

## Resolution PA 2105 – 7

### Distortion of Historical Truth

#### THE 16<sup>th</sup> PLENARY ASSEMBLY OF THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS,

**RECALLS** prior resolutions dealing with Holocaust denial and distortion, including PA 1704 –1; GB 1811 – 5; GB 1905 - 3, and the WJC’s ongoing commitment to combat both the glorification of Nazi collaborators and Holocaust distortion or outright denial;

**REJECTS** the rewriting of historical truth as a practice whereby objective facts are purposely and deliberately manipulated to promote a distorted and false national narrative, for example, by minimizing the scope of the Holocaust, and local participation in Nazi crimes, or by glorifying Nazi collaborators as heroes because of their purported contributions to the struggle for national liberation;

**STATES** unequivocally that the glorification of any historical figure who endorsed or supported Nazism or subscribed to an antisemitic political ideology advancing the platforms of National Socialist (Nazi) or other antisemitic parties or movements, especially during and after the Nazi era, is unacceptable and all such individuals are to be strongly condemned;

**LAMENTS** the fact that Holocaust distortion and outright denial, which has historically been used as a tool to promote and institutionalize antisemitism, continues to be spread via traditional platforms and even more rapidly and extensively via online platforms;

**NOTES WITH ALARM** that the distortion of historical truth has gained significant support among certain political movements as well as some governments, notably in post-Communist Europe, where the glorification of former local Nazi collaborators is used in the present day as a means of whitewashing the history of the destruction of Jewish communities and individuals and as a tool to achieve other political goals;

**RECALLS** that while the intentions of nationalist movements in the distortion of historical facts, especially in post-Communist Europe, are primarily to present their own history in a more favorable light rather than explicitly intending to promote antisemitic or racist policy objectives, such distortions invariably lead to Holocaust distortion and other false historical narratives which are prejudicial to the Jewish people;



**COMMENDS** those historians and scholars around the world who have contributed to correcting such false narratives and calls upon all nations to protect academic freedom;

**APPLAUDS** the recent cancellation of the Lukov march in Bulgaria for the second year in a row, as an unambiguous step against historical distortion and denial;

**CONDEMNS** the continuing manifestation of glorification of hate by means of sanctioned public displays in various other European centers ranging from Kaunas, Madrid and Gothenburg to Budapest and Bleiburg;

**URGES** nation-states to recognize the importance to their own nations of the historical accuracy of their own national narratives by encouraging objective historical research rather than politicizing national identity and history to the detriment of minority communities and individuals;

**CALLS UPON** international organizations and governments to safeguard historical integrity by: adopting the Working Definition of Holocaust Denial and Distortion of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA); promoting fact-based Holocaust education; and encouraging citizens to engage critically in the review of their collective national memory, to ensure that future generations may avoid the traumatic upheavals of nationalist violence and genocide.

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**Approved by the 16<sup>th</sup> WJC Plenary Assembly, 25 May 2021**