



International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Marking 15 years of the Stockholm Declaration 2000–2015



MEMBER COUNTRIES

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

OBSERVER COUNTRIES

Albania (2014)
Australia (2015)
Bulgaria (2012)
El Salvador (2014)
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (2009)
Moldova (2014)
Monaco (2015)
Portugal (2009)
Turkey (2008)
Uruguay (2013)

PERMANENT INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany
Council of Europe
European Union
Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)
International Tracing Service (ITS)
Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe: Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
UNESCO
United Nations

The cover image shows the 'Wall of Portraits', which forms part of the permanent exhibition at the Kazerne Dossin — Memorial, Museum and Documentation Centre on Holocaust and Human Rights in Mechelen, Belgium. The wall shows over 25,800 deportees and spans four floors of the museum. The pictures of those who survived are shown in color while the pictures of those who perished are shown in black and white. For many of the deportees, not even a picture remains. The Stockholm Declaration states, "Our commitment must be to remember the victims who perished, respect the survivors still with us, and reaffirm humanity's common aspiration for mutual understanding and justice." Just as the Stockholm Declaration is the IHRA's founding document, so the persecutees form the core of IHRA's mandate. It is therefore considered fitting that the victims and survivors, shown as individuals and not as a persecuted mass, occupy such a prominent place in this publication.
Photo credit: © Christophe Ketels & Kazerne Dossin

Contents

Introduction — Dr. Kathrin Meyer	2
History of the IHRA — Sir Andrew Burns	4
Timeline	8
Stockholm Declaration	10
Reaffirmation Statement	12
Is the IHRA Relevant? — Professor Yehuda Bauer	15
IHRA Working Groups	18
On the Need for Holocaust Education — Professor Steven Katz	25
Working Definition of Holocaust Denial and Distortion	28
IHRA Committees	31
Interview with Ben Helfgott	34
IHRA Multi-Year Work Plan	38
Grant Programme	42
Permanent International Partners	47

Introduction

Dr Kathrin Meyer,
IHRA Executive Secretary

15 years after the signing of the Stockholm Declaration, the publication you are holding in your hands has provided an opportunity to take stock of the achievements of our organization. Founded as the 'Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research' on 7 May, 1998, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) has now grown into a professional international body — a unique network of experts and governments focusing on the sole mandate of Holocaust-related issues.

From 2002–2007, my predecessor Karel Fracapane accompanied the Task Force through the first crucial years of its existence, moving from country to country with each of the rotating Chairmanships. Those first years were a very active time for the IHRA — the first decade saw a landslide of countries join the organization as the majority of European countries sought membership. And as the IHRA grew, so too did the challenges involved with organizing and consolidating a complex body which was never meant to be permanent.

In 2008, the decision to set up the IHRA Permanent Office in Berlin was implemented. This was a clear indication that the organization that was initially intended as a provisional task force was no longer a temporary body. The decision to rename the Task Force the 'International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance' was a further affirmation of the permanence of the IHRA.

The alarming rise in antisemitism and hate crime in recent years only serves to underline the importance of the IHRA as a permanent body. The formation of the Committees on the Genocide of the Roma, Antisemitism and Holocaust Denial, and the Holocaust, Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity demonstrate that the IHRA is conscious of the role it has to play not only in preserving the past but also in shaping the future.



Karel Fracapane and Kathrin Meyer at the opening of the IHRA Permanent Office in 2008. Credit: IHRA

The last 15 years have seen the IHRA find its feet in the international arena — the respective Chairs have embarked on outreach activities with an increasingly global view, our experts are focusing more on content-related issues, and a growing number of interdisciplinary projects are being carried out within the IHRA, for example, through the Multi-Year Work Plan. It is my hope that this publication highlights some of our great achievements, but in the end it can only provide an overview of the real change and specific achievements that have taken place since former Swedish Prime Minister Göran Persson brought the organization together.

It is a great privilege to work with so many scholars, political representatives and educational experts in my role as Executive Secretary of the IHRA. These individuals who offer their time voluntarily, inspired by their common belief in the importance of our work, truly are the backbone of this organization. I am also grateful to my dedicated team at the Permanent Office who have grown with the tasks given to them. I am deeply proud of all that we have achieved together and I look forward to the IHRA's future successes.

The History of the IHRA

Sir Andrew Burns,
IHRA Chair 2014 and UK Envoy
for Post-Holocaust Issues
27 January 2015



Sir Andrew Burns.
Credit: Jonathan Goldberg

My first contact with the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance came in 2010, shortly after my appointment as the first UK Envoy for Post-Holocaust Issues. I was immediately struck by the unique format of the IHRA, composed as it is of policy-makers from governments and experts on the topic of the Holocaust — academics, educators, curators, administrators and survivors. The IHRA is an organization which is not only a network of some of the most renowned experts in the world but is also a crucial link between these experts and the political level. It is only through the involvement of governments that the Holocaust can be included in educational curricula and in the shared remembrance culture of entire populations.

The IHRA began life as the ‘Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research’ following an initiative of the former Swedish Prime Minister Göran Persson, who was deeply affected by his visit to Neuengamme and was worried by how little young people in Sweden knew about the Holocaust. Between 26 and 28 January 2000, the representatives of 46 governments came together in Stockholm to attend an international forum on Holocaust education. The outcome was the ‘Declaration of the Stockholm International Forum on the Holocaust’, which became the founding document, and indeed the mission statement, of what is now the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

Since that momentous meeting, the IHRA has continued to grow in terms of membership, reach and impact. It currently has 31 member countries, ten observer countries and seven international organizations which are permanent partners. Through more than a dozen specialized Working Groups and Committees, IHRA experts give voluntarily of their time and expertise to forge a deeper collective understanding of the causes and history of the Holocaust. They discuss and share the best ways of commemorating the Holocaust and teaching the subject to future generations. They consider how best to recognize and combat Holocaust denial and denigration, antisemitism and xenophobia. They promote understanding of the history of other victims of Nazi rule and they contribute to broader international efforts to prevent further genocides. Their conclusions and recommendations are then fed directly into the policy-making level of member governments.



IHRA Plenary 2013 in Berlin. Credit: Trevor Good

On 27 January 2015, 70 years after the liberation of the German Nazi concentration and extermination camp Auschwitz-Birkenau and 15 years after the original Stockholm Declaration, the IHRA countries reaffirmed the commitments undertaken in Stockholm — this publication aims to provide a snapshot of the vital work which the IHRA has carried out over the last 15 years. It has been my honor to chair the IHRA through this important anniversary. It has been a time for reflecting on what we have achieved thus far and for determining that this is not a time to ease up on our efforts. Sadly, incidents of antisemitism, xenophobia, genocide and Holocaust denial and distortion are not confined to the past but continue to be real threats to the health of our societies. These threats highlight the very real need for an intergovernmental body like the IHRA which keeps memory and understanding of the Holocaust firmly on the political agenda.

It is my hope that in the future we shall see ever more countries join the IHRA and strengthen Holocaust education, remembrance and research in their own societies. The Holocaust has a universal meaning even for countries and societies relatively untouched by the event itself. And it is my hope that through our united efforts, the commitments enshrined in the Stockholm Declaration will continue to be respected and implemented around the world in honor of the victims and survivors of the Holocaust. Our responsibility to them does not diminish over time.

“Even as we redress the injustices of the past, we must ensure that the lessons of the Holocaust do not fade away in the future.”

— Excerpt from a video message by Bill Clinton, President of the United States, at the Ceremonial Opening of the Stockholm International Forum, 26 January 2000.

ARGENTINA —

In 2003, Argentina decided to eradicate impunity for the mass and systematic violations of human rights committed during the last dictatorship (1976–1983). Within this framework, Argentina understands its participation in the IHRA as the only Latin American member country as part of its commitment not only to Holocaust issues but also to genocide prevention. One of the key results of joining the IHRA is that civil society organizations can participate consistently as relevant actors in strengthening policies in the field.

