Dietmar Nietan, Member of the *Bundestag*, Christoph Heubner, Vice President of the International Auschwitz Committee, and Dr. Katalin Pecs-Pollner, as well as Auschwitz survivors Irma Biedermann and Nomi Gur in Hungary.

Information taken from the website of the ITF, July 2012. The Permanent Mission of Germany to the OSCE confirmed, in a communication dated 7 March 2012, that ODIHR could use this information for publication purposes. The Government of Germany informed ODIHR that commemorative events that take place all across the country over the course of the year are announced on the following website: <<http://www.gedenkstaettenforum.de/nc/veranstaltungen/>>.

For more information on the activities of Germany in the area of Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, see <<http://www.holocausttaskforce.org/membercountries/member-germany.html>>.

## Greece

### *Holocaust Memorial Day*

Greece observes 27 January as Holocaust Memorial Day. The day is officially called the “Commemoration Day of the Greek Jewish Martyrs and Heroes of the Holocaust”. The purposes of this day are to remember the interruption of the multifaceted Jewish contribution to Greece before World War II, especially in Thessaloniki, and to remember the persecution of the Jewish community during the war and the Holocaust. A further goal is to raise awareness, especially among youth, of every form of xenophobia, religious or other intolerance, racism and, in particular, anti-Semitism. The date was established in a law adopted by the Greek Parliament in 2004. A presidential decree published on 28 February 2005 regulates the commemorative events taking place in accordance with the law in the different prefectures of the country. The date has been officially commemorated since 2005.

### *Official Commemorative Activities*

The key organizers of the commemorative events are the prefectures and municipalities (under the guidance of the Ministry of Interior), the Ministry of Education (which issues a relevant circular every year), the Athens-based Central Board of Jewish Communities, other Jewish communities and Jewish museums in the country.

The President of the Hellenic Republic, a number of ministers (for example, the ministers of interior, justice and education), deputy ministers, members of the Greek Parliament, prefects and representatives of the regional and local authorities take part in the Commemoration Day events. Other groups also participate, including religious authorities (for example, the Orthodox Church of Greece), the Association of the Greek Jewish Survivors of the Concentration Camps, students and Jewish youth clubs.

### *School Activities*

With regard to schools, travelling exhibitions are presented and prizes are awarded to the winners of a student essay competition on the Holocaust. The competition is organized by the Ministry of Education, the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece and the Embassy of Israel in Athens.

### *Additional Practices*

Commemorative events are organized in religious and cultural centres, including large concert halls, synagogues and universities, mainly in Athens and Thessaloniki. Various commemorative events include speeches and screening of films related to the Holocaust. Survivors share memories of their experiences in the concentration camps. Other events are also dedicated to people who saved Jews during World War II.

Information provided by the Permanent Mission of Greece to the OSCE, in a communication dated 1 November 2011, in response to ODIHR's online questionnaire.

For more information on the activities of Greece in the area of Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, see <<http://www.holocausttaskforce.org/membercountries/member-greece.html>>.

## Holy See

### *Holocaust Memorial Day*

The Holy See has not designated a special day of commemoration for the victims of the Holocaust.

In some countries, national Bishops' Conferences have introduced a "Day of Judaism" in order to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust and to draw attention to the Jewish roots of the Christian faith and the progress made in Jewish-Catholic dialogue. Some Catholic churches also commemorate *Kristallnacht*, on 9 November, or the liberation of Auschwitz, on 27 January.

### *Official Commemorative Activities*

The Holy See is the central government of the Catholic Church, which consists of local churches, which are independently responsible for education and remembrance, in accordance with general guidelines. This means that concrete measures for Holocaust remembrance are taken by the individual local churches.

Catholic Church leaders up to and including popes have taken part in commemoration of the Holocaust, through issuance of public statements and declarations, meetings, ceremonies and other events. Both Pope Benedict XVI and Pope John Paul II visited Auschwitz to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust. In 2009, Pope Benedict XVI visited the Yad Vashem Memorial in Jerusalem, where he honoured "the memory of the millions of Jews killed in the horrific tragedy of the Shoah".

On 22 September 2011, during the first day of his visit in Germany, Pope Benedict XVI met with representatives of the Jewish Community. During the meeting he recalled that "it was from here that the Shoah, the annihilation of our Jewish fellow citizens in Europe, was planned and organized".

Information provided by the Permanent Mission of the Holy See to the OSCE, in communications dated 25 October 2011 and 9 October 2009.

## **Hungary**

### ***Holocaust Memorial Day***

Hungary observes 16 April as “Holocaust Memorial Day”. The day commemorates the Jewish victims of the Holocaust. The date is the anniversary of the establishment of the first ghetto on Hungarian territory (in Munkács), in 1944, and the start of the deportation of Hungarian Jewry. The Memorial Day was established by a political declaration of parliament. It was first marked in 2000.

### ***Official Commemorative Activities***

The main commemorative events are held in the Hungarian parliament, with the attendance of high-level State and Government representatives. Depending on the year, the President, Prime Minister or other ministers have represented the Government. There is always governmental representation at least at the under-secretary level. Local government representatives participate in the events, as do non-governmental organizations, such as the Holocaust Memorial Centre, the House of Terror, Jewish community representatives and educational institutions including high schools and universities.

The official commemoration events include speeches, the opening of exhibitions, concerts and other events, such as book presentations or the conferring of awards.

### ***School Activities***

The Ministry of Education issued a decree in 2001 requiring all schools to hold commemoration events on the Holocaust. Specific activities vary from school to school and may include local history research activities, visits to memorial sites or districts related to Jewish history, organizing or visiting exhibitions, inviting survivors to classrooms, watching films or video testimonies, holding discussions, making films, establishing memorial plaques (including for persons who rescued Jews) or school competitions. These activities are integrated into the regular school curriculum in the schools where they are held. Some programmes are supported by the Government.

### ***Additional Practices***

Public participation in commemoration programmes is increasing, for example in the “March of the Living” in Budapest. The print and electronic media publicize events and schedule some programmes around Holocaust Memorial Day. Government representatives participate in various memorial ceremonies organized by private groups.

## *Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti Genocide*

Following a declaration by parliament in 2005, 2 August is commemorated in Hungary as Roma and Sinti Genocide Remembrance Day. The date commemorates the liquidation of the “Gypsy family camp” in Auschwitz-Birkenau over the night of 2 to 3 August 1944. The commemoration has been held regularly since 1994.

Every year there is a commemoration event at the Memorial for the Roma Genocide. There are commemoration events at the Holocaust Memorial Centre as well. The commemoration events include speeches, exhibitions and concerts. Events are organized by local governments, Holocaust commemorative organizations, non-governmental organizations and Roma organizations. Government representatives, sometimes even the President or ministers, attend the main memorial event.



Concert in the historic synagogue building of the Holocaust Memorial Centre commemorating International Holocaust Remembrance Day, 27 January 2011.  
©Holocaust Memorial Centre, Budapest



A survivor at the memorial plaque dedicated to the victims of the deportations from Hungary to Kamenets-Podolski, Ukraine, in 1941. Unveiled on August 26, 2011, on the 70th anniversary of the mass murder, this plaque is the first state memorial to the 1941 deportations and the first act of the State of Hungary to take responsibility for the events. ©Holocaust Memorial Centre, Budapest

Information provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Hungary, in a communication dated 23 November 2011, in response to ODIHR's online questionnaire.

For more information on the activities of Hungary in the area of Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, see <<http://www.holocausttaskforce.org/membercountries/member-hungary.html>>.

## **Iceland**

Iceland has not designated a special day of commemoration for the victims of the Holocaust. There are no plans to establish a Holocaust memorial day.

Information provided by the Permanent Mission of Iceland to the OSCE, in a communication dated 5 March 2012, in response to ODIHR's online questionnaire.



## Ireland

### *Holocaust Memorial Day*

Ireland observes the Sunday closest to 27 January as its “National Holocaust Memorial Day”. In 2012, the commemoration took place on Sunday, 29 January. National Holocaust Memorial Day commemorates the persecution and murder of six million Jews during the Holocaust, as well as all other victims of the Nazis and their collaborators. The first official observance took place in January 2003.

### *Official Commemorative Activities*

The National Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration takes place at the Mansion House, the official residence of the Lord Mayor of Dublin. It is organized by the Holocaust Education Trust of Ireland, in association with the Department of Justice and Equality. The aim of the event is to raise awareness of the Holocaust in the wider society and to encourage other similar events at regional, local and school levels.

The commemoration activities include a candle-lighting ceremony at which six candles are lit for the six million Jews who perished, as well as candles for the other victims. Survivors and other prominent personalities conduct readings and a minute of silence is observed. More than 100 school children from all over Ireland are invited to the ceremony each year. Three pupils from each of Ireland’s four provinces participate in reading from the Scroll of Names.

A keynote address is delivered by the President, the *Taoiseach* (Head of the Government) or another senior minister. The event is attended by members of Parliament and the upper house, heads of government departments, and other officials of Government, the civil service and the judiciary. The Lord Mayor of Dublin participates actively. In recent years, the keynote address has been given by the Minister for Justice and Equality (2008), the President of Ireland (2009), the *Taoiseach* (2010), and the Minister for Science and Technology (2011).

Others involved in the official National Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration include the Department of Justice and Equality, Dublin City Council, The Holocaust Education Trust of Ireland, the Irish Jewish Representative Council, the Dublin Maccabi Charitable Trust and the Irish Council of Christians and Jews. In addition to officials, attendees include representatives from a broad spectrum civil society groups, religious faiths, immigrant groups and others. Participation has grown from 400 in 2003 to more than 700 in 2011 (the maximum number of people allowed in the venue).

National Holocaust Memorial Day is covered annually by the media and has become firmly established in the national calendar.

