

RESOLUTION: 1409gb-5

70th ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF THE NAZI DEATH CAMPS

The Governing Board of the World Jewish Congress, meeting in Berlin on 15 September 2014,

NOTES that the year 2015 will mark the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II and the liberation of the Nazi 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 World War II the World Jewish Congress played a critical role in calling international awareness to the genocide of European Jewry, devising rescue plans, calling for the post-war prosecution of Nazi war criminals, and laying the groundwork for reparations to be paid to the victims of Nazi persecution;

FURTHER RECALLS that during the months and years following the liberation, the World Jewish Congress played a critical role in rebuilding the lives of survivors of the Holocaust in the Displaced Persons camps of Germany and Austria;

DECLARES that the World Jewish Congress is partnering with the USC Shoah Foundation to bring survivors of Auschwitz, Birkenau, and Buna-Monowitz to Auschwitz-Birkenau on January 27, 2015 as part of the *Auschwitz: The Past is Present* campaign, a global communications and education program undertaken by the USC Shoah Foundation, the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, and the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation;

NOTES that the European Jewish Congress in cooperation with the Czech government will hold a commemorative international forum, "Let my people live" in Prague and Terezin on January 26/27, 2015;

FURTHER DECLARES that the World Jewish Congress will be formally participating in the commemorative ceremonies in Bergen-Belsen on April 26, 2015, marking the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Bergen-Belsen; and

ENCOURAGES AND URGES all the communities and organizations affiliated with the World Jewish Congress, and all other Jewish communities across the globe, to participate in and support all commemorations marking the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi death

and concentration camps, mourning the victims of the Shoah, and celebrating the return to life of its survivors.