Canadian IHRA Chair Mario Silva visits the AMIA Memorial in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Credit: Canadian Embassy in Argentina



AUSTRIA —

Since its Chairmanship, Austria has considerably increased its activities within the IHRA in two main ways: Firstly, by underlining the relevance of Holocaust education for understanding the origins and threat of genocide and related phenomena such as mass atrocities, antisemitism, religious intolerance, xenophobia and hate crimes. Secondly, by ensuring the standards required for entering and advancing within the IHRA are maintained through the introduction of a regular periodic reporting mechanism on activities related to the Stockholm Declaration.

Timeline

1998
The IHRA (then the ITF) is established in Stockholm.

2000
The Stockholm International Forum on the Holocaust is attended by representatives of 46 governments resulting in the creation of the Stockholm Declaration.

2004
An IHRA delegation is formed to begin a dialogue with the International Tracing Service (ITS) in Bad Arolsen, Germany, about opening the archive.



2006
The IHRA Honorary Chairman Yehuda Bauer addresses the UN General Assembly on 27 January.



2008
The IHRA Permanent Office is established in Berlin.

2010
The guidelines 'The Holocaust and Other Genocides' are adopted.

The IHRA signs a Memorandum of Understanding with OSCE/ODHIR and with the Council of Europe.

2012
The Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research changes its name to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

The IHRA adopts the International Memorial Museums Charter.

2014
The first IHRA conference on the topic of the genocide of the Roma is held in London.



1990s

2000s

2010s

2001
The Education Working Group begins drafting guidelines on 'why', 'what' and 'how' to teach about the Holocaust.

2005
The UN adopts 27 January as 'International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust' and commends the IHRA for its work.



2007
The decision is made to open the International Tracing Service (ITS) archive following a campaign in which the IHRA was involved.



2009
The decision is taken to form a Standing Committee on Antisemitism and Holocaust Denial.

2011
The IHRA implements its Multi-Year Work Plan — four long-term projects focusing on key Holocaust-related issues.

A country reporting and peer review system is established through which member countries report on their activities in relation to the Stockholm Declaration.

2013
The IHRA adopts the Working Definition of Holocaust Denial and Distortion.

2015
The IHRA issues its first academic publication 'Killing Sites — Research and Remembrance.'



The Vatican appoints a permanent liaison person for IHRA issues.

Photos (clockwise): ITS Bad Arolsen Central Index of Names. Credit: Andreas Greiner-Napp. ITS / Professor Yehuda Bauer addresses the United Nations General Assembly on 27 January 2006. UN Photo/Devra Berkowitz / Still image of the Sinti girl Settela Steinbach, 19 May 1944. Credit: Herinneringscentrum Kamp Westerbork / IHRA Publication 'Killing Sites — Research and Remembrance' / ITS Bad Arolsen correspondence depository. Credit: Andreas Greiner-Napp. ITS / Memory Road Initiative, Lithuania. Credit: Tomas Kavaliauskas

Declaration of the Stockholm International Forum on the Holocaust of 2000



Former Swedish Prime Minister Göran Persson addresses the audience at the first Stockholm International Forum on the Holocaust in 2000. Credit: Lars Nyman

1. — The Holocaust (Shoah) fundamentally challenged the foundations of civilization. The unprecedented character of the Holocaust will always hold universal meaning. After half a century, it remains an event close enough in time that survivors can still bear witness to the horrors that engulfed the Jewish people. The terrible suffering of the many millions of other victims of the Nazis has left an indelible scar across Europe as well.

2. — The magnitude of the Holocaust, planned and carried out by the Nazis, must be forever seared in our collective memory. The selfless sacrifices of those who defied the Nazis, and sometimes gave their own lives to protect or rescue the Holocaust's victims, must also be inscribed in our hearts. The depths of that horror, and the heights of their heroism, can be touchstones in our understanding of the human capacity for evil and for good.

3. — With humanity still scarred by genocide, ethnic cleansing, racism, antisemitism and xenophobia, the international community shares a solemn responsibility to fight those evils. Together we must uphold the terrible truth of the Holocaust against those who deny it. We must strengthen the moral commitment of our peoples, and the political commitment of our governments, to ensure that future generations can understand the causes of the Holocaust and reflect upon its consequences.

4. — We pledge to strengthen our efforts to promote education, remembrance and research about the Holocaust, both in those of our countries that have already done much and those that choose to join this effort.

5. — We share a commitment to encourage the study of the Holocaust in all its dimensions. We will promote education about the Holocaust in our schools and universities, in our communities and encourage it in other institutions.

6. — We share a commitment to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust and to honor those who stood against it. We will encourage appropriate forms of Holocaust remembrance, including an annual Day of Holocaust Remembrance, in our countries.

7. — We share a commitment to throw light on the still obscured shadows of the Holocaust. We will take all necessary steps to facilitate the opening of archives in order to ensure that all documents bearing on the Holocaust are available to researchers.

The Stockholm International Forum on the Holocaust was a conference held in the year 2000, attended by the high-level representatives of 46 nations, with the aim of encouraging a united, international effort to promote Holocaust education, remembrance and research.

8. — It is appropriate that this, the first major international conference of the new millennium, declares its commitment to plant the seeds of a better future amidst the soil of a bitter past. We empathize with the victims' suffering and draw inspiration from their struggle. Our commitment must be to remember the victims who perished, respect the survivors still with us, and reaffirm humanity's common aspiration for mutual understanding and justice.

Reaffirmation of the Stockholm Declaration

On 27 January 2015, the IHRA reaffirmed its commitment to the Stockholm Declaration to mark its 15th anniversary. The following statement was made:

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

The unprecedented character of the Holocaust will always hold universal meaning for us. We are committed to remembering and honoring its victims, to upholding the terrible truth of the Holocaust, to standing up against those who distort or deny it and to combating antisemitism, racism and prejudice against the Roma and Sinti.

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



The President of the Republic of Poland Bronisław Komorowski at the commemoration ceremony of the 70th anniversary of the liberation of KL Auschwitz-Birkenau held on 27 January 2015
Credit: Łukasz Kamiński Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland

“An Auschwitz survivor, Primo Levi, pointed out that “those who forget the past are condemned to repeat it”. It is our obligation: of Europe and indeed of the whole world to remember for the sake of the ones who suffered here, for your sake, Ladies and Gentlemen, who have survived a camp gehenna. It is equally our obligation to remember for our own sake and for the sake of our future.”

— An excerpt from the address by the President of the Republic of Poland Bronisław Komorowski at the commemoration ceremony of the 70th anniversary of the liberation of KL Auschwitz-Birkenau held on 27 January 2015 as published on www.president.pl

BELGIUM —

During Belgium's Chairmanship, two high-visibility plenaries in Mechelen and Liège took place, attracting widespread media attention. The most lasting contribution of IHRA membership was the inauguration of the 'Kazerne Dossin — Memorial, Museum and Documentation Centre on Holocaust and Human Rights' in November 2012, on the spot where the Nazis and their collaborators organized the deportation of more than 25,000 men, women and children. In the first full year of its existence, the museum attracted more than 100,000 visitors and is rapidly gaining a reputation for excellence in the international arena.



Opening of the Kazerne Dossin — Memorial, Museum and Documentation Centre on Holocaust and Human Rights. Credit: *Christophe Ketels*

CANADA —

Canada's membership is an affirmation at the highest political level of its commitment to Holocaust education, remembrance and research. Canada's Chairmanship helped raise awareness of the Holocaust through initiatives such as a 'National Award for Excellence in Holocaust Education', participation in an international poster design competition, development of a comprehensive research guide to holdings related to the Holocaust in its National Library and Archives, and government funding to help preserve and disseminate Holocaust survivor testimony.

CROATIA —

Since joining the IHRA, the Republic of Croatia has established a network of teachers and professors committed to the subject of the Holocaust. IHRA membership has also helped increase access to numerous and diverse Holocaust-related teaching resources for educators. Existing resources have also been upgraded in accordance with the highest educational standards. In terms of memorials, the Jasenovac Memorial Site has become one of the most prominent and important museums in Croatia, enjoying international respect and recognition.

Is the IHRA Relevant?

Professor Yehuda Bauer,
IHRA Honorary Chairman
and Academic Advisor
of Yad Vashem



Professor Yehuda Bauer, IHRA Honorary Chairman, IHRA Plenary meetings Mechelen. Credit: *Government of Flanders*

As an intergovernmental organization whose mission it is to provide a political umbrella to spread education, remembrance and research about the Holocaust, how relevant is the IHRA to present-day and future generations?