### ***School Activities***

A special booklet with key messages is created each year and some 6,000 copies are circulated, both at the official event and to schools throughout Ireland. In addition, the Crocus Project, administered by Holocaust Educational Trust of Ireland, provides schools with yellow crocus bulbs to plant in autumn in memory of the 1.5 million Jewish children and thousands of other children who died in the Holocaust. In Ireland, the crocus blooms at the end of January, around the time of the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, on 27 January. More than 320 schools in Ireland participate in the Crocus Project. There are also a very small number of Jewish Holocaust survivors in Ireland, two of whom speak regularly in schools.

### ***Additional Practices***

Local events commemorating the Holocaust have been held since before an official day was established. For example, a Holocaust Memorial was unveiled in Listowel in 1995. In addition, the Jewish community in Ireland holds a memorial service for *Yom HaShoah* every year.

### ***Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism***

In addition to Jewish victims of the Holocaust, National Holocaust Memorial Day commemorates all other victims of the Nazis and their collaborators persecuted because of their nationality, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, religious beliefs or political affiliations.

Information provided by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland, in a communication dated 6 January 2012, in response to ODIHR's online questionnaire.

For more information on the activities of Ireland in the area of Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, see <<http://www.holocausttaskforce.org/membercountries/ireland.html>>.

## Italy

### *Holocaust Memorial Day*

Italy observes 27 January as a Holocaust memorial day. It is called the “Day of Remembrance”. The date was established on 20 July 2000, with the adoption of Law No. 211.

### *Official Commemorative Activities*

Traditionally, an important commemoration takes place in the *Quirinale*, the seat of the President of the Italian Republic. During this ceremony, the President welcomes Italian students who have visited concentration camps, as well as the winners of the annual competition on the topic of the Holocaust. In 2011, President Giorgio Napolitano gave particular emphasis to presenting awards to the winners of the competition. In addition, golden medals were presented to former political deportees. For the first time, Roma and Sinti youth actively took part in the ceremony. Giuseppe Galasso, a well-known Italian historian and scholar, delivered a keynote address on “The Jews and the Italian Unification”, and a short film by Roberto Olla about the Day of Remembrance was screened. The celebration was broadcast live by the public television channel *Raitre*, and it was given very wide media coverage.

Upon the suggestion of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities (UCEI), the Presidency of the Council of Ministers inaugurated the “Inter-Ministerial Co-ordination Committee for the Day of Remembrance”, chaired by a member of Parliament, Gianni Letta, undersecretary appointed to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. The Committee harmonizes the various initiatives by the main official Italian institutions on 27 January. This undertaking has resulted in greater uniformity and coherence of the initiatives. In 2011, the Committee co-ordinated the different ministerial activities and gave patronage to several deserving initiatives.

As a shared effort between the UCEI and the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, a roundtable discussion was organized on the topic of “Education, Mystification, and Historical Fakes: Anti-Jewish Prejudice in the Internet Era”. Planned by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers as well as by Sira Fatucci (member of the Italian ITF delegation) for UCEI, the roundtable was held at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers in Rome. Among the speakers were the following experts: Anna Foa, David Meghnagi (member of the Italian ITF delegation), Roberto Olla, Milena Santerini and Ernesto De Cristoforo.

The Presidency of the Council of Ministers created a television advertisement to promote the sharing of historical materials concerning racial discrimination by Italian citizens. These materials would go to the main museums and institutions concerned with the Holocaust (in Rome and Ferrara, as well as to the Foundation Jewish Contemporary Documentation Centre). Marcello Pezzetti (member of the Italian ITF delegation) dealt with the process on behalf of the Rome Shoah Memorial.

### ***School Activities***

The ninth Holocaust remembrance competition for schools was announced by the Ministry of Education, University and Research (MIUR), in co-operation with the UCEI, and under the Patronage of the President of the Republic. Many schools participated. The works were examined by a judging committee composed by members of UCEI and MIUR, among whom were also ITF delegates Anna Piperno and Sira Fatucci. Awards were presented to the winners on 26 January at MIUR, as well as on 27 January at the official ceremony at the *Quirinale*.

### ***Additional Practices***

On the Day of Remembrance an important event was held at the Main Synagogue of Rome, involving an encounter between Holocaust survivors and their families and the population of Rome. The event was organized by the Rome Shoah Memorial, in co-operation with the Jewish Community of Rome, under the patronage of the Co-ordination Committee of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers.

On the occasion of the Day of Remembrance 2011, the book *Parole chiare. Luoghi della Memoria in Italia, 1938-2010 (Clear Words: Memorials in Italy 1938-2010)*, edited by Sira Fatucci and Lia Tagliacozzo, was released. The volume of literary and photographic reportage received remarkable coverage in the Italian press, as well as being successful in terms of sales. It presents an itinerary to seven Italian symbolic sites connected to the remembrance of intolerance toward Jews and other groups discriminated against because they were regarded as “different”.

### ***Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti Genocide***

For the first time in 2011, Roma and Sinti youth actively took part in the official Remembrance Day ceremony at the *Quirinale*.

Information taken from the website of the ITF, July 2012. The Permanent Mission of Italy to the OSCE confirmed, in a communication dated 11 April 2012, that ODIHR could use this information for publication purposes. In addition, the most important Italian initiatives on Holocaust remembrance can be found at the link: [www.ucei.it/giornodellamemoria](http://www.ucei.it/giornodellamemoria).

For more information on the activities of Italy in the area of Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, see <http://www.holocausttaskforce.org/membercountries/member-italy.html>.

## **Kazakhstan**

ODIHR did not receive any information from Kazakhstan.

## **Kyrgyzstan**

ODIHR did not receive any information from Kyrgyzstan.

## Latvia

### *Holocaust Memorial Day*

Latvia observes 4 July as the “Commemoration Day of Genocide against the Jews”. The date is the anniversary of the burning of the synagogue on Gogol Street in Riga, which took place in 1941, while the victims were locked inside the synagogue. Commemoration Day is a day of remembrance for all the Jews killed by Nazi Germany during the Holocaust. The event addresses the twentieth century as one of unprecedented terror and violence. The genocide against the Jewish people is remembered as the culmination point of evil, emphasizing that the mass killings during the Holocaust caused irreversible changes in Latvia and left deep scars on the collective memory.

Commemoration events have been held on 4 July since 1990.

Victims of the Holocaust are also remembered in commemorations taking place on 8 May – the day that marks the anniversary of the end of World War II.

### *Official Commemorative Activities*

The official commemoration event takes place in Riga, at the memorial site of the synagogue that was burned to the ground during World War II.

The President gives the opening speech during the event, followed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs or another high ranking government representative. The event is attended by ambassadors and government officials.

The following groups and organizations are also involved in the event: the Latvian Council of Jewish Communities; the Jewish Religious Community of Riga; the museum “Jews in Latvia”; the Association of Latvian and Estonian Jews (based in Israel); the Jewish Survivors of Latvia (based in the United States); the Centre for Judaic Studies of the University of Latvia; the Riga Jewish School; and the Society for Research on Jewish Communities (Israel).

### *School Activities*

Teaching on the Holocaust forms part of the compulsory history curriculum in Latvia’s schools and is integrated into programmes on history, culture, civics and politics. Questions on the topic are included in school examinations. Several books on the Holocaust and the history of the Jewish community in Latvia are presently available for use by students.

### *Additional Practices*

The year 2011 marked the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the tragic events of the year 1941. The Museum of Occupation of Latvia, in co-operation with the Museum “Jews in Latvia”, organized two commemorative exhibitions within the framework of the larger project “The Tragedy of Latvia,

1941”. The first exhibition, devoted to deportations on 14 June 1941, was unveiled by the President of Latvia, Valdis Zatlers; other senior officials also participated in the ceremony. The second exhibition opened on 30 November to commemorate Holocaust crimes of 30 November and 8 December 1941 in Rumbula. The main goal of the project was to reinforce remembrance of the Holocaust in Latvian society, to reduce prejudices and to educate the younger generation. The project received financial support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Culture of Latvia, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the European Commission Representation in Latvia.

### *Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism*

Since 1995, the date 8 May has been observed as the “Day of the Defeat of Nazism and Commemoration Day of Victims of World War II”. This commemoration reflects the enormous destruction and suffering that World War II brought to Latvia. Approximately one-third of the country’s population was murdered in the Holocaust, allowed to die by deprivation in prison camps, deported to the Soviet Union and Germany or scattered in prisoner-of-war and refugee camps. The day is observed with a wreath laying ceremony at the Brothers Cemetery in Riga, with the participation of the President, Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and other representatives.

In 2009, in response to the European Parliament resolution on European conscience and totalitarianism, which called for the proclamation of 23 August as a Europe-wide Day of Remembrance for the victims of all totalitarian and authoritarian regimes, 23 August was established as a “Commemoration Day of Victims of Stalinism and Nazism in Latvia”. Official ceremonies surrounding 23 August have not been held.





The former President of the Republic of Latvia, Valdis Zatlers, laying a wreath at the memorial site.  
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Speech of the former President of Latvia Valdis Zatlers at the memorial site (in the presence of the Prime Minister of Latvia V.Dombrovskis, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Ģ.V.Kristovskis, the Minister of Defence A.Pabriks, the Minister of Tourism of Israel S.Misejnikov, and the Chairman of the Council of Jewish Communities of Latvia A.Suharenko).

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Information provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia, in a communication dated 6 January 2012.

For more information on the activities of Latvia in the area of Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, see <<http://www.holocausttaskforce.org/membercountries/member-latvia.html>>.

## Liechtenstein

### *Holocaust Memorial Day*

Liechtenstein observes 27 January as its date of commemoration for Jewish victims of National Socialism. The day is called “*Holocaust Gedenktag*” (*Holocaust Memorial Day*). It commemorates other victims of the Holocaust as well as Jewish victims. The date was officially established by the Government in 2006.

