

## **RESOLUTION: 1503ec-5**

### **HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATIONS**

**The Executive Committee of the World Jewish Congress, meeting in Washington, DC on 23 March 2015,**

**NOTES** that 2015 marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II and the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps;

**RECALLS** that throughout World War II the World Jewish Congress played a key 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;

**RECALLS** that during the months and years following the liberation, the World Jewish Congress provided critical political support and assistance to Jewish survivors of the Holocaust forced to remain in Displaced Persons camps in Germany, Austria and Italy;

**NOTES** with satisfaction that the WJC, together with the USC Shoah Foundation, brought 100 survivors of Auschwitz-Birkenau, together with their children and grandchildren, to participate in the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the liberation of that death camp in January 2015;

**NOTES** that the fourth international forum 'Let My People Live!', organized by the European Jewish Congress, was held in January 2015 in Prague and Terezin and discussed challenges to European Jewry, particularly the rise in hate, racism, anti-Semitism and xenophobia;

**EXPRESSES** its gratitude to WJC President Ronald S. Lauder for his extraordinary leadership over many decades in ensuring the preservation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and for the powerful address he delivered there on January 27, 2015, reminding the assembled world leaders and millions of television viewers across the globe of the linkage between the horrors of the Holocaust and the contemporary resurgence of anti-Semitism.

**LOOKS** forward to the WJC's participation in the upcoming ceremony in Bergen-Belsen on April 26, 2015, marking the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of that camp, which will be addressed by German President Joachim Gauck and WJC President Ronald S. Lauder;

**NOTES** that a commemoration on the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day will be organized by the Russian Jewish Congress and the Euro-Asian Jewish Congress in Israel in May 2015;

**WELCOMES** the joint initiative by the government of the People's Republic of China and the World Jewish Congress to commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of the

Shanghai Ghetto by Chinese troops in September 1945, which will further strengthen the bonds between the Chinese and Jewish peoples;

**ENCOURAGES** all communities and organizations affiliated with the World Jewish Congress, and all other Jewish communities across the globe, to participate in and support these and other commemorations marking the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps, mourning the victims of the Shoah and celebrating the return to life of its survivors.

**Approved by the Executive Committee of the World Jewish Congress meeting in Washington DC on 23 March 2015.**