Unfortunately, the world in which we live, 15 years after the IHRA was founded, provides ample proof as to the necessity of working to fulfill the IHRA's mandate. An extremist, violent, and deadly mutation of a great religion is threatening to destroy the positive achievements of civilizations, East and West. It aspires to control the world by terrorist means, directed in the first instance against masses of Muslims, but then against all the rest of humanity.

Jews, again, are a central target and are threatened with annihilation. There is a parallel between radical Islam, Stalinist communism, and National Socialism. All three are or were quasi-religions, claiming absolute knowledge and absolute certainty. Nazism and Bolshevism sought to control the world, too, by violent means. They, too, wanted to abolish ethnic and national identities in favor of a world united by a radical, anti-democratic and anti-individualist regime. Like Nazism, the two other ideologies, too, projected a machoist, basically anti-feminist image; there was not a single woman in the Soviet Politbureau or the Nazi leadership, and of course radical Islam is anti-feminist. And for all three of them, the Jews were or became a main enemy.

Stalinist persecution of Jews after 1945 was to end with a mass deportation leading to annihilation. Radical Islam sees the Jews as being behind all their enemies, and threatens them with mass murder and total extermination. National Socialism developed these ideas to their logical conclusion: it intended to murder every single Jew all over the world. The Jews were, and are today again, those through whom the rest of humanity was and is being attacked.

The Holocaust was the most extreme and unprecedented form of genocide until now, a paradigmatic case of something that is happening all over the world: attempts to annihilate human groups as such. It is the mission of the IHRA to work against that, against the danger that this constitutes to all of humanity. The IHRA works in cooperation with many other groups and individuals, within the UN and regional systems, to promote democracy and human rights. It is part of efforts to combat the dangers of genocide, by its work in the fields of education, remembrance, and research of the Holocaust.

The IHRA needs to dig deep, to address the concerns of its audience, by showing the impact the past has on the present: this can happen to

you, whoever you are and wherever you live. We can all become perpetrators, victims, or bystanders, and we must become none of these. The Holocaust is not the past; seventy years is a very short time in historical terms, and all the conditions that surrounded the Holocaust are still there. The Holocaust is the present, and in order not to repeat it, or events similar to it, the IHRA must, and hopefully will, do its part.

“We must never forget what happened when governments turned a blind eye to grave injustice outside their borders, when they waited too long to act.”

— Excerpt from a video message by Bill Clinton, President of the United States, at the Ceremonial Opening of the Stockholm International Forum, 26 January 2000.



CZECH REPUBLIC —

In the Czech Republic, the greater involvement of NGO experts in projects and discussions within the IHRA has led to a more efficient dialogue and increased mutual trust with government authorities. The establishment of an efficient system of lifelong learning about the Holocaust for primary and secondary school teachers is another key achievement of IHRA membership. Finally, findings and recommendations from the IHRA have led to a number of seminars on the genocide of the Roma. This topic is a priority for the government, as demonstrated by the Museum of Romani Culture and the plans for a Roma Holocaust Memorial in Hodonín u Kunštátu.

Commemoration event, Hodonín u Kunštátu, 2013.
Credit: L. Grossmannová, Museum of Romani Culture

IHRA Working Groups



Working Group Chairs at the IHRA Plenary session in Mechelen, Belgium in 2012. Credit: Government of Flanders

The IHRA is composed of four Working Groups: the Academic Working Group, the Education Working Group, the Communication Working Group, and the Memorials and Museums Working Group.

Academic Working Group (AWG)

The AWG focuses on the promotion of Holocaust research and international cooperation on scholarship. Constant efforts to encourage member countries to commit to opening Holocaust-related archives led to the Multi-Year Work Plan (MYWP) on Archival Access — while the opening up of the International Tracing Service (ITS) archive has been a particular focus of its work throughout the years. The AWG identifies and discusses key academic developments in the field of the Holocaust and related topics, and members of the AWG have also taken leading roles in the MYWP on Killing Sites.



Holocaust-era documentation, Yad Vashem Archives. Courtesy of Yad Vashem



Centropa multimedia films displayed on a smart phone. Centropa pictures and stories belonging to the Kalef sisters of Belgrade were used to create a multimedia film that has now been shown at five international film festivals and is used in schools in Serbia, the US, Germany, Israel and elsewhere. *Credit: Centropa*

Education Working Group (EWG)

With representatives drawn extensively from IHRA member and observer countries, as well as from the IHRA's Permanent International Partners, the work of the EWG has directly impacted educational policy, tools and programming in IHRA countries.

One of the key contributions of the EWG is a set of guidelines for educators on why, what and how to teach about the Holocaust, which have been translated into more than twenty languages. This solid foundation has been expanded upon with recommendations

on preparing visits to memorial sites, and the guidelines 'The Holocaust and Other Genocides', 'Teaching about the Holocaust without Survivors', 'Preparing Holocaust Memorial Days', and most recently 'Using Social Media in Holocaust Education'.

In addition, the EWG has been involved in the conception, outreach and support for educational projects and teacher development programs funded by the IHRA, stimulating Holocaust education in both member and non-member countries.

“How do we make real to each generation of children the incomprehensible events of the Holocaust which they themselves could not have witnessed?”

— Excerpt from the message by Robin Cook, British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, at the Ceremonial Opening of the Stockholm International Forum, 26 January 2000.



Communication Working Group (CWG)

The CWG promotes the work of the IHRA both internally across the member states and externally to governments, NGOs, the media and international partners.

The CWG provides a platform for Holocaust experts from all member states to share projects and programs, and to inform members of initiatives and resources. Notable achievements over the past 15 years include the introduction — and subsequent overhaul — of the organization's website and the rebranding of the organization from ITF to IHRA. The CWG can also take credit for the publication of various brochures and flyers, overseeing the translation of official IHRA documents and, together with the Education Working Group, creating guidelines on using social media in Holocaust education.

The small, dynamic group of experts which comprise the CWG Steering Committee is ably supported by the wider group of CWG delegates, who serve in a liaison role within the other Working Groups. The CWG also works closely with current, past and present Chairmanships to ensure optimum and continuous communication strategies.

Participants at Salzburg Global Seminar's Holocaust Education and Genocide Prevention session discuss IHRA teaching guidelines. *Credit: Salzburg Global Seminar*

The Hall of Names in the Holocaust History Museum, Yad Vashem, Jerusalem. *Courtesy of Yad Vashem*



Memorials and Museums Working Group (MMWG)

The MMWG has mobilized support and expertise to provide guidance to new museums and memorials, as well as to those in transition and in need of preservation. One initiative launched by the MMWG was the renewal of the 'Ex-Yugoslav' Pavilion at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum — a project of distinct international importance. The MMWG has also developed two websites exploring, separately, the culture of remembrance and the development of memorial sites: 'Cultures of Remembrance — a Network' and 'Memorial Museums', hosted by the Topography of Terror Foundation. The International Memorial Museums Charter was drafted by the MMWG in 2012 to develop guidelines on ethics and the principal concerns of memorial museums for victims of the Holocaust.



National Holocaust Commemoration 2015 organized by the Dutch Auschwitz Committee. Credit: Dirk Spits

“The task is urgent, the approach difficult. The key-word is memory.”

— Speech by Elie Wiesel at the Ceremonial Opening of the Stockholm International Forum, 26 January 2000.

Woman looking at the Wall of Names at the Mémorial de la Shoah in Paris. Credit: Mémorial de la Shoah/photo Pfrunner



DENMARK —

The last decade of IHRA membership has brought about two main developments in Denmark. Firstly, civil society organizations have become increasingly involved in organizing activities related to the annual Holocaust Remembrance Day 'Auschwitz Day', as well as to other historical events. This increased participation signals that keeping the memory of the Holocaust alive is not only an obligation for states, but also for civil society. Secondly, IHRA membership has helped keep a political focus on the importance of bringing the Holocaust, as well as related issues of antisemitism, discrimination and other forms of intolerance, into the classroom.