### *Official Commemorative Activities*

The Government organizes a remembrance event each year for the victims of the Holocaust. The location of the event changes every year. The content also varies and may include music, speeches, exhibition openings or other commemorative activities. At least one member of the Government officially participates every year.

The event is public. It is organized by the Ministry of Culture, with the involvement of organizations such as Yad Vashem. It is publicized through press releases, newspaper articles and programming on local radio and television stations.

### *School Activities*

Every year, schools in Liechtenstein carry out various activities on the occasion of Holocaust Memorial Day. These have included, for instance, lectures (e.g., by Hanno Loewy, Director of the Jewish Museum of Hohenems) or discussions (e.g., with Evelyn Bermann and Fritz Baum, representing the Friends of Yad Vashem in Liechtenstein). In addition, survivors of the Holocaust are invited into the schools.

### *Additional Practices*

On 22 May 2001, the Government appointed an Independent Commission of Historians mandated to investigate in depth the role of Liechtenstein in World War II. The Independent Commission consisted of historians from Liechtenstein, Israel, Austria and Switzerland. Financial resources in the amount of 3.5 million Swiss Francs were available for research. The final report was issued in 2005. Summarizing the Government assessment of the report, the Prime Minister, Otmar Hasler, stated that “Liechtenstein is conscious of its responsibility for this chapter of its history. We will not only look back, however, but also forward, and will do everything in our power to ensure that the events during World War II and, in particular, the Holocaust cannot be repeated in any way. For this purpose, it is indispensable to inform the population, and especially our young people, about what happened and to raise awareness against racism and anti-Semitism”. As a result, diverse measures were initiated to combat racism and anti-Semitism, including through Holocaust remembrance.

Information provided by the Permanent Mission of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the OSCE, in a communication dated 26 March 2012, in response to ODIHR's online questionnaire.

## **Lithuania**

### ***Holocaust Memorial Day***

Lithuania observes 23 September as “National Holocaust Remembrance Day”. The date marks the anniversary of the liquidation of Vilnius ghetto in 1943. The day commemorates all victims of the Holocaust. It was established by a special resolution of the parliament in 1994.

### ***Official Commemorative Activities***

Commemorative events are held throughout the country and by Lithuanian diplomatic missions abroad. The observances include official speeches, musical performances and laying wreaths. Official commemorative events are organized by the parliament, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Culture, the Lithuanian Jewish community, the International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania, the Vilna Gaon Jewish State Museum, the Vilnius Shalom Aleichem School and others.

Senior officials including the President, the Prime Minister, other ministers, the Speaker of the parliament and other members of parliament participate in the events. Schoolchildren also participate. The commemorative events are promoted through radio, television and other mass media.

### ***Additional Practices***

The parliament of the Republic of Lithuania declared the year 2011 as the Year of Remembrance for the Victims of the Holocaust in Lithuania. The Government drafted and approved a special programme for the Year of Remembrance, which aimed at restoring and preserving the historical and cultural heritage of Lithuanian Jews, as well as honouring Lithuanians who fought against fascism and rescued Jews.

Information provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania, in a communication dated 9 November 2011, in response to ODIHR’s online questionnaire.

For more information on the activities of Lithuania in the area of Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, see <<http://www.holocausttaskforce.org/membercountries/member-lithuania.html>>.

## **Luxembourg**

### ***Holocaust Memorial Day***

Luxembourg observes 27 January as “Holocaust Memorial Day”. The day commemorates the victims of the Holocaust and, by doing so, seeks to prevent crimes against humanity in the future. The official day was established in 2009.

In addition, Luxembourg commemorates all victims of the German occupation on 10 October each year.

### ***Official Commemorative Activities***

The official commemoration activities on 27 January take place in schools. Activities include commemorative speeches, lectures by historians, testimonies by survivors and working groups on Holocaust issues. The Minister of Education and the President of the parliament participate in events.

### ***School Activities***

As noted above, schools are the venue for Luxembourg’s official commemoration activities. All schools are invited to participate. In primary schools, there are numerous activities related to the commemorations, including disseminating information about what happened locally during the occupation.

### ***Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism***

Each year, the Sunday nearest to 10 October is the occasion for commemoration of all victims of the German occupation of Luxembourg from 1940 to 1944. The commemorative day was established in 1946. A religious service is held in the cathedral of Luxembourg City, and a ceremony is held at the national monument of solidarity. The events are organized by the Prime Minister’s office and include the participation of the Grand Duke, His Royal Highness Henri, and the President of parliament, members of parliament, the President of the High Court, the Prime Minister and other national officials, as well as the Mayor. An official proclamation is published ahead of the commemoration.

In addition to the national observance, commemorations are held in every village and town.

Information provided by the Ministry of State (Prime Minister’s Office) of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, in a communication dated 26 October 2011, in response to ODIHR’s online questionnaire.

For more information on the activities of Luxembourg in the area of Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, see <<http://www.holocausttaskforce.org/membercountries/member-luxembourg.html>>.

## **Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**

### ***Holocaust Memorial Day***

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia traditionally commemorates the Holocaust on 11 March. This date is the anniversary of the day on which 7,200 local Jews were deported to Treblinka. Observances especially honour Holocaust victims transported from Skopje (on 11 March) and from Bitola and Štip (on 10 March). The commemoration was first observed in 1953, with a small ceremony in front of the building of an old tobacco factory, the former site of a transit camp, where a monument was inaugurated.

In addition to the official commemoration on 11 March, the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of Victims of the Holocaust, 27 January, has been marked since 2010.

### ***Official Commemorative Activities***

The central commemoration event is held in the Holocaust Memorial Centre for the Jews of Macedonia. It is organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education, in co-operation with the Jewish community and non-governmental organizations. The event is attended by high level Government officials, mayors, public figures and representatives of the Jewish community.

Other annual commemorative gatherings are also held on 10 and 11 March, which likewise are attended by Government officials, politicians, diplomats, representatives of the Jewish Community and public figures. In Skopje, the Jewish Community traditionally holds an official meeting with the Mayor, as symbolic recognition of the coexistence and good relations that have traditionally existed among various communities in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The commemoration ends with a concert in honour of the victims.

In addition, the Jewish cemeteries in Bitola, Štip and Skopje are visited by local officials and the general public, as is the monument erected in the building of an old tobacco factory that was used as a transit camp during the Holocaust.

The events are promoted through the media, as well as through the educational system.

### ***School Activities***

The Holocaust is integrated into regular lessons as a part of the curriculum in high schools and universities. On 10 and 11 March, special lectures are delivered in high schools and universities in Skopje, Bitola and Štip.

### ***Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism***

Other dates of commemoration of victims of National Socialism are 9 May, the Day of Liberation, and 11 October, the date of the start of the Macedonian uprising against fascism in 1941. These dates are commemorated to honour 28,000 citizens who lost their lives in World War II. Ceremonies are held in the National Assembly, in front of the monuments to victims throughout the country, and in schools and universities, as well as at the Holocaust Memorial Centre for the Jews of Macedonia. Such ceremonies have been held since 1945. The events are organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Education, associations of veterans and representatives of the Jewish community. Government officials at the highest level participate in the ceremonies. Activities may include exhibitions, lectures and presentations of short movies about the lives and heroic deeds of the people in World War II.

Information provided by the Permanent Mission of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the OSCE, in a communication dated 17 February 2012, in response to ODIHR's online questionnaire.

## **Malta**

ODIHR did not receive any information from Malta.



## **Moldova**

ODIHR did not receive any information from Moldova.

## Monaco

### *Holocaust Memorial Day*

Monaco observes 27 January as the “Day in Memory of the Shoah and for the Prevention of Crimes against Humanity”. The date was designated by the Government in 2006. Commemorations took place for the first time in 2007.

### *Official Commemorative Activities*

Commemorative events take place in educational institutions, with a view to sensitizing students to the memory of the Holocaust and to encouraging reflection about the world as it is today. In general, activities are aimed at providing students with orientation on the issue of crimes against humanity. The National Directorate of Education, Youth and Sports has supported various activities that have taken place on 27 January.

### *Additional Practices*

In addition to the official commemoration, other activities have been organized around the memorial day in years past, including visits to former concentration camps.

Information provided by the Embassy of the Principality of Monaco, Berlin, in 2007. ODIHR has not received any information from Monaco since then.

## **Montenegro**

ODIHR did not receive any information from Montenegro.

## Netherlands

### *Holocaust Memorial Day*

The Netherlands observes 4 May as a day of solemn remembrance. The date marks the eve of the day on which the Netherlands was liberated. The day, called “*Dodenherdenking*”, commemorates all civilians and soldiers who died in the Kingdom of the Netherlands or anywhere else in the world since the outbreak of World War II, in war situations and during peacekeeping operations. This includes the victims of the Holocaust. Therefore, there is no officially designated national memorial day devoted specifically to Holocaust remembrance. The date of 4 May has been marked as a day of commemoration since 1946.

In addition, commemorative activities with official participation are held during the week of 27 January in connection with the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of Victims of the Holocaust, although 27 January has not been officially designated as a memorial day.

### *Official Commemorative Activities*

The main national ceremony on 4 May takes place at the national monument on Dam Square in Amsterdam. The Royal Family is present, as are also the Prime Minister and other members of the Netherlands Government and the chairpersons and other members of both houses of parliament. In addition, silent commemorative marches are held all over the country on the evening of 4 May. They end with two minutes of silence.

