

The Holocaust and the United Nations Outreach Programme

The Holocaust and the United Nations Outreach Programme strives to remind the world of the lessons to be learned from the Holocaust so as to help to prevent future acts of genocide. Since its establishment in 2006 by United Nations General Assembly Resolution 60/7, the Holocaust and the United Nations Outreach Programme has developed an international network of partners and a multifaceted programme that includes online and print educational products, study guides for students, seminars, professional development programmes, a film series, and a permanent exhibit at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Programme's work culminates each year with the worldwide observance of the International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust on 27 January.

The Holocaust Programme works closely with Holocaust survivors to ensure that their stories are heard and heeded as a warning against the consequences of anti-Semitism and other forms of discrimination. In all of its activities, particularly with students and educators, the Programme draws crucial links between the underlying causes of genocide, the lessons to be learned from the Holocaust and the promotion of human rights today.

I. International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust



The Holocaust Programme leads the annual observance of the International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust on 27 January. This day was chosen by the international community to mark the liberation of the Auschwitz Birkenau German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp (1940-1945). In his keynote address, filmmaker Steven Spielberg spoke about the importance of preserving survivor testimony, which related to this year's theme of "Journey's through the Holocaust". In addition to the memorial ceremony, other events held at United Nations Headquarters for Holocaust remembrance week included an NGO briefing, two exhibit openings and a film screening.

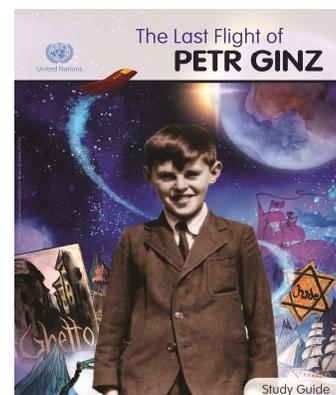
With guidance and support from the Holocaust Programme, this year some 125 educational events were held in 42 countries by the United Nations Information Centres.

II. International Partnerships

The Holocaust Programme has developed partnerships with civil society, educators and Governments around the world. These partnerships help the Programme develop multilingual educational materials, create effective professional development programmes and extend its work to a global audience. Dynamic exhibitions at United Nations Headquarters are a visible achievement of these partnerships. This year, one of the exhibits showcased winning entries from the design student poster contest, sponsored by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. A second exhibit featured "The March of the Living". In December 2012, the Programme partnered with the United Nations Academic Impact and the State of Israel to hold a teacher training at Yad Vashem, The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority. In November 2013, the Programme arranged the visit of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to the Auschwitz Birkenau Memorial and Museum. On 28 April 2014, the Holocaust Programme organized a panel discussion on "Learning about the Holocaust through the Arts", in partnership with the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations and the World Jewish Congress, to illustrate how the universal lessons of the Holocaust can be conveyed through the powerful medium of art.

III. Holocaust Educational Materials

The Holocaust Programme has developed a wide variety of educational tools in all six official languages of the United Nations in cooperation with leading institutions in Holocaust and genocide education. The Holocaust Programme issued an educational study guide, *Women and the Holocaust: Courage and Compassion*, and a companion DVD that includes survivor testimonies in partnership with Yad Vashem, The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority and the USC Shoah Foundation Institute. For younger students, the Programme published a study guide companion to the documentary film, *The Last Flight of Petr Ginz*, produced by Sandy Dickson and Churchill Roberts. The film focuses on the inspirational life and transcendental artwork of a young Jewish boy from Prague who died during the Holocaust. The study guide provides historical context for the film and educates students on the importance of human rights and the work of the United Nations. The Programme also publishes online position papers drafted by scholars around the world on the Holocaust and genocide prevention issues for university students. Most recently, the Programme partnered with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum to produce an educators' package in eight languages titled *The Path to Nazi Genocide*".



VI. Holocaust Remembrance and Educational Events

In its effort to educate the public about the Holocaust and the dangers of hatred and prejudice, the Holocaust Programme holds numerous events throughout the year, including a regular film series and frequent roundtable discussions featuring the world's leading experts in Holocaust and genocide studies. Other topics of discussion have included "The Holocaust by Bullets", "A Quest for Justice in Cambodia", and "Raoul Wallenberg and His Legacy", among others. The Holocaust Programme also organizes professional development programmes for teachers. The most recent day-long training was held in New York on 2 May 2013, featuring effective methodology and new digital technologies for teaching about the Holocaust and other genocides, the Roma experience during the Holocaust, the power of propaganda, iWitness, and ways to create an anti-bias learning environment. Partners included Yad Vashem, the Anne Frank House, USC Shoah