ESTONIA —

Since Estonia joined the IHRA, awareness of Holocaust issues has increased dramatically and the 27 January commemoration has become an integral annual event. The memorial on the site of the Nazi concentration camp at Klooga has been renovated and an outdoor exhibit now completes the memorial. Lessons on the Holocaust have also become part of Estonian school curricula, both in history and social studies. Thanks to the IHRA network and bilateral interstate agreements, our educators now have direct access to the best practices, study materials and educational resources in the world.

FINLAND —

In Finland, information on the Holocaust is covered by several school subjects. In 2010, the Finnish National Board of Education amended specific chapters concerning the Holocaust in the national core curriculum of history and philosophy/ethics in both primary and secondary education. Finnish history, religion and ethics teachers attended dedicated training sessions on the Holocaust at the International School for Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem in 2010 and 2012, and many upper secondary schools in Finland provide special courses on the Holocaust, which include study visits to the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum.

The IHRA national chapter, which includes additional experts and governmental representatives, meets regularly between plenaries to discuss IHRA-related matters.



Kristina Kaihari, a member of the Finnish delegation to the IHRA, at the memorial for Jewish refugees deported from Finland in November 1942, Helsinki. Credit: IHRA

FRANCE —

France's accession to the IHRA offered an opportunity to create a network of national Holocaust experts, ensuring more efficient sharing of information between institutions and wider dissemination of activities in the areas of Holocaust teaching, research and remembrance. These discussions have also laid the foundation for enhanced educational work and a closer partnership between the authorities and the various remembrance sites in France. This, in turn, has formalized ties through an international network which has been enriched over the years, thus preventing educational and memorial activities from becoming nothing more than rituals.



Children consulting the Mémorial de la Shoah website where the names of Jews deported from France are registered.
Credit: Mémorial de la Shoah/photo Pfrunner

GERMANY —

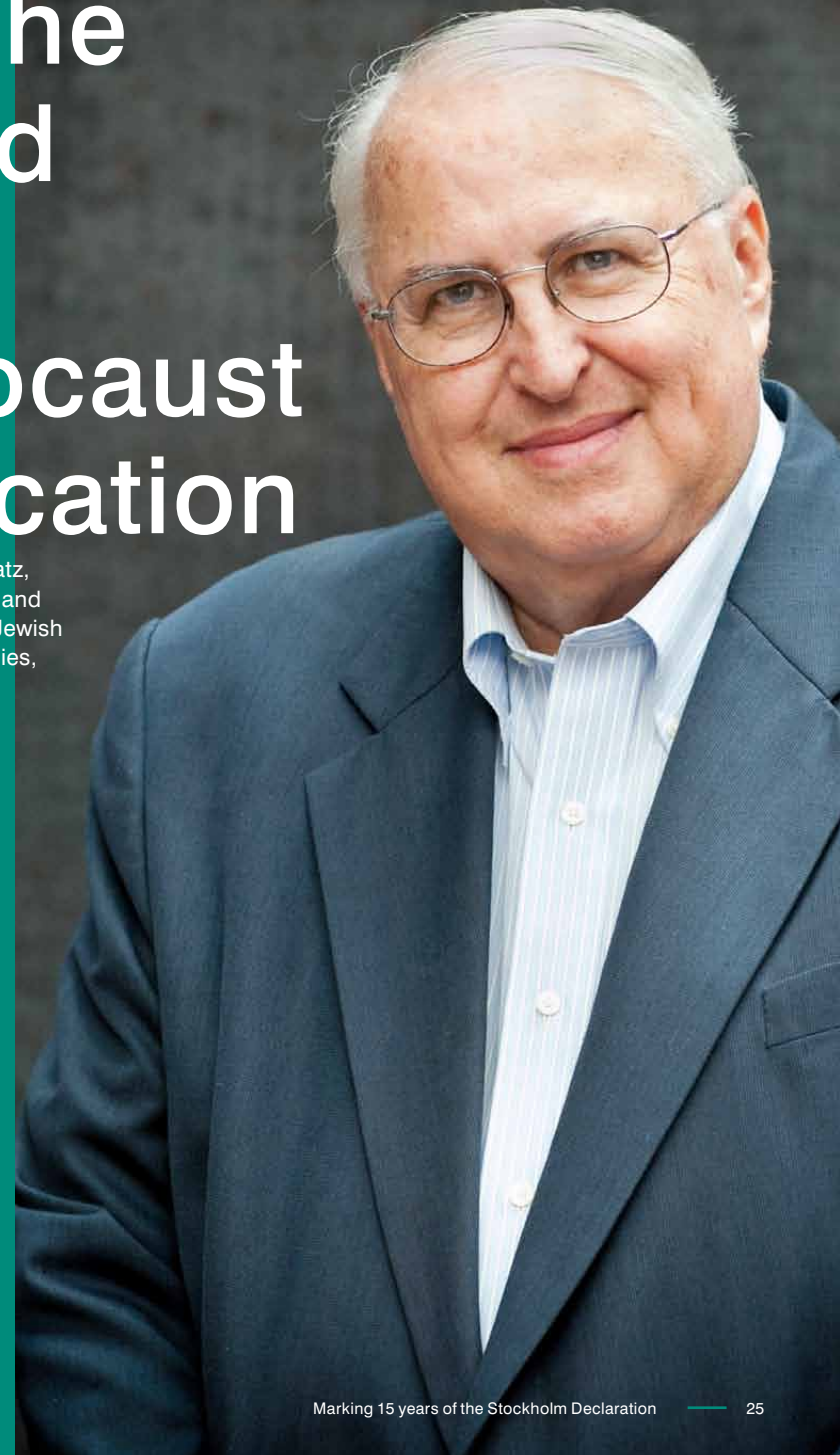
German IHRA membership has fostered the cooperation and efforts of the numerous and diverse institutions focused on Holocaust remembrance, research and education throughout Germany. The vast number of memorials that have emerged since the Stockholm Declaration form part of Germany's remembrance culture and provide an important basis for debates on its Nazi past. The most important outcome of Germany's IHRA membership is the dialogue with colleagues from other countries, which has led to the realization of a variety of bilateral and multi-lateral projects.

GREECE —

The majority of Greek citizens reject acts of xenophobia and intolerance — not only because Greece is the cradle of democracy and humanistic values, but also because of the implementation of the principles of the Stockholm Declaration in many areas of contemporary Greek society. This is evident in such areas as education, academic research, memorials and, of course, the press and other mass media channels. In this respect, the IHRA is the bridge that leads from the ignorance of the past to the tolerance and understanding of the present, and also our hopes for generations to come.

On the Need for Holocaust Education

Professor Steven Katz,
Advisor to the IHRA and
Slater Professor of Jewish
and Holocaust Studies,
Boston University



Professor Steven Katz. *Photo courtesy of the USHMM*

Education and research about the Holocaust are at the core of the IHRA's fundamental activities. In my role as Advisor to the IHRA, I am often asked: Why is Holocaust education so important? Here, I would like to share some thoughts on this issue, especially given the complex, contentious, and often dangerous times in which we live.

The need for serious study of the Holocaust in schools and universities is both a historical necessity and a sign of respect for the truth. Denying and relativizing the Holocaust is not only factually false but also contributes to a misperception of social and political reality more generally.

This requirement, to know the truth and to tell the truth, is today nowhere more necessary than in the arena of education. For it is *only* education, of different sorts, in different venues, which can help shape the character of both adults and children in ways that we would like to see. That is, as individuals who care for and help others, who have a sense of personal responsibility for their actions and the actions of their society, who believe in accountability, and who have the courage to raise a critical voice when it is needed. Students who engage appropriately in this subject become more critically alert, more questioning of their own and other environments, and more sensitive to the variety of human and cultural differences. Above all, we need to recognize that it is education that will largely decide the future of our civilization — and all civilizations.

It is for this reason that the fight over education is so intense. Those who seek to control it for partisan, religious, or ideological reasons fully appreciate what they are doing. But the prejudiced, dogmatic, choices that they make and would impose on others harm everyone in their society. Such control holds all reasoned discussion, all scientific research, and historical inquiry — not just the study of the Holocaust — hostage to *a priori* assumptions that cannot be questioned but that may well be false.