Liberation Day, 5 May, is a day of public rejoicing, celebrating the country’s liberation from the German occupation. It is attended by thousands of people. In addition, almost every town has its own celebration. At 8.00 p.m., there are two minutes of silence in the whole country, followed by the singing of the national anthem. Memorial wreaths are laid at monuments and speeches are delivered. Holocaust survivors, resistance fighters and former political prisoners are special guests.

### *School Activities*

The Government has a project whereby organizations can submit proposals on how to support teaching in this area. Funding by the Dutch government is made available through the National 4 and 5 May Committee. In past years, teacher training, junior secondary education in the 14 to 15 year age group and the international angle were policy priorities. On 27 January, various activities are organized for schoolchildren as part of Holocaust Remembrance Day.

### *Additional Practices*

On the last Sunday of January, there is a commemoration for the victims of Auschwitz at the Auschwitz Monument in Wertheim Park in Amsterdam, organized by the Netherlands Auschwitz

Committee. The commemoration is open to the public and is held on a Sunday in order to allow as many interested people as possible to be present. Wreaths are laid, Kaddish, a Jewish prayer, is recited and speeches are given. At least one Dutch Government minister is present at the event, as well as the chairpersons of both houses of parliament. This commemoration of the victims of the concentration camps has been held since 1952.

On 27 January, a “Never Again Auschwitz” lecture is given by someone who is recognized as having made a special effort to realize the aims of the Netherlands Auschwitz Committee. In 2010 and 2011, the lectures were given by Louise Arbour and Daniel Libeskind, respectively. In 2012 the lecture was delivered by the historian Prof. Christopher R. Browning.

Throughout the year, numerous educational projects related to World War II and the Holocaust are financed by the Dutch Government. There is an annual budget of 800,000 euros available for this purpose. The aim of these projects is to create an understanding of the events being commemorated and the concepts involved. The National 4 and 5 May Committee receives an additional 4.4 million euros annually for National Commemoration and Liberation Day activities.

### ***Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism***

Throughout the year, dozens of additional commemorations are held in the Netherlands for a large variety of victim groups, including, for example, victims of Ravensbrück, the raid in Putten, forced labourers, hostages and others.

Information provided by the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport of the Netherlands, in a communication dated 25 November 2011, in response to ODIHR’s online questionnaire. The communication noted that information on other activities is available at <http://www.holocaust-memorial-day.nl> and in the Netherlands submission to the ITF, which was also a source for this compilation.

For more information on the activities of the Netherlands in the area of Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, see <http://www.holocausttaskforce.org/membercountries/member-thenetherlands.html>.

## Norway

### *Holocaust Memorial Day*

Norway observes 27 January as Holocaust Memorial Day. The date was officially designated in 2000. The first commemoration took place in 2001.

### *Official Commemorative Activities*

The annual commemorative event is traditionally held in Oslo at the site of the Holocaust Memorial Monument in the port area. In 2012, the Norwegian Centre for Studies of the Holocaust and Religious Minorities (the HL-Centre) arranged a commemorative event at the quayside from which the Norwegian Jews were handed over to the SS by Norwegian police officers and brutally forced into the ships for deportation to Auschwitz and extermination. Representatives of the Norwegian government, the Jewish community, former political prisoners and the Roma people addressed the meeting.

The Norwegian Prime Minister, Jens Stoltenberg, delivered a speech on 27 January 2012 for the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust.

### *School Activities*

Holocaust Memorial Day was introduced in Norwegian schools in 2003, and all schools commemorate the Holocaust on that day. One school is awarded a special prize on Holocaust Memorial Day, the Benjamin Prize, named in honour of a 15-year-old Norwegian boy who was killed in a racially motivated murder by young neo-Nazis. In 2012, the winner of the prize was Karuss School, in the town of Kristiansand.

The HL-Centre publishes new teaching materials every year to help teachers address and commemorate the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust. Activities include lectures delivered by the Centre's pedagogical staff at an Oslo school.

Other organizations also contribute to educational activities around Holocaust Memorial Day. The Archive Foundation arranged school activities in Kristiansand on 27 January 2012. For the seventh time, Kristiansand was the scene of a comprehensive educational event on Holocaust Memorial Day, with more than 600 pupils from the local lower secondary schools taking part in the full-day event in the city centre. The opening session included an appeal by Trond Blattmann, the father of a victim of the 22 July 2011 Utøya massacre, a story told by the journalist Mona Levin about a Jewish family fleeing from persecution, and a short play called *Kuan Yin*, which deals with the existential questions of survival and being alive. After lunch, the pupils visited several educational stands. One of the stands showed the film *Napola* on the elite cult of Hitler, while in four other stands topics on the Holocaust, prejudice and human rights

were presented in various ways by organizations and institutions such as the Red Cross, the United Nations Association of Norway, the Living History Forum and *Stiftelsen Arkivet*.

The Falstad Centre also organizes educational activities to mark the observance of Holocaust Memorial Day. In 2012, the programme was held in co-operation with Sund Folk College. The day consisted of an educational programme during the day and an official event in the evening. The educational programme included a lecture on the Holocaust and the history of the former SS Camp Falstad. Then the students could choose between different workshops, lasting 2.5 hours each. Through photos, film, theatre, art, themed meetings, creative writing, journalistic activities, music or stories from the Falstad archive, the students had the opportunity to express their own reflections and opinions on the topic of the day. Their expressions were made available to guests, the local community and others through mini-exhibitions and programme posts inside the Centre and in the outdoor surroundings. The evening event included an appeal by the author Dag Skogheim and musical performances in the courtyard of the Falstad Centre, followed by presentations of the workshops. The event ended with a walk of contemplation to the Falstad forest, the former site of executions. In the forest, today a public war grave site, there was an artistic performance, a student appeal and the reading of a story from the Falstad archive.

### ***Additional Practices***

In the city of Trondheim, the Jewish Museum arranged a memorial event at the monument commemorating Cissi Klein, a 13 year old girl killed in Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1943. The observance was followed by a lecture on the topic of Norwegian SS Volunteers on the Eastern Front. The observance took place in the Jewish synagogue.

### ***Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism***

In addition to the Jewish community, representatives of other groups, including Roma, homosexuals, disabled people, former prisoners of war and former political prisoners, are involved in the official commemoration ceremony in Oslo.



Students studying prisoners' cards at the Falstad Centre.



The Cissi Klein monument in Trondheim, which commemorates a 13-year old girl killed in Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1943. Photo: Falstad Centre's archive.

Information taken from the website of the ITF, July 2012. The Permanent Delegation of Norway to the OSCE confirmed, in a communication dated 27 January 2012, that ODIHR could use this information for publication purposes. Additional information provided by the Norwegian Delegation to the Task Force for International Co-operation on Holocaust Education Remembrance and Research in 2009. Further information on the activities at the Falstad Centre and Sund Folk College is available at <[www.holocaustdagen.blogspot.com](http://www.holocaustdagen.blogspot.com)>.

For more information on the activities of Norway in the area of Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, see <<http://www.holocausttaskforce.org/membercountries/member-norway.html>>.



## **Poland**

### ***Holocaust Memorial Day***

Poland observes 27 January as International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust. The date is observed nationally as an official day of remembrance. The commemoration honours all those who perished in the Holocaust, in particular Jews and Roma and Sinti. The Day of Commemoration was established in 2005.

In addition, 19 April, the anniversary of the start of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, is observed in all Polish schools as the “Day of Remembrance of Holocaust Victims and for Prevention of Crimes against Humanity”.

### ***Official Commemorative Activities***

The official commemoration takes place at the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp. The ceremony includes official speeches by Polish and international leaders, lighting torches at Auschwitz II (Birkenau) and prayers. The event is organized by the Chancellery of the Prime Minister, Chancellery of the President, Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Prime Minister and/or President participate, as do ministers and the *voyvode* (regional representatives of government administration).

In addition to the main official ceremony, local commemorative events are also held in Warsaw, Rzeszów and Lublin.

The commemorative events are promoted through announcements in the press and in electronic media, including television, radio and the Internet.

### ***School Activities***

All Polish schools observe 19 April as the Day of Remembrance of Holocaust Victims and for Prevention of Crimes against Humanity. It was officially established by the Minister of National Education in 2004.

### ***Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti Genocide***

Roma and Sinti Genocide Remembrance Day is observed in Poland on 2 August. The main commemoration event is held at the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp. The observance is organized by the Chancellery of the Prime Minister and/or the Chancellery of the President. The ceremony, which includes speeches by Polish and international leaders, laying wreaths and prayers, is attended by cabinet ministers and the *voyvode*. The commemoration is publicized through the media.

Information provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, in a communication dated 27 February 2012, in response to ODIHR's online questionnaire.

For more information on the activities of Poland in the area of Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, see <<http://www.holocausttaskforce.org/membercountries/member-poland.html>>.

## Portugal

### *Holocaust Memorial Day*

Portugal observes 27 January as “Holocaust Remembrance Day”. The date was chosen to coincide with the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust. The day is the occasion to commemorate victims of the Holocaust, to promote education about the Holocaust in schools, universities, communities and other institutions, and to reaffirm aspirations toward justice and mutual understanding, in order to avoid future acts of genocide. Although Holocaust Remembrance Day was formally established through a resolution adopted by the national parliament on 27 January 2010, the date has been observed in Portugal since 2006.

### *Official Commemorative Activities*

Commemorative events are normally held in the national parliament. The ceremony in the parliament includes a moment of silence and the delivery of speeches by the President of the Parliament, who is the second highest ranking official in Portugal, and by parliamentarians representing all political parties. Other participants include the Minister of Justice, the Mayor and other senior government officials. In 2011, a delegation from the ITF participated in the ceremonies in the context of their visit to Portugal.

The official observance is organized by parliamentarians, public administration officials, non-governmental organizations (including *Memoshoa* – the Association for the Remembrance and Education of the Holocaust and the Aristides de Sousa Mendes Foundation) and teachers.

