

## **Resolution PA2505 – 05**

### **From Remembrance to Responsibility: Safeguarding Holocaust Memory**

#### **The 17<sup>th</sup> Plenary Assembly of the World Jewish Congress, meeting in Jerusalem on 18 – 20 May 2025**

**RECALLS** resolution 1409GB – 5 on the 70th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Nazi Death Camps;

**NOTES** that 2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II and also the liberation of the Nazi German death and concentration camps;

**FURTHER NOTES** that Auschwitz-Birkenau was liberated by Soviet troops on January 27, 1945; that Bergen-Belsen was liberated by British troops on April 15, 1945; that Buchenwald, Dachau, and Mauthausen were liberated by American troops on April 11, 1945, April 29, 1945, and May 5, 1945, respectively; that Theresienstadt (Terezin) was liberated by Soviet troops on May 8, 1945; and that many other sites where the Holocaust was perpetrated were similarly liberated by Allied troops in the winter and spring of 1945;

**RECALLS** that throughout the war, the World Jewish Congress played a critical role in raising international awareness about the annihilation of European Jewry, in devising rescue plans, in calling for the post-war prosecution of Nazi war criminals, and in laying the groundwork for reparations to be paid to the victims of Nazi persecution and material claims to be addressed;

**FURTHER RECALLS** that in the aftermath of the war, the World Jewish Congress was deeply involved in helping survivors of the Holocaust begin to rebuild their lives beginning in the Displaced Persons camps that were set up in Germany and Austria;

**ACKNOWLEDGES** the World Jewish Congress for its role in the commemorations of the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, having brought a delegation of Holocaust survivors and Jewish leaders from more than 50 countries, affirming its commitment to Holocaust remembrance and education;

**COMMENDS** WJC President, Ronald S. Lauder, for his poignant speech at the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, and his call-to-action, warning world leaders that the world is “again in crisis;”

**ACKNOWLEDGES** that this milestone anniversary was one of the last in which survivors of the Holocaust are still present to bear witness to their experiences;

**EMPHASIZES** that as we mark 80 years since the end of World War II—commemorating both Victory in Europe and Victory over Japan – we must remain

steadfast in our commitment to remembering the atrocities of the past and ensuring that such horrors are never repeated;

**STRONGLY CONDEMNS** all manifestations of Holocaust denial, inversion, distortion, mockery, obfuscation and trivialization in all facets of life, including in political discourse, academia, and online platforms;

**EXPRESSES GRAVE CONCERN** over the growing distortion of the Holocaust through inappropriate historical comparisons, which undermine its unique significance and diminish the memory of the six million Jews who perished;

**EXPRESSES FURTHER CONCERN** over the misuse and politicization of the terms “genocide” and “ethnic cleansing” which risk eroding their legal and historical meanings, in particular notes with great concern the malicious and ahistorical attempts to equate Israel’s war of self-defense in Gaza with the Holocaust, making a mockery of the Holocaust and the concept of genocide;

**REITERATES** the critical need to uphold and strengthen Holocaust education and the preservation of historical sites, artifacts, and testimonies —particularly by non-Jews— as essential tools in ensuring the integrity of history, in combating antisemitism and in fostering a more just and informed society, especially in the context of a future without survivors to bear witness;

**RECOGNIZES AND COMMENDS** the work of those Jewish and particularly non-Jewish organizations who have shown moral clarity and stood with Israel during its war of self-defense;

**CALLS** for the implementation of comprehensive and sustainable Holocaust education programs by global institutions, governments, and educational bodies, by incorporating new technologies and innovative methods, to ensure that the history and lessons of the Holocaust are preserved and effectively transmitted to future generations;

**URGES** all communities and organizations affiliated with the World Jewish Congress, as well as Jewish communities worldwide, to continue to initiate and participate in commemorations marking the liberation of the various Nazi death and concentration camps, honoring the victims of the Shoah and the resilience of its survivors.

Adopted by the 17th Plenary Assembly of the World Jewish Congress, Jerusalem, 19 May 2025.