Second, and of crucial importance, it must be clearly understood that Holocaust education is not solely a 'Jewish issue.' Holocaust denial and trivialization, along with other forms of racism, xenophobia and prejudice, demand a response from all governments and all individual citizens, whatever national state they are members of. This is because the deep question that every state and culture has to answer is: what sort of state, what sort of culture, will it be? Will it encourage honesty, integrity, the rule of law, freedom from oppression, the protection of minorities, and justice for all both within and outside its borders? Again, will we create a society that is based on perversions of the truth, on discrimination and dehumanization of the 'other' and, therefore, a corrupt and unjust society?

Then, too, it is essential to understand, as the historical record teaches us, that Jews are usually just the first victims.

The impact of teaching the Holocaust, if done correctly, will be felt in all discussions about the core moral and political issues that students today must confront. And it will be felt both in their narrow classroom settings and, more generally, in their social, ethical and political engagement with the world around them. Those who participate in this education will become more caring, morally self-conscious, and certainly better citizens.

As members of the IHRA and signatories of the Stockholm Declaration, these are goals we all need to be committed to.

HUNGARY —

In the years following Hungary's accession to the IHRA, milestone commemorative events have taken place: the launch of a National Holocaust Memorial Day in 2000, as well as the inauguration of the Holocaust Memorial Centre in Budapest and the opening of the new permanent Hungarian exhibit in the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum — both in 2004. The Hungarian government declared 2012 'Wallenberg Year' and dedicated 2014 to the remembrance of the 70th anniversary of the Holocaust in Hungary. In 2015, Hungary has the honor of chairing the IHRA for the second time. From an educational perspective, one of the biggest gains of joining the IHRA has been the increased awareness and implementation of acknowledged professional standards.

IRELAND —

On joining the IHRA, Ireland established the 'Standing Committee on Holocaust Education, Research and Remembrance', which consists of governmental representatives, the 'Holocaust Education Trust Ireland' (HETI), the Irish Jewish Museum, and academics. The government has worked closely with HETI and other organizations to promote Holocaust education and awareness through teacher education programs, schools' initiatives such as the 'Crocus Project', and the 'National Holocaust Memorial Day' commemoration. The 'Certificate in Holocaust Education', awarded by the Herzog Centre at Trinity College Dublin, provides teachers with continuous professional development.



Commemoration ceremony in Budapest during the Canadian Chairmanship. Credit: Sándor Makolka

Working Definition of Holocaust Denial and Distortion



Holocaust-era documentation, Yad Vashem Archives. Courtesy of Yad Vashem

The present definition is an expression of the awareness that Holocaust denial and distortion have to be challenged and denounced nationally and internationally, and need examination at a global level. The IHRA hereby adopts the following legally non-binding working definition as its working tool.

Holocaust denial is discourse and propaganda that deny the historical reality and the extent of the extermination of the Jews by the Nazis and their accomplices during World War II, known as the Holocaust or the Shoah. Holocaust denial refers specifically to any attempt to claim that the Holocaust/Shoah did not take place.

Holocaust denial may include publicly denying or calling into doubt the use of principal mechanisms of destruction (such as gas chambers, mass shooting, starvation and torture) or the intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people.

Holocaust denial in its various forms is an expression of antisemitism. The attempt to deny the genocide of the Jews is an effort to exonerate National Socialism and antisemitism from guilt or responsibility in the genocide of the Jewish people. Forms of Holocaust denial also include blaming the Jews for either exaggerating or creating the Shoah for political or financial gain as if the Shoah itself was the result of a conspiracy plotted by the Jews. In this, the goal is to make the Jews culpable and antisemitism once again legitimate.

The goals of Holocaust denial often are the rehabilitation of an explicit antisemitism and the promotion of political ideologies and conditions suitable for the advent of the very type of event it denies.

Distortion of the Holocaust refers, *inter alia*, to:

1. — Intentional efforts to excuse or minimize the impact of the Holocaust or its principal elements, including collaborators and allies of Nazi Germany;
2. — Gross minimization of the number of the victims of the Holocaust in contradiction to reliable sources;
3. — Attempts to blame the Jews for causing their own genocide;
4. — Statements that cast the Holocaust as a positive historical event. Those statements are not Holocaust denial but are closely connected to it as a radical form of antisemitism. They may suggest that the Holocaust did not go far enough in accomplishing its goal of “the Final Solution of the Jewish Question”;
5. — Attempts to blur the responsibility for the establishment of concentration and death camps devised and operated by Nazi Germany by putting blame on other nations or ethnic groups.

“The gravest form of false witness is to deny the full horror of the Holocaust. We must ensure that those who peddle that lie are exposed and defeated. The least we owe the millions of the victims of the Shoah is to be frank and honest about their fate.”

— Excerpt from the message by Robin Cook, British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, at the Ceremonial Opening of the Stockholm International Forum, 26 January 2000.

ISRAEL —

The State of Israel remains appreciative of the distinct contribution offered by the IHRA's very existence over these past 15 years, which has enabled meaningful, relevant and accurate Holocaust remembrance, education and research throughout the world. Obviously, the Shoah remains a deeply evocative, often charged issue for Israel and Israelis, and accordingly the work of Yad Vashem and other Israeli institutions reflects that unique, ever-present centrality. Through the unprecedented platform created by the IHRA on the diplomatic level, Israel has succeeded in developing close partnerships with various IHRA member governments, delegations and constituent institutions, together furthering worthy projects under IHRA's aegis.

ITALY —

Since joining the IHRA, the Italian Government has increased its support for initiatives which aim to strengthen Holocaust remembrance, education and research. Following the 2004 Italian Chairmanship, institutions and civil society have become more involved in Holocaust-related issues. The collaboration between the Ministry of Education and the Union of Italian Jewish Communities has produced positive results. It also continues to strengthen the civil consciousness of future generations — particularly with a national, annual competition, prominently awarded by the President of the Italian Republic. The numerous memorial initiatives and events around 27 January — organized by institutions and civil society groups — receive widespread media attention.

LATVIA —

IHRA membership has offered Latvia a platform for sharing best practices. Examples of completed projects include Holocaust education seminars for opinion-makers in Latvia, which were organized by the museum 'Jews in Latvia' with the support of the IHRA. Another unique project developed by the Centre of Judaism at the University of Latvia is the 'Names and Destinies' project. It comprises a website containing information on former Jewish communities of Latvia as well as an archive of Jews who perished in the territory of Latvia during the period 1941–1945.

IHRA Committees



The IHRA has established three specialized committees: the Committee on Antisemitism and Holocaust Denial, the Committee on the Genocide of the Roma and the Committee on the Holocaust, Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity.

Committee on Antisemitism and Holocaust Denial

The creation of the Committee on Antisemitism and Holocaust Denial in 2009 was a milestone for the IHRA, as it turned the focus of the organization towards the contemporary challenges of Holocaust denial and distortion, and current forms of antisemitism. The Committee's biggest achievement is the Working Definition of Holocaust Denial and Distortion, which was developed in cooperation with governmental representatives from IHRA member countries for use as a working tool and was adopted in 2013.

Committee on the Genocide of the Roma

The Committee on the Genocide of the Roma has worked to increase the commitment of the IHRA to promote education, research and remembrance on the fate of the Roma during the Holocaust, and to engage with contemporary issues such as hate speech and discrimination against Roma.

The work of the Committee includes supporting organizations with a focus on the Roma in the IHRA's Grant Programme application process, raising visibility of the issue through outreach and networking, and by organizing a conference held in London in 2014.

In 2014 the Committee also initiated two research projects: an annotated bibliography of academic publications on the genocide of the Roma, and an overview of international organizations working on the genocide of the Roma and contemporary Roma-focused issues.

Elina Machálková singing at a commemoration event, Hodonín u Kunštátu, 2009. Credit: L. Grossmannová, Museum of Romani Culture

Committee on the Holocaust, Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity

The Committee on the Holocaust, Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity grew from a sub-committee that focused on ways to support educators in teaching about the relationship of the Holocaust to other genocides and crimes against humanity. The central accomplishment of the sub-committee was the publication of the document 'The Holocaust and Other Genocides', which offers ideas and recommendations for educators.