The Government promotes wide participation at the commemorative event. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs publishes a press release on its official webpage.

### *School Activities*

Schools also participate in commemorative activities around 27 January. The Ministry of Education organizes educational activities throughout the country. Materials for teaching the Holocaust in schools are distributed. Jewish organizations sometimes co-organize and participate in school events. Students are encouraged to participate in special projects on the topic.

### *Additional Practices*

In 2011, a delegation from the ITF visited Portugal. Their schedule included meetings at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Education, visits to schools and conferences, meetings with representatives from civil society and other outreach activities.

Information provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Portugal, in a communication dated 13 October 2011, in response to ODIHR's online questionnaire.

## **Romania**

### ***Holocaust Memorial Day***

Romania observes 9 October as a national “Holocaust Remembrance Day”. This date marks the anniversary of the date when the first Jews were deported to Transnistria from northern Romania by the Romanian authorities. The day has been observed since 2004.

In addition, 27 January is marked as the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust.

### ***Official Commemorative Activities***

Holocaust Remembrance Day is marked every year with an extraordinary session of Parliament. The observance includes addresses by the President and cabinet ministers, roundtables, conferences, exhibitions, encounters with survivors, documentaries on radio and television, and articles published by the media.

### ***School Activities***

Holocaust Remembrance Day is observed in schools through lessons, national contests and other remembrance activities.

### ***Additional Practices***

Commemorative events take place in universities, synagogues, Jewish cemeteries and in the National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania. Ministers, state secretaries and local officials take part in the special events.

Representatives of the national Government and local authorities attend commemorative events around the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, 27 January. These events are organized by the Elie Wiesel National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania, the Federation of Romanian Jewish Communities in Bucharest and local Jewish communities throughout the country. Official participants lay wreaths at mass graves, in Jewish cemeteries or synagogues, or at monuments in memory of the Jews deported to death camps.

In January 2012, events organized by the Elie Wiesel National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania included a conference at the French Cultural Institute, entitled “*L’Holocauste en Roumanie: entre oubli et negation*” (“The Holocaust in Romania: between oblivion and negation”); a programme at the *Casa Corpului Didactic Bacau*, entitled “Bacau: a page of recent history – interrupted destinies” and a meeting with survivors of the pogroms in

Iasi and Bucharest; and an exhibition at the Centre for Culture “George Apostu on The Holocaust – destinies interrupted”.

Information taken from the website of the ITF, July 2012. The Permanent Mission of Romania to the OSCE confirmed, in a communication dated 10 February 2012, that ODIHR could use this information for publication purposes.

For more information on the activities of Romania in the area of Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, see <<http://www.holocausttaskforce.org/membercountries/member-romania.html>>.

## **Russian Federation**

### ***Holocaust Memorial Day***

The Russian Federation has no official Holocaust memorial day. However, 27 January is observed as the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust in Moscow and more than 30 other Russian towns and cities. Such observances have taken place since 2006. In addition, the November Pogrom of 1938 is occasionally marked with commemorative events.

### ***Official Commemorative Activities***

On 27 January, speeches are delivered by representatives of the Government of the Russian Federation and the Moscow Mayor's Office, leaders of European organizations in Russia and ambassadors from a number of countries. Awards are given to those who have been honoured as "Righteous among the Nations". In past years, senior government officials have participated in the commemorations. Attendees have included teachers and students from various educational institutions, World War II veterans, former prisoners of the Nazi ghettos and concentration camps, public and religious activists and prominent cultural figures.

In Moscow, these events are held in the Central House of Literati and are widely publicized in the mass media.

### ***School Activities***

Competitions dedicated to the remembrance of the Holocaust are held and awards are given on 27 January to pupils, students and teachers.

### ***Additional Practices***

Memorial evenings to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust are organized in several Russian cities. They take place in communal and cultural centres and in educational institutions. Every year since 1995, the Russian Holocaust Center, in co-operation with the Moscow City Government, has celebrated the "Day of Liberation of the Nazi Concentration Camp in Auschwitz".

In addition to 27 January, memorial evenings are held from time to time dedicated to the tragic events of the "Night of the Broken Glass" in Germany on 9 November 1938. The President of the Russian Federation, Dmitry Medvedev, spoke in Kaliningrad at such a commemoration in 2008.

Information provided by the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the OSCE, in a communication dated 25 November 2009. ODIHR has not received any information from the Russian Federation since then.

## **San Marino**

### ***Holocaust Memorial Day***

San Marino observes 27 January as the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust. The day commemorates all victims of the Holocaust and others persecuted by National Socialism and victims of other genocides. The purpose of the commemoration is to stimulate deep reflection on the terrible tragedy of the Holocaust and to educate younger generations on tolerance and respect for religious, cultural and ethnic diversity. The commemoration day was established by Law Number 20 of 27 January 2006.

### ***Official Commemorative Activities***

Every year on 27 January, a number of initiatives are organized to honour the memory of the victims of the Holocaust. The events, held in public places such as schools and cinemas, are focused, in particular, on respect for religious, cultural and ethnic diversity. The events differ from year to year. In 2008, a memorial stone was unveiled in the ancient Jewish ghetto in San Marino's historic centre.

The official events are organized by ministries, the San Marino National Commission for UNESCO, schools and non-governmental organizations. Officials of the ministries involved participate in the events, as do teachers. Participation by institutions, non-governmental organizations and the general public increased in 2012.

The events are promoted through press releases, special programmes broadcast by State television and through specific informative materials.

In addition to events at the national level, some township councils (administrative municipalities) have in recent years celebrated Remembrance Day with events characterized by reflection and aimed at strengthening the values of equality and liberty, and in hope of leaving a legacy to new generations.

### ***School Activities***

The Ministry of Education, in co-operation with San Marino National Commission for UNESCO, promotes several initiatives addressed at students and teachers in connection with the 27 January commemorations. In 2009, the San Marino National Commission for UNESCO organized, in collaboration with other bodies of the neighbouring Italian region Emilia Romagna and under the scientific direction of the *Mémorial de la Shoah* in Paris, a seminar for history teachers on the history of racism, intended to encourage them to reflect on how racism and anti-Semitism contributed to laying the cultural foundations for the twentieth century's genocides. This seminar was followed by another meeting to examine in greater detail the historical and cultural causes for the spread of racist thought in the twentieth century's genocides. In the



following years, other conferences and exhibitions were organized to celebrate Remembrance Day, always in collaboration with the *Mémorial de la Shoah*.

In 2012, theatre performances, video and film projections, and debates on specific Holocaust related topics took place. More generally, the San Marino National Commission for UNESCO promotes initiatives to preserve the memory and knowledge of the Holocaust, including annual teacher-training seminars and lessons for students with the participation of historians and witnesses.

Information provided by the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of San Marino, in communications dated 5 March 2012 and 18 September 2012.

## **Serbia**

### ***Holocaust Memorial Day***

Serbia observes 27 January as a Memorial Day dedicated to Holocaust victims. The day was chosen to coincide with the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust. The Government of the Republic of Serbia proclaimed the Memorial Day, which has been observed since 2006.

In addition, Serbia marks “National Holocaust, Genocide and Victims of Fascism Remembrance Day” on 22 April, which was established under the Law on Founding the Genocide Victims Museum, adopted in 1992 by the national parliament.

### ***Official Commemorative Activities***

In co-operation with the Federation of the Jewish Communities of Serbia and numerous educational, artistic and scientific institutions, the Government of the Republic of Serbia organizes numerous commemorative ceremonies, as well as educational, scientific and artistic public events every year to commemorate those killed in the Holocaust. Commemorations are held, in particular, at the locations of the World War II killing sites or concentration camps.

Observances traditionally include a wreath laying ceremony, an official address and artistic, scientific or educational programmes. On both 27 January and 22 April, the most senior government officials, including the President, Prime Minister and other ministers attend the central State commemorative ceremony or other programmes.

Programmes are promoted through media coverage, in schools and at events throughout the year.

### ***School Activities***

Every year, since 2008, the Ministry of Education and Science has sent schools throughout Serbia a letter instructing them to devote the first class on 27 January, 22 April and 9 November (the anniversary of *Kristallnacht*) to the Holocaust, anti-fascism and anti-Semitism. All Serbian schools (primary and secondary alike) hold one class devoted to the *Kristallnacht*. Every teacher talks to her or his class about this historical event. Some teachers and students also prepare exhibitions dedicated to this event.

There are special units in the school curriculum devoted to the Holocaust and to Roma genocide issues.

### ***Additional Practices***

All events, programmes and ceremonies receive significant media coverage, reflecting continued, major interest among the electronic and print media in Holocaust education, remembrance and research. Through the contribution of numerous articles, stories and special television and radio programmes, media provide an opportunity to the majority of people in the Republic of Serbia to recall the horrors of the Holocaust, as well as the suffering of Jews during World War II.

### ***Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti Genocide***

In 2007, the date of 16 December was designated as a day of commemoration of the Roma and Sinti genocide. Ceremonies are held at the sites of World War II killings or concentration camps. The ceremony includes wreath laying, speeches and artistic or educational programmes. The events are organized by the Government, in co-operation with the National Council of the Roma National Minority and numerous educational, artistic and scientific institutions. Government representatives at the ministerial level participate in the commemoration. The media and other institutions publicize and promote 16 December as a day to remember Roma victims of the Holocaust.

Information provided by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy of the Republic of Serbia, in a communication dated 10 January 2012, in response to ODIHR's online questionnaire.

For more information on the activities of Serbia in the area of Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, see <<http://www.holocausttaskforce.org/membercountries/serbia.html>>.

