

Resolution GB 1905 - 3

The Value of Holocaust Education and the Need to Combat Holocaust Denial through Education

The Governing Board of the World Jewish Congress, meeting in Ottawa on 15 May 2019,

NOTES WITH ALARM that as we are commemorating the 74th anniversary of the end of World War II and the liberation of the survivors of Nazi concentration camps, recent surveys show that sizable proportions of the population in many countries lack basic knowledge about the Holocaust and/or do not believe that the Holocaust took place;

NOTES WITH GRAVE CONCERN that Genocides and crimes against humanity are still taking place today;

COMMEMORATES the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide by the United Nations, and the efforts by Raphael Lemkin and others to bring about this landmark Convention, which puts the onus on all signatories to prevent and punish the crime of genocide;

EMPHASIZES the historical significance, uniqueness and universality of the Holocaust and the importance of using the lessons of the Holocaust to both prevent future genocides and other atrocities, as well as combat newly virulent strains of antisemitism and other forms of hate;

STRONGLY CONDEMNS any attempt to deny, distort or trivialize the Holocaust as a historical event or diminish in any way the extent of its inherent evil;

CONDEMNS all extremist ideologies, including Nazism, fascism, and radical Islam;

CALLS UPON all government and international organizations to take all necessary measures and implement concrete strategies to promote the importance of Holocaust education in their schools and educational institutions, and prepare curricula with the goal of combating Holocaust denial, distortion or trivialization;

WELCOMES the UNESCO-WJC partnership on Holocaust education, including the educational website aboutholocaust.org, aimed at providing students, young adults, and others with essential information about the history of the Holocaust and its legacy, which is currently available in English and is set to be translated into dozens of languages, including Arabic, Farsi and Chinese;

CALLS UPON all states to adopt the Working Definition of Holocaust Denial and Distortion of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) in full;

CALLS UPON all states and social media companies to monitor, combat and legislate against hate speech and Holocaust denial and distortion online and to put in place effective measures to facilitate the prevention and removal of such content;

CALLS UPON all states to enact proper legislation to punish instances of Holocaust denial and Nazi glorification, including the promotion and use of Nazi symbols as well as the sale of Nazi memorabilia.