The newly formed committee aims to supplement this publication by developing additional guidelines, which will focus on a comparative approach as well as engaging with IHRA Chairs' initiatives on genocide prevention. The committee also aims to complete an overview of experts and institutions taking a comparative approach to teaching about genocide, and to collect and share best practices in IHRA member and non-member countries.



LITHUANIA —

Lithuania has made teaching about the Holocaust obligatory in schools, and more than 100 Tolerance Education Centers have been set up in secondary schools — 37 of these receive financial support from the IHRA. In addition, courses in Holocaust Studies are offered at five Lithuanian universities and 23 September is commemorated annually at the killing site at Paneriai. The Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania declared 2011 the 'Year of Remembrance for the Victims of the Holocaust', and 2013 was declared the 'Year of Remembrance for the Victims of the Vilnius Ghetto'. In 2010, the criminal code was amended with a new article, making it a criminal offence to condone, trivialize, or deny crimes of genocide or crimes against humanity.

LUXEMBOURG —

In Luxembourg, interest in the Holocaust is growing constantly. The intense networking among IHRA member countries has contributed strongly to Luxembourg re-evaluating its focus on the Holocaust. The report on Jewish assets has drawn public attention to the subject and has raised new questions about the involvement of Luxembourgers in the Holocaust and the role of Luxembourg civil servants in deportations. In 2004, the European Ministers of Education established a special Holocaust Memorial Day, in which schools play an eminent role. Furthermore, the government recently made the decision to erect a dedicated monument to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust.



Memory Road initiative, Lithuania. Credit: Tomas Kavaliauskas

Interview with Ben Helfgott



Ben Helfgott MBE. *Courtesy of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust*

Born in 1929 in Pabianice, Poland, Ben survived Buchenwald and was liberated from Terezin in May 1945 by the Russian Army. From his extended family, only his sister Mala survived. After the war Ben settled in Great Britain which he represented at the 1956 and 1960 Olympics, and won a bronze medal at the 1958 Commonwealth Games. He now lives in London with his wife Ava and has three sons and nine grandchildren.

As one of the very few people still involved in the IHRA who was there when the Task Force, which formed the basis of the organization was created, how would you describe your role today?

Having been Chairman of the '45 Aid Society (a survivors' organization), the UK Yad Vashem Committee and the Central British Fund, as well as a trustee and board member of various UK and international organizations engaged in Holocaust education and commemoration, I was privileged to work alongside Greville Janner, a politician and leading activist and campaigner on post-Holocaust issues. In 1997, Greville asked then Prime Minister Tony Blair to convene and host an international event (the London Conference on Nazi Gold) to assess the extent of Jewish properties and possessions plundered in the Holocaust and examine the efforts made by European countries, including the UK, to return these assets.

During the discussions, the neutrality of certain European countries was called into question. These assertions so alarmed the Swedish Prime Minister Göran Persson that he called for a poll to evaluate what school pupils knew about the Holocaust. The results revealed some uncomfortable truths, including the casting of doubt over the extent of the atrocities.

In 1999, I gave a speech at the follow-up to the Gold Conference in Washington. By then, Prime Minister Persson had already written to Tony Blair and President Clinton, encouraging them to join him in establishing an international organization focusing on Holocaust education. In my opinion, the events that led to the creation of the IHRA

were sequential. The London conference was critical but Persson's own interest and intervention were decisive and I was most honored to accept his invitation to speak at the Stockholm International Forum in January 2000.

Looking back to when the IHRA was established, what was the contemporary feeling and atmosphere concerning Holocaust issues?

Although there was great ignorance about the Holocaust when the IHRA was founded, I am delighted that we have made great progress since then. The most critical development for me was the demise of Communism; without this, the IHRA would never have come into existence. The reunification of Europe opened up new possibilities. In addition to Persson and Clinton, in the UK we were very fortunate to have in Tony Blair a Prime Minister who was thoroughly committed to this cause. Together, these conditions constituted perfect timing for this project. My stand-out memories from the first plenary are Persson's speeches, but the whole atmosphere was phenomenal. Everyone there knew we were part of something historic and very special.

How would you describe the IHRA's achievements?

Overall, excellent, but success is dependent on the country Chairs — it is up to them to build on the achievements of previous years and put their own stamp on proceedings. We are very fortunate in the UK to have Sir Andrew Burns, who is a great leader and someone who has galvanized our work. I must also give credit to the countries involved in

instigating and arranging the creation of the Permanent Office in Berlin. This has been a great achievement and has given the organization a strong identity. I am delighted that more and more countries have become members and that still others are encouraged by the words and commitments of the Stockholm Declaration.

Can you describe some of the projects you have been involved with for the IHRA?

Although I am nominally a member of the Memorials and Museums Working Group, as a representative of the UK Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, I am very happy to assist with any aspect of the work of colleagues in the UK delegation and contribute to the IHRA in whatever way I can.

Can you comment on how the IHRA has changed between its inception and now, and what challenges do you foresee for the IHRA?

In light of recent events and current perceptions of the Holocaust, it is essential to hold on to what we created in 2000 in Sweden and stay focused on our original objectives. I am very determined about this. We must also encourage wider membership, so that people in other countries can have access to the IHRA's formidable network and professional expertise. It is essential that we remain committed to the principles of the Stockholm Declaration — it is our bible.

The IHRA was founded as a temporary task force. How do you feel about the fact that it still exists 15 years later?

Although the IHRA began with only three member countries, almost immediately four more joined and from the outset there was a strong interest from other European countries to be involved. Without question, the IHRA will continue long after the survivors have

died. I see only a positive future for the IHRA, as long as it stays true to its original mission. More importantly, as long as we see what is happening in the world with people being persecuted because of their race, religion or identity, it is vital that the IHRA exists. The organization and the work that it does are now more important than ever.

My stand-out memories from the first plenary are Persson's speeches, but the whole atmosphere was phenomenal. Everyone there knew we were part of something historic and very special.

What more could be done to enhance the IHRA's role?

I feel strongly that we are achieving a great deal. We can always try to promote ourselves more but this should not detract from what we are doing or what we have achieved.

It is noticeable that you are the only survivor involved with the IHRA. Do you think survivors' experiences, memories and legacies are being well represented and preserved?

Although I am confident that survivors' messages are well preserved, it is up to organizations and governments in each country to accept this obligation and commit the necessary resources. Through the IHRA's network, and thanks to the work of some remarkable organizations, we are fortunate to have access to some excellent materials.

Other than Feliks Tych, who was a member of the Polish delegation, are you aware of other survivors who have been involved with the IHRA?

No — only my friend Feliks, who I greatly miss from these proceedings. He made a great and important contribution to our work and it was with deep sadness that I learned of his passing.

NETHERLANDS —

IHRA membership has, without a doubt, influenced policy-making in the Netherlands. It led to the founding of the Centre for Holocaust and Genocide Studies in 2002 — an institute that offers an annual Masters program on the Holocaust. In 2010, the Centre merged with the Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies (NIOD). International cooperation between museums and research institutions from the Netherlands and other IHRA member states has intensified, new projects have been initiated and new discussion topics have come to light. Specific examples of projects include the Dutch-Polish educators' exchange, the multi-lingual digital exhibition on the genocide of the Roma and Sinti, and the book 'The Holocaust and Other Genocides', which was published during the Dutch Chairmanship.



The Dutch Jew Etty Hillesum kept a diary during the occupation of the Netherlands. The diary and the many letters she wrote, also from Camp Westerbork, were of high literary quality. After the war they were published in more than ten languages. Hillesum was most likely murdered in Auschwitz on 30 November 1943. Courtesy of the Jewish Historical Museum, Amsterdam

NORWAY —

During the last two decades, Norway has seen a marked reinforcement of political, social and cultural consciousness towards the Holocaust. The IHRA has proved an increasingly important meeting place for the exchange of theoretical, practical and aesthetic ideas of Holocaust memorialization. Norway benefits through bilateral and transnational cooperation, as well as through the IHRA's function as a scholarly arena for discussion and study of the similarities and differences in national memory cultures. The obligations enshrined in the Stockholm Declaration have been followed up with the foundation of the 'Centre for Studies of the Holocaust and Religious Minorities' in 2001 and among others, the Falstad Centre, the foundation 'Arkivet' in Kristiansand, the Jewish Museum in Trondheim and the Oslo Jewish Museum.