## **Slovakia**

### ***Holocaust Memorial Day***

The Slovak Republic observes 9 September as the “Memorial Day for Victims of the Holocaust and of Racial Violence”. The date 9 September was chosen because it is the anniversary of the day in 1941 when the Slovak Government introduced 290 repressive laws (the “Jewish Codex”) that initiated the process of Jewish deportations and resulted in the killing of over 70,000 Slovak Jews. The Memorial Day honours victims of the Holocaust and of racial violence. The day was established as a commemoration day on 31 October 2000 by the Slovak parliament in the Law on National Holidays, Public and Religious Holidays and Commemoration Days.

### ***Official Commemorative Activities***

The main commemorative event is held in Bratislava at the Central Memorial to the Holocaust of Jews in the Slovak Republic. This official ceremony is held under the auspices of the President of the Slovak Republic. The highest level governmental and parliamentary officials participate in the ceremony. Official statements by members of the Government are issued and published on this occasion.

Occasionally, Slovak embassies also organize activities such as exhibitions or contests to commemorate the Holocaust.

### ***School Activities***

At the initiative of the minister of education, the Memorial Day has been commemorated on 9 September in primary and secondary schools in the Slovak Republic, through meetings with survivors, visits to memorial sites, screening of films, and discussions on the Holocaust, anti-Semitism, racism and related themes.

### ***Additional Practices***

Many other commemorative events are held all across the country on 9 September, such as exhibitions, conferences, seminars and lectures on the Holocaust, racial violence and anti-Semitism. These activities include, for example, a ceremonial “Reading of the names of those who perished”, which is organized by the Slovak National Museum and Museum of Jewish Culture to honour the memory of the victims of the Holocaust. Another commemorative event was a public debate titled “Should high school students visit an authentic place connected with the Holocaust?”, organized by the Holocaust Documentation Centre and the Jewish Religious Community Bratislava on 8 September 2010.

Other organizations involved in sponsoring events include the Museum of the Slovak National Uprising, the Nation’s Memory Institute, the Central Union of Jewish Religious Communities in

the Slovak Republic, and other non-governmental organizations, as well as schools and teachers, municipalities and local Jewish communities.

Commemorative events are announced in advance and there is usually media coverage of the events.

### ***Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti Genocide***

The Roma and Sinti Genocide Remembrance Day is observed each year on 2 August, although the commemoration day has not been officially established. Events are held all across the country, mainly at places connected with the persecution of Roma during World War II. Events are organized by the Slovak National Museum, by many non-governmental organizations (especially the Milan Šimečka Foundation and the civic association *In Minorita*), by schools and teachers, municipalities, Roma organizations and local communities. High level governmental officials participate, for example the Deputy Prime Minister. Statements by members of the Government are issued. The commemorative events are announced in advance and there is usually good media coverage of the events.

The first initiatives connected with remembrance of the Roma tragedy during World War II began in the Slovak Republic in the early 1990s. The theme was taken up, in particular, by the Milan Šimečka Foundation, which recorded testimony of Slovak Roma in addition to Jewish testimony under its project “Fates of Those who Survived”. The theme was further covered in the 2006 publication “Roma and the Second World War”. In 2005, the Slovak National Museum and the civic association *In Minorita* implemented a project called “*Ma bisteren!*” (Don’t Forget!). This project consisted of an educational programme for youth, a touring exhibition on the Roma genocide, and the unveiling of memorial plaques at sites that are connected with the persecution of Roma.

A Slovak official delegation is also present at the ceremony commemorating the Roma and Sinti genocide in Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Information provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic, in a communication dated 28 October 2011, in response to ODIHR’s online questionnaire.

For more information on the activities of Slovakia in the area of Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, see <<http://www.holocausttaskforce.org/membercountries/member-slovakia.html>>.

## **Slovenia**

### ***Holocaust Memorial Day***

Slovenia observes 27 January as its “National Holocaust Remembrance Day”. The day was chosen to coincide with the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust. The day aims to pay reverence to the victims of the Holocaust, including 2,330 Slovenians deported to Auschwitz, as well as to victims of other acts of genocide. The date was established in February 2008 by a decision of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia.

### ***Official Commemorative Activities***

The Government does not directly organize events to commemorate this day. However, the President of the Republic of Slovenia, Dr. Danilo Türk, serves as the honorary patron of a yearly event organized by the Maribor Synagogue to pay reverence to the victims of the Holocaust. The event includes a meeting, entitled “One Name Each Year”, and the symbolic laying of paving stones of remembrance, as well as a cultural programme by the students of the First Grammar School of Maribor. In 2012, the President awarded Erika Fürst, a Holocaust survivor, with the Gold Order for Services for her contribution to Slovenian and European awareness of the Holocaust.

In addition, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has opened a website on the Holocaust, where most commemorative events are publicized. The Ministry also publishes a statement a day before National Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Furthermore, the President of the National Assembly marked the occasion of Holocaust memorial day by issuing a statement.

### ***School Activities***

Schools are encouraged to commemorate National Holocaust Remembrance Day. School authorities send an e-mail to history teachers giving them suggestions on appropriate ways to commemorate the Holocaust and requesting them to provide feedback on their events. School authorities have also opened a website from which teachers can get additional information on the Holocaust.

In 2012, special school activities included an exhibition at Drago Kobal Elementary School, Maribor, entitled “On the Trail of Jewish Heritage in Slovenia”, and another at Pesnica Elementary School, entitled “Holocaust 1933-1945: Courage to Remember”.

### ***Additional Practices***

Civil society organizations sponsor a variety of events around National Holocaust Remembrance Day. In 2012, these included:

- A lecture in the Knights' Hall of the National Museum of Contemporary History on "Jewish soldiers on the Isonzo Front", as well as a poster exhibit in the same museum on the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust;
- A lecture at the Pomurje Museum in Murska Sobota, entitled "The Sky Glow over the Crematorium: The Prekmurje Jews during the Holocaust", as well as an exhibit at the Museum, entitled "Past and Forgotten";
- An exhibition at Lendava Synagogue, entitled "Jews in Medžimurje";
- A presentation at the Historical Archives in Celje of a book by Dr. Andrej Pančur, *The Jewish Community in Slovenia on the Eve of the Holocaust*;
- A poster exhibit at the Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts on International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust; and
- A special event at the Festival Hall in Ljubljana on the "67<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of the Liberation of the First Nazi Concentration Camp in Auschwitz", organized by the Auschwitz Camp Committee and the Alliance of Associations of Fighters for the Values of the National Liberation Struggle.

Information provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, in communications dated 1 February 2012 and 10 September 2012.

For more information on the activities of Slovenia in the area of Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, see <<http://www.holocausttaskforce.org/membercountries/slovenia.html>>.

## Spain

### *Holocaust Memorial Day*

Spain observes 27 January as *Día Oficial de la Memoria del Holocausto y la Prevención de los Crímenes contra la Humanidad* (“Official Day for Holocaust Remembrance and Prevention of Crimes against Humanity”). The day honours Jewish victims, Roma and Sinti victims and other Spanish people deported to concentration camps. The date was officially established in 2004 by agreement of the Council of Ministers (ORDEN AEC/4150/2004).

### *Official Commemorative Activities*

The principal commemorative event is held on 27 January in a prestigious hall or auditorium. The event is organized by the *Casa Sefarad-Israel* on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ambassador at Large for Relations with the Jewish Community and Organizations. The Ambassador at Large co-operates with the Federation of Jewish Communities of Spain, with Roma organizations and with representatives of associations of deported Spanish people. The Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Culture are also involved. Holocaust survivors from Spain and abroad are invited and honoured officially by the Government. Government participation is at the ministerial level or higher, while from 800 to 1,000 invitees also attend the event.

From 2006 to 2010, the commemoration was held in the *Paraninfo de la Universidad Complutense de Madrid*, which is a prestigious and historic hall in the old town of Madrid’s city centre. In 2011, the event took place for the first time in the *Auditorio Nacional*, which is the most distinguished concert hall in Madrid, because the event included a concert. The commemoration was entitled “The Violins of Memory, the Violins of Hope” and featured soloist Shlomo Mintz and violins rescued from the Holocaust and restored by Luthier Amnon Weinstein.

While the main theme of the commemoration varies from year to year, the ceremonies have traditionally included the following elements:

- Speeches by representatives of the Jewish community, the Roma and Sinti community and deportees;
- Speeches by senior officials, possibly including the King, the President of the Government, ministers, the Vice-President of the Senate, the Vice-President of the Congress, and the President of the European Parliament;
- Musical performances;
- The lighting of six candles by Holocaust survivors or their relatives, in memory of murdered Jews, children, Spanish victims, Roma and other groups, and recognizing the Righteous Among the Nations and survivors who found a new life for themselves in Israel and the diaspora; and
- A moment of silence.



The event is promoted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and by *Casa Sefarad-Israel*, through a network of teachers and civil society representatives. Media are always present, and the event usually is mentioned in the main evening news broadcast.

### ***School Activities***

Holocaust remembrance events take place in many schools around January 27. Holocaust survivors are sometimes invited to give testimonies to pupils or students. These events are usually supported by the Government, through the Inter-ministerial Commission for Holocaust, Remembrance and Research, and organized by *Casa Sefarad-Israel* (which works on behalf of the government), with its network of almost 600 teachers.

### ***Additional Practices***

The official day for remembrance is always preceded by a seminar on the same theme as the year's commemorative event.



His Majesty the King Juan Carlos I, Her Majesty the Queen Sofia and the President of the Government, José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, at the Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremony, January 2006.

Information provided by Casa Sefarad-Israel, Spain, in a communication dated 4 January 2012, in response to ODIHR's online questionnaire.

For more information on the activities of Spain in the area of Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, see <<http://www.holocausttaskforce.org/membercountries/member-spain.html>>.

