

RESOLUTION GB 1811 – 5

Integrity of Holocaust Memory

The Governing Board of the World Jewish Congress, meeting in Paris on 19 November 2018,

NOTES WITH CONCERN the disturbing phenomenon in certain post-Communist countries of historical distortion and obfuscation of events surrounding the Holocaust. These attempts manifest as denying the complicity or various types of participation or soft denial of local complicity in the destruction and despoliation of Jewish communities during the Shoah, including the tendency to glorify nationalists who collaborated with the Nazis and regimes allied with Germany, and acting as enablers or on occasion, prime perpetrators of atrocities, through the naming of streets, erection of statues, placing of plaques and official rhetoric praising them;

OBJECTS to the enactment of legislation that seeks to impose an inaccurate narrative of wartime history rather than reflecting the true historical record, which in turn frustrates the work of scholars and others determined to elucidate the extent of local complicity in the Holocaust, whether on the part of individuals or institutions;

NOTES that such legislation has been enacted in Poland and Ukraine and is contemplated in other states;

OBJECTS to attempts by state-sponsored institutions or foundations of national memory or history, such as have been established in Croatia, Hungary, Poland and Ukraine, among other countries, to whitewash or otherwise obfuscate the role of local accessories in the destruction and despoliation of Jews;

CALLS on the authorities in all countries where the Holocaust was perpetrated, including Croatia, Hungary, Poland and Ukraine, among others, to ensure that all sites connected to the Shoah, including museums and other memorials as well as online sources convey the truth of what took place during the Holocaust, consistent with the findings of internationally reputable historians;

REAFFIRMS that the World Jewish Congress is committed to resist this trend, including the enactment of inappropriate legislation and the establishment of institutions that distort history;

REAFFIRMS that the World Jewish Congress will always strive to ensure the integrity of historical research and commemorations and will defend the work of scholars and others who seek to reveal and transmit the truth about what transpired during those terrible years;

COMMITTS to guarding and defending the integrity of Holocaust memory, in cooperation with national and local communities, before all relevant foreign governments and institutions and to maintain this issue as a priority on the agenda of the World Jewish Congress.

APPROVED BY THE WJC GOVERNING BOARD MEETING IN PARIS ON 19 NOVEMBER 2018