POLAND —

Following the adoption of the Stockholm Declaration, the Polish government added Holocaust education to school curriculum. Holocaust research has developed tremendously since 2000 — now all major universities offer courses in Jewish and Holocaust Studies. The Perpetual Fund of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation, which provides the necessary resources for the conservation of the former camp, was also established. Cooperation with the IHRA has helped to facilitate a more open dialogue within Poland, and in the last fifteen years an honest, multi-dimensional debate on Polish-Jewish wartime relations has developed. Thanks to the shared efforts of historians, educators, and politicians, the Holocaust has become an important part of public discourse.

IHRA Multi-Year Work Plan



ITS Bad Arolsen Central Index of Names. The Central Name Index contains 50 million items relating to the fates of 17.5 million victims of Nazi persecution. Credit: A. Greiner-Napp. ITS

The IHRA has implemented a Multi-Year Work Plan (MYWP), giving special attention to killing sites, access to archives, Education research and Holocaust Memorial Days.

MYWP on Education Research

Over the past ten years, the field of teaching and learning about the Holocaust has become increasingly professionalized, with numerous related developments in education research. The IHRA recognized the need to examine these new trends and initiated the MYWP on Education Research, which aims to provide an overview of empirical research studies focusing on teaching and learning about the Holocaust.

A conference will be held in Switzerland in 2016 to share and discuss the findings among academics, educational experts, decision-makers, NGOs, diplomats and funding organizations.



IHRA's first publication 'Killing Sites — Research and Remembrance'.

MYWP on Killing Sites

The IHRA's MYWP on Killing Sites is dedicated to locating killing sites and ensuring their commemoration and preservation. The conference 'Killing Sites — Research and Remembrance', held in 2014, was attended by a variety of experts in the field. The conference focused on fieldwork as well as on exploring regional perspectives, databases, education and commemoration.

A publication incorporating the conference papers was published in March 2015 and constituted the first authoritative anthology on the current state of research on killing sites as well as the first book in the IHRA publication series.

“Identification and commemoration of the neglected Killing Sites remains a truly urgent task. IHRA is less interested in explaining the sad state of affairs than in supporting activists and organizations that have been active in changing it.”

— Karel C Berkhoff in the afterword to 'Killing Sites — Research and Remembrance'

MYWP on Holocaust Memorial Days

Aiming to share knowledge and best practices, and as part of the MYWP on Holocaust Memorial Days, the IHRA organizes senior-level meetings with government representatives, policy-makers, students, and NGOs. IHRA delegations, including the IHRA Chair, the Advisor to the IHRA, the IHRA's Executive Secretary and affiliated experts, have visited IHRA member countries including Finland, Hungary, Ireland, Poland, Romania and Spain under the auspices of the MYWP. The MYWP also aims to further develop content resources related to Holocaust Memorial Days, which are available on the IHRA website.

The names of Romanian Jewish and Roma victims of the Holocaust are displayed at the Central Memorial Site of the Holocaust Memorial Monument in Bucharest. The roof is made of metal girders with space between them symbolizing life between light and shadows, and the untimely death of the victims. Credit: *Elie Wiesel National Institute for Studying the Holocaust in Romania*



MYWP on Archival Access

The MYWP on Archival Access seeks to evaluate the state of access to relevant materials located in IHRA member and non-member countries. The project's overall aim is to strengthen the commitment to opening archives as mandated in the Stockholm Declaration.

The MYWP's research shows that Holocaust scholars and researchers face diverse challenges including legal obstacles, data privacy regulations, the closure of archives, prohibitive costs and inadequate research facilities. Furthermore, the materials themselves are often in poor physical condition.

The MYWP aims to support IHRA member countries in conducting a review of classified or otherwise administratively restricted Holocaust-related documents. The project also incorporates the IHRA's initiative to engage with the European Union in calling for open access to Holocaust-related material.

ROMANIA —

Several developments have taken place in Romania since joining the IHRA, including the inauguration of the 'Romanian National Holocaust Memorial' in 2009, the updating of primary and secondary school curricula, the publication of academic and non-academic works on the Holocaust, and the development of a national program for teacher training in Holocaust education. In 2010, a mass grave was discovered in Popricani (Iasi), in which 36 Jewish victims were found. The official verdict in 2014 established that the Romanian Army was responsible for the genocide committed in 1941, thus placing Romania among countries committed to the preservation of historic killing sites. Building on these remembrance efforts, Romania will assume the IHRA Chairmanship in 2016.

SERBIA —

Serbia has concluded that combating extremism in all its forms must start with remembrance of the past. Therefore, the Holocaust will be included in 'Teaching Materials to Combat Anti-Semitism' — a joint initiative by OSCE/ODIHR and the Anne Frank House. IHRA membership has also allowed cooperation on projects of international importance, including the development of a joint exhibition space within the 'Ex-Yugoslav' Pavilion at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum. The establishment of the memorial center 'Staro Sajmište' in Belgrade, on the site of the largest concentration camp on the territory of the former Yugoslavia, is also in progress — supported by the municipality of Belgrade.

SLOVAKIA —

IHRA membership has given the Holocaust-related agenda in Slovakia an international dimension, with the truly positive impact of creating new networks and new activities. A recent project on the genocide of the Roma is among those which have received financial support from the IHRA. Working within the IHRA means working with people whose expertise and experience inspire activities and initiatives at a national level. Furthermore, IHRA membership helps to ensure that Holocaust education and remembrance remain important topics in public discourse and on a political level.

SLOVENIA —

The joint efforts of the government of Slovenia and NGOs to educate and inform the public about the fate of the Jewish population in the territory of Slovenia during the Holocaust have been well received in schools and beyond. Significant developments include a visit by a group of Slovenian history teachers to Yad Vashem in 2009, the unveiling of a memorial to Slovenian Holocaust victims, entitled 'Forgotten Suitcase', in the city of Murska Sobota, and the annual symposiums at the Centre for Jewish Cultural Heritage Synagogue in Maribor, organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

IHRA Grant Programme



A Centropa interactive table in the Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust. Centropa is an IHRA grant recipient and is one of the few oral history projects that chose to forego the use of video when interviewing Holocaust survivors and instead digitized 22,000 old photographs belonging to 1,200 elderly Jews still living in Europe. Credit: Centropa

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

From 2001–2008 IHRA funded small-scale projects exclusively in Central and Eastern Europe, many of which focused on teacher training. In 2010 a new strategy was launched which opened up the IHRA funding to applicants all over the world and which sought to closely align the Grant Programme with the clearly defined political aims of the Stockholm Declaration. This new strategy was developed after in-depth assessment of gaps in the areas of Holocaust education, remembrance and research, which identified the need for sustainable, far-reaching international projects with governmental involvement. Exposing political decision-makers to knowledge about the Holocaust should provide them with inspiration for activities in their own countries.

The realignment of the IHRA's grant strategy has resulted in grant applicants having to think creatively about how to introduce multi-lateral elements into their projects and how to incorporate a governmental dimension. It has also encouraged them to strive for international impact.

With this shift in strategy, the renewed objectives of the IHRA's Grant Programme have been reflected in a vast number of project proposals. A truly outstanding project — awarded the first ever Yehuda Bauer Grant in 2014 — was the international colloquium 'Bystanders, Rescuers or Perpetrators? The Neutrals and the Shoah', organized by the Centro Sefarad-Israel in Spain. In close cooperation with a number of governmental and non-governmental institutions in IHRA member countries and beyond, the Centro Sefarad-Israel examined the reactions of

the governments of neutral countries during the Holocaust. This groundbreaking conference took a comparative and transnational perspective, challenging long-standing views on refugee policies and rescue myths. By focusing on the role of governments, Centro Sefarad-Israel successfully addressed the requests of the political representatives.

The Yehuda Bauer Grant was established in 2013. It is awarded annually to selected projects that follow the IHRA's grant guidelines with a particular emphasis on the multilateral features of the project as well as the significance of their target groups.

Another key project is the 'Raphael Lemkin Seminar for Genocide Prevention', which is carried out by the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation in cooperation with the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum. The program brings together government officials from around the world for week-long seminars at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum. The seminars explore how present and future generations can benefit from understanding the causes of the Holocaust and related contemporary issues. This future-focused project aims to create an international community whose members can become agents of genocide prevention in their home countries. The multiple effects of this program include local implementation of standardized training curricula for civil servants in targeted countries.

By introducing special focus areas in 2014, including Holocaust denial, new technologies and new research fields, the IHRA has identified contemporary areas of concern, thus offering institutions the opportunity to explore new fields and further shape the future of Holocaust remembrance, research and education.



Participants and staff of the 2013 Raphael Lemkin Seminar for Genocide Prevention, Global Edition. Credit: Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation

SPAIN —

Spain has benefited significantly from the easily accessible expert knowledge and prestigious cooperation within the IHRA. Although the general population in Spain often feels that the history of the Holocaust is not directly relevant to them, more and more educational and research activities are currently being developed that consider both the positive and negative aspects of Spain's past during the Holocaust. Spain established 27 January as the official 'Holocaust Remembrance Day' in 2004, and an increasing number of government figures now commemorate the anniversary each year. Spain's IHRA membership means that their participation is given a prominent place on the international stage.

SWEDEN —

The starting point for the working group which formed the basis of the IHRA was the quotation 'Tell Ye Your Children'. This quotation inspired a book on the history of the Holocaust which has become one of the most widely published books in Sweden. Another significant national response was the creation of a governmental authority, the 'Living History Forum', which contributed to the reformation of the national history teaching curricula for grades 7–9 and in high schools, emphasizing the importance of teaching about the Holocaust. The 'Living History Forum' has also fostered widespread national awareness of the commemoration of 27 January.



“Tell ye your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation.”

— Joel 1:3



The 'Keeping the Memory Alive' poster design competition was launched in 2011, supported by the IHRA Grant Programme and coordinated by Yad Vashem together with various partner organizations from IHRA member countries. Each year, art and design students create original posters based on a Holocaust-related theme chosen by the project partner, The Holocaust and the United Nations Outreach Programme. National juries evaluate the hundreds of entries. The best entries are published as a poster pack, along with an online lesson plan, as an outreach resource. To commemorate national and international Holocaust remembrance days, the posters have been exhibited around the world in high-profile governmental, civic and educational settings including parliaments and the UN Headquarters. The posters are also in constant use as a teaching tool in countless classrooms across the globe.

Minister of State (Multiculturalism) Tim Uppal announces the two winners of the international poster competition to commemorate the Holocaust at the Yizkor Ceremony at Earl Bales Park in Toronto organized and led by the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem. Credit: David Amoils Photography

SWITZERLAND —

Switzerland was the first country to establish a national IHRA support group, by bringing together representatives from teachers' associations, Jewish NGOs, Sinti and Roma organizations, governmental departments and universities. The underlying idea was to promote the implementation of the Stockholm Declaration and the goals of the IHRA in civil society. This combined top-down/bottom-up approach turned out to be particularly successful in a multilingual and federalist country. Teamwork and diversity are Switzerland's strengths.



South Lakeland Holocaust Memorial Day 2014 - © Lake District Holocaust Project. Credit: Holocaust Memorial Day Trust

UNITED KINGDOM —

IHRA membership has given the United Kingdom an international forum on which to progress critical post-Holocaust issues, while NGOs and academics have continued to deliver ground-breaking Holocaust educational resources, academic research and commemorative projects to newer audiences. The appointment of the first UK Envoy for Post-Holocaust Issues, large-scale national research into teachers' and pupils' thinking about the Holocaust, and the taking of a digital copy of the ITS archive all demonstrate the UK's firm commitment to advancing knowledge and awareness of the Holocaust. Nothing demonstrates this more clearly than the establishment of the Prime Minister's Holocaust Commission, tasked with ensuring Britain has a permanent memorial to the Holocaust and educational resources for future generations.

UNITED STATES —

The IHRA gives Holocaust-related institutions in the United States an unprecedented forum for dialogue with communities and experts across the country and throughout the world. From the first IHRA Holocaust educational book, published under the direction of the Swedish government in 1998, to the expertise offered today by the Working Groups, the IHRA enables organizations worldwide to develop meaningful opportunities in key areas of education, research, and memorialization in schools, universities and communities. The IHRA helps build the political will necessary for the institutionalization of these key areas, and advances the need for open and transparent access to Holocaust-era archives.

Permanent International Partners

The IHRA cooperates closely with various intergovernmental bodies in the form of Permanent International Partners. Some of the partner organizations have a narrow geographical focus while others have a global presence. What they all share, however, is that issues related to Holocaust education, research and remembrance form part of their mandates, and that they all operate with the backing of governments committed to Holocaust remembrance.

In most cases, the Holocaust forms only a part of the partner organizations' larger portfolio, whereas the IHRA focuses exclusively on the Holocaust and related issues. The partner organizations turn to the IHRA to keep abreast of developments in the field, and to gain access to the IHRA's unique pool of experts. In turn, the IHRA benefits from the experience and expertise that the partner organizations offer, and IHRA experts and national delegations have the opportunity to cooperate with these influential international organizations.

Close cooperation between the IHRA and its partners reduces duplication in areas where there may be an overlap of mandates. And by pooling resources, knowledge and contacts, the IHRA and its partner organizations can ensure greater effectiveness in promoting Holocaust remembrance and understanding.



Zgierz, Poland, Place of death unknown | Heron, Zofia, 1907, Poland, Place of death unknown | Herovics, Imre, 1907, Budapest, Hungary, Murdered in Struma | Herpe, Giesela, 1910, Germany, Murdered in Auschwitz, Poland | Herpe, Fanny, 15/8/1894, Berlin, Germany, Murdered in Auschwitz, Poland | Herpe, Hedwig, 19/5/1883, Berlin, Germany, Murdered in Riga, Latvia | Herpe, Heinz, 15/1/1925, Berlin, Germany, Murdered in Riga, Latvia | Herpe, Ilse, 1910, Germany, Murdered in Riga, Latvia | Herpe, Klaus, 21/1/1934, Berlin, Germany, Murdered in Trawniki | Herpe, Louis, 19/7/1891, Krojanke, Germany, Murdered in Wloszczowa | Herpe, Rebekka, 23/3/1885, Berlin, Germany, Murdered in Riga, Latvia | Herpe, Rosa, 21/1/1882, Frankfurt am Main, Germany, Murdered in Sobibor, Poland | Herpen van, Nathalie, 31/1/1891, Haarlem, The Netherlands, Murdered in Sobibor, Poland | Herper, Grete, 3/10/1916, Dortmund, Germany, Murdered in Auschwitz, Poland | Herper, Kurt, 7/4/1921, Mauthausen, Austria, Murdered in Sobibor, Poland | Herper, Lutz, 21/6/1911, Lissa, Poland, Murdered in Sobibor, Poland | Herper, Rosa, 22/6/1878, Pritzwalk, Germany, Murdered in Sobibor, Poland | Herper, Therese, 5/8/1893, Wittlich, Germany, Murdered in Sobibor, Poland | Herper, Willy, 1910, Wilna, Poland, Murdered in Sobibor, Poland | Herps, Khaia, Volove, Czechoslovakia, Murdered in Auschwitz, Poland | Herps, Sheindl, Murdered in Auschwitz, Poland | Herpshtman, Aran, 1905, Koszino, Czechoslovakia, Murdered in Auschwitz, Poland | Herpshtman, Sloma, 1910, Koszino, Czechoslovakia, Place of death unknown | Herpshtman, Sloma, 1910, Koszino, Czechoslovakia, Place of death unknown | Herpshtman, Sloma, 1910, Koszino, Czechoslovakia, Place of death unknown

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Yad Vashem's Book of Names, Block 27 at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum. The monumental 'Book of Names' — 2 meters high and 14 meters in circumference — contains 4.2 million names of murdered Jews gathered over the past 60 years by Yad Vashem and created especially for the exhibition 'SHOAH' in Block 27 at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum. At the end of the book are empty pages, leaving room for additional insertions as the task of collecting names of victims is not yet complete. *Credit: Courtesy Yad Vashem*