## Sweden

### *Holocaust Memorial Day*

Sweden observes 27 January as “Holocaust Memorial Day”. It commemorates all victims of the Holocaust. The day has been marked in Sweden since 1999.

### *Official Commemorative Activities*

The Living History Forum, a Swedish public authority, arranges a ceremony in the centre of Stockholm each year on 27 January. The ceremony is usually inaugurated by a cabinet minister.

In addition, the Living History Forum assists in arranging an annual ceremony in the Parliament, initiated by a group of parliamentarians, without regard to political groups.

A theme is chosen for each year’s commemoration, which is sometimes clearly commemorative of Holocaust victims, while sometimes the day is more generally devoted to reflection on the significance of democratic values, the equal worth of every human being or other appropriate themes. In 2012, the theme was Raoul Wallenberg.

Holocaust Memorial Day is promoted by a website and through a network of school leaders, civil servants, municipalities and other organizations and individuals.

### *School Activities*

The Living History Forum, under the Ministry of Culture, is commissioned to encourage schools to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day. Many schools engage in commemorative activities of different kinds, but they do not get specific governmental support for these events.

The Living History Forum website provides educational material on the Holocaust suitable for teachers of students between the ages 14 to 18, and also makes available teacher-training courses.

### *Additional Practices*

In addition to the official ceremonies, commemorative events are held in many places all over Sweden, arranged by schools, municipalities and other organizers. There appears to be an increasing national awareness regarding 27 January.

Information provided by the Living History Forum, Sweden, in a communication dated 18 October 2011, in response to ODIHR’s online questionnaire.

For more information on the activities of Sweden in the area of Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, see <<http://www.holocausttaskforce.org/membercountries/member-sweden.html>>.

## **Switzerland**

### ***Holocaust Memorial Day***

Switzerland observes 27 January as its national “Holocaust Memorial Day”. The day was chosen to coincide with the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust. In Switzerland, the day commemorates victims of the Holocaust, other victims of National Socialism and victims of other genocides. The date is also devoted to the promotion of human rights and tolerance. The main objective of the commemoration day is to sensitize the population (in a spirit of prevention), and in particular school pupils, on atrocities sustained by victims, primarily of the Holocaust. The commemoration day was established in June 2003 by the 26 cantonal ministers responsible for public instruction.

### ***Official Commemorative Activities***

Every year, the President of the Swiss Confederation delivers a written or oral statement to the public on Holocaust Memorial Day. In 2011, a former president of the Swiss Confederation made a speech in the parliament building in commemoration of the victims of the Holocaust. Government officials at the national, cantonal or municipal level participate in various commemorative events.

### ***School Activities***

Switzerland does not have a Ministry of Education. Public instruction is the responsibility of the 26 cantonal governments. Prior to 27 January, these cantonal ministers inform schools and educators about the importance of the commemoration and the commemorative activities. Teaching tools on the Holocaust are made available to schools, including video materials, exhibitions, conferences, excursions, teacher-training materials and lists of websites with teaching materials.

### ***Additional Practices***

Events are organized on Holocaust Memorial Day at national, cantonal and municipal levels, focusing on remembrance, understanding, sensitization, awareness raising and prevention. Organizers include the Swiss Federation of Jewish Communities, the Platform of Liberal Jews of Switzerland, the National Coalition Building Institute, the Swiss Psychosocial Counselling Centre for Holocaust Survivors, the Fund for Projects against Racism and for Human Rights, the International League against Racism and anti-Semitism, the Archive for Contemporary History, *Coordination Intercommunautaire Contre l’Antisémitisme et la Diffamation*, the Foundation against Racism and Anti-Semitism, and other organizations.

Information provided by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, in a communication dated 13 December 2011, in response to ODIHR's online questionnaire. The Swiss response also cited the ITF website as a source of further information on activities in Switzerland. In addition, the response indicated that a further overview of the activities carried out in schools in regard to Holocaust Memorial Day can be found on the following website: <http://unterricht.educa.ch/de/tag-gedenkens-holocaust>.

For more information on the activities of Switzerland in the area of Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, see <http://www.holocausttaskforce.org/membercountries/member-switzerland.html>.

## **Tajikistan**

ODIHR did not receive any information from Tajikistan.

## Turkey

### *Holocaust Memorial Day*

Turkey has observed 27 January, the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, for the last two years.

### *Official Commemorative Activities*

The official ceremony is organized by the Turkish Jewish Community, in conjunction with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at the Neve Shalom Synagogue in Istanbul.

In 2012, the ceremony was held on 26 January. Turkey's Chief Rabbi, Izak Haleva, and Istanbul Governor Hüseyin Avni Mutlu lit candles in memory of Holocaust victims. Ambassador Ertan Tezgör, head of the Turkish delegation to the ITF, delivered a speech on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A speech prepared by the film director Claude Lanzmann was read. Messages were also received from the Speaker of the Parliament Cemil Çiçek, the Deputy Prime Minister, Bülent Arınç, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Prof. Dr. Ahmet Davutoğlu, the President of Religious Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, Prof. Dr. Mehmet Görmez, and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon.

The ceremony was attended by local and national politicians from various parties, representatives of various religious communities in Istanbul, and academics and journalists, in addition to members of the Turkish Jewish Community.

The commemoration ceremony is widely reported in the media.

### *Additional Practices*

Exhibitions are organized on the occasion of the commemoration event. In 2012, an Anne Frank exhibition was put together especially for the ceremony at the Neve Shalom Synagogue. The exhibition was then displayed at the Jewish Museum of the Quincentennial Foundation in Istanbul. The Museum itself, which is well visited, especially by school groups, has a permanent exhibition on Holocaust.

A documentary on the Shoah was also broadcast on the public television network *TRT* on the day of the commemoration event in 2012.

Information provided by the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the OSCE, in a communication dated 10 February 2012. The communication indicated that more information and the texts of statements can be found on the website of the Turkish Jewish Community at <http://www.turkyahudileri.com/content/view/1701/279/lang,en>.

## **Turkmenistan**

ODIHR did not receive any information from Turkmenistan.

## Ukraine

### *Holocaust Memorial Day*

Ukraine observes 27 January as “Holocaust Memorial Day”. The date was chosen to coincide with the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, designated by the United Nations General Assembly. The commemoration in Ukraine honours all victims of the Holocaust. The date was officially established by the Verkhovna Rada, the Ukrainian parliament, in its Resolution Number 3560-VI “On the 70th Anniversary of the Tragedy of Babyn Yar”, adopted on 5 July 2011. The Babyn Yar tragedy is the most important event related to the Holocaust regularly commemorated in Ukraine. The ravine of Babyn Yar, in Kiev, is the site of mass killings of more than 100,000 Jews and other local residents that began on 29 September 1941.

### *Official Commemorative Activities*

The parliament recommended, in its resolution establishing Holocaust Memorial Day, that the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine design and implement a special plan of commemorative actions related to this event, and suggested that the plan should include commemorative gatherings, exhibitions in museums and libraries, special lessons in schools and other activities. The events were to be organized by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Education and Science, local self-government institutions, cultural institutions, schools and colleges, academic institutions, Jewish organizations and other non-governmental organizations.

### *School Activities*

The parliamentary resolution creating Holocaust Memorial Day indicated that commemoration should include special lessons in schools and other educational institutions all over Ukraine on the theme of “The Tragedy of Babyn Yar: lessons of history”. The Ministry of Education and Science developed recommendations for schools that envisaged the following themes for lectures related to the Holocaust and Babyn Yar:

- “This is how the Road of death to Babyn Yar began”;
- “Nazism as an extreme form of Anti-Semitism”;
- “The Holocaust as the greatest crime against humanity”; and
- “The Righteous among the Nations – heroes who saved human lives”.

These theme lectures were delivered in public schools all over Ukraine in September and October 2011.

### *Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti Genocide*

Ukraine observes 2 August every year as the Roma and Sinti Genocide Remembrance Day. The date was officially established as a national day of commemoration on 8 October 2004 by *Verkhovna Rada* Resolution Number 2085-IV “On the Commemoration of the International Day



of the Roma Holocaust”. The resolution also recommended that the Government support research on the Roma genocide in Ukraine, facilitate the construction of memorials to victims of the Roma genocide, and provide support to the families of the victims and to Roma communities in general.

Solemn commemorative gatherings and artistic events take place on 2 August in Kiev and in cities with significant Roma communities. The observances are organized by Roma organizations and supported by Government bodies. In particular, until 2010, the former State Committee for Nationalities and Migration was involved in the organization. Now the Ministry of Culture is involved, as are local self-government bodies and non-governmental organizations.

The commemorative events are covered on national radio and television.

### ***Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism***

In addition to remembering the Jewish and Roma victims of the mass killing in Babyn Yar, Ukraine also commemorates the civilian residents, prisoners of war, communists, underground fighters, partisans and nationalists that were killed in this massacre.

Anniversaries of these tragic events have been commemorated in Kiev unofficially since 1965, and officially since Ukraine obtained independence.

The main ceremony takes place at the Babyn Yar National Memorial Site. The Site was established in 2007 and was given the status of the National Memorial Site in 2010. This and other events are organized by the president of Ukraine, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Education and Science, local self-government institutions, cultural institutions, schools and colleges, academic institutions, Jewish organizations and other non-governmental organizations. The most senior leaders of government participate in the events, including the President, the Prime Minister and the Chairmen of the *Verkhovna Rada*.

In late September and early October 2011, the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the tragedy of Babyn Yar was commemorated with solemn mass gatherings, theme exhibitions in museums and libraries, special lessons in schools and other activities. The commemorations were covered extensively by public television and radio.

Information provided by the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine, in a communication dated 31 October 2011, in response to ODIHR’s online questionnaire.

## United Kingdom

### *Holocaust Memorial Day*

The United Kingdom observes 27 January as Holocaust Memorial Day. It is a day of remembrance for the victims of the Holocaust, Nazi persecution and all subsequent genocides. More specifically, Holocaust Memorial Day aims to:

- Recognize that the Holocaust was a tragically defining episode of the twentieth century, a crisis for European civilization and a universal catastrophe for humanity;
- Provide a national mark of respect for all victims of Nazi persecution and demonstrate understanding with all those who still suffer its consequences;
- Raise awareness and understanding of the events of the Holocaust as a continuing issue of fundamental importance for all humanity;
- Ensure that the horrendous crimes, racism and victimization that occurred during the Holocaust are neither forgotten nor repeated, whether in Europe or elsewhere in the world;
- Restate the continuing need for vigilance in light of the troubling repetition of human tragedies in the world today;
- Reflect on more recent atrocities that raise similar issues;
- Provide a national focus for educating subsequent generations about the Holocaust and the continued relevance of the lessons that are learned from it;
- Provide an opportunity to examine the United Kingdom's past and learn for the future;
- Promote a democratic and tolerant society, free of the evils of prejudice, racism and other forms of bigotry;
- Support the view that all citizens – without distinction – should participate freely and fully in the economic, social and public life of the nation;
- Highlight the values of a tolerant and diverse society based upon the notions of universal dignity and equal rights and responsibilities for all its citizens;
- Assert a continuing commitment to oppose racism, anti-Semitism, victimization and genocide; and
- Support shared aspirations with both European partners and the wider international community centred on the ideals of peace, justice and community for all.

Holocaust Memorial Day has been observed in the United Kingdom since 2001.

### *Official Commemorative Activities*

Each constituent part of the United Kingdom (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales) holds a commemorative event each year, in addition to a United Kingdom national event. The United Kingdom national event is always attended by at least one cabinet minister. The national event traditionally includes youth and arts groups, as well as survivors of genocides.

The venues for the events change each year., There tends however to be at least one event close to the seat of government for each part of the United Kingdom. The content of the events varies

in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, and from year to year. However, all of the events are commemorative in nature. The organizers of events also vary each year.

### ***School Activities***

The Department for Education has not made any arrangements for schools to mark Holocaust Memorial Day, because the Government believes it is important for schools to decide the most appropriate way to mark such an important and sensitive event in history. Nevertheless, Holocaust education has long been established in the United Kingdom as a mandatory subject in the history curriculum at all state secondary schools.

### ***Additional Practices***

The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT) exists to promote awareness of and participation in Holocaust Memorial Day. HMDT provides a free campaign pack and offers advice on remembrance activities. It runs a series of free workshops around the United Kingdom. Other resources provided by HMDT and intended to promote commemorative activities include artwork, a podcast, survivor stories, presentations and suggested films. The number of commemorative activities in the United Kingdom has increased by over 350 per cent since the inception of the HMDT in May 2005.

Information provided by the United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office, in a communication dated 11 November 2011, in response to ODIHR's online questionnaire. The United Kingdom response indicated that more information about the purposes of United Kingdom Holocaust Memorial Day can be found at <<http://hmd.org.uk/about/timeline/statement-of-purpose>>, while more information about the resources and support HMDT provides is available on their website at <<http://hmd.org.uk/resources>>.

For more information on the activities of the United Kingdom in the area of Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, see <<http://www.holocausttaskforce.org/membercountries/member-unitedkingdom.html>>.

## **United States of America**

### ***Holocaust Memorial Day***

The United States observes the “Days of Remembrance” as the nation’s annual commemoration of the Holocaust. Remembrance activities can occur during the Week of Remembrance, which runs from the Sunday before Holocaust Remembrance Day (*Yom HaShoah*) through the following Sunday. The date is tied, in part, to the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, which took place in April 1943. All victims of the Holocaust are honoured, including Jewish victims, Roma and Sinti, Jehovah’s Witnesses and homosexuals. The Days of Remembrance were officially established by the Congress of the United States. The first ceremony took place in 1979.

Since 2005, various Holocaust-related organizations in the United States have also commemorated victims on 27 January, the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust.

### ***Official Commemorative Activities***

Since 1982, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum has organized and led the national Days of Remembrance ceremony in the United States Capitol Rotunda, with Holocaust survivors, liberators, members of Congress, White House officials, the diplomatic corps and community leaders in attendance.

In addition, Days of Remembrance are observed by federal, state and local governments, military installations, workplaces, schools, Holocaust centres, churches, synagogues and civic centres. Events are organized by local governments in all 50 states. All levels of government officials are engaged in these commemorations, including mayors, governors and the President of the United States.

The commemorative events typically include music, reading of names of victims, candle lighting, survivor testimony and public pronouncements committing people to remembrance and to work for change.

Commemorative events are publicized in the media, through public notices and outreach and on the Internet.

### ***School Activities***

There are no state-wide or national mandates for schools to participate in the Days of Remembrance. However, many schools are included in the variety of groups that hold commemorations. Participation is entirely voluntary.

### ***Additional Practices***

The United States Congress created the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum as a permanent living memorial to the victims. The Museum distributes a resource for commemoration to interested groups. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum organizes a major commemoration event on 27 January for the diplomatic community based in Washington.

Information provided by the United States Mission to the OSCE, in a communication dated 31 October 2011, in response to ODIHR's online questionnaire.

For more information on the activities of the United States in the area of Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, see <<http://www.holocausttaskforce.org/membercountries/member-unitedstates.html>>.


## **Uzbekistan**

ODIHR did not receive any information from Uzbekistan.

## Annex 1 Calendar of official Holocaust memorial days in OSCE participating States

| Date  | Significance   | Country   |
|---|--|---|
| 27 January  | Liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp (1945), International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust | Albania, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Norway, Poland, Portugal, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom |
| 10 March  | Prevention of the deportation of Bulgarian Jews to the concentration camps (1943)  | Bulgaria  |
| 11 March  | Date of deportation of Jews to Treblinka from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia  | the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia   |
| 16 April  | Establishment of the first ghetto in Hungary (1944)  | Hungary   |
| 22 April  | National Holocaust, Genocide and Victims of Fascism Remembrance Day  | Serbia (marks this day officially, in addition to 27 January)   |
| <i>Yom HaShoah</i> (date varies with the Hebrew calendar) | Start of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising  | Canada, United States   |
| 5 May   | Liberation of the Mauthausen concentration camp (1945)   | Austria   |
| 4 July  | Burning of the synagogue on Gogol Street in Riga (1941)  | Latvia  |
| The Sunday closest to 16 July                             | Round-up of Jews in the <i>Vélodrome d'Hiver</i> in Paris on 16 and 17 July (1942)   | France  |
| 9 September   | Adoption of 290 repressive laws, the so called Jewish Codex (1941)   | Slovakia  |
| 23 September  | Liquidation of the Vilnius Ghetto (1943)   | Lithuania   |
| 9 October   | Start of deportation of Jews from Romania  | Romania   |

## Annex 2 Questionnaire

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
|  | <b>Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Information System</b> |  |
|   | <a href="http://tandis.odhr.pl">http://tandis.odhr.pl</a>  |   |

### **“Holocaust Memorial Days in the OSCE Region - An overview of governmental practices”**

#### **Commemoration of the Jewish victims of National Socialism (the Holocaust)**

Has your government designated a special day of commemoration for the Jewish victims of National Socialism (the Holocaust)? (required)

Yes/No

Are there plans to establish a Holocaust Memorial Day? (required)

Yes/No

On which date will the commemoration take place, what is the day called, and what is the significance of that date?

Please describe governmental initiatives on the Holocaust Memorial Day/s, including:



On which date does the national Holocaust Memorial Day take place, what is the day called, and what is the significance of that date? (required)

Which victims are commemorated? (required)

Please describe the mandate of the commemoration day. (required)

When was the commemoration day established? (required)

Where are governmental commemorative events held? (required)

What is the content of the event/s? (required)

Which groups or organizations are involved in the event/s (in terms of organization and participation)? (required)

At which level do government officials participate in the commemorative event/s? (required)

How do you promote the commemorative event/s and raise awareness? (required)

Do you have any additional information about your event/s that you would like to share? For example what are the outcomes in terms of increased interest and participation since last year?

### **Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti genocide under National Socialism**

Is there a special commemorative event supported by the government for the Roma and Sinti genocide under National Socialism? (required)

Yes/No

Please describe governmental initiatives on that day, including:

On which date does the national event take place, what is the day called, and what is the significance of that date?

Please describe the mandate of the commemoration day.

When was the commemoration day established?

Where are governmental commemorative events held?

What is the content of the event/s?

Which groups or organizations are involved in the event/s (in terms of organization and participation)?

At which level do government officials participate in the commemorative event/s?

How do you promote the commemorative event/s and raise awareness?

Do you have any additional information about your event/s that you would like to share? For example what are the outcomes in terms of increased interest and participation since last year?

## **Commemoration of other victim groups of National Socialism**

Are there other commemoration days supported by the government for other victim groups of National Socialism? (required)

Yes/No

Please describe governmental initiatives on that/these day/s, including:

On which date does the national event take place, what is the day called, and what is the significance of that date?

Please describe the mandate of the commemoration day.

When was the commemoration day established?

Where are governmental commemorative events held?

What is the content of the event/s?

Which groups or organizations are involved in the event/s (in terms of organization and participation)?

At which level do government officials participate in the commemorative event/s?

How do you promote the commemorative event/s and raise awareness?

Do you have any additional information about your event/s that you would like to share? For example what are the outcomes in terms of increased interest and participation since last year?

### **School activities**

Are there any activities carried out in schools supported by the government or the Ministry of Education? (required)

Yes/No

Please describe:

Submitted by  
Name and position (required)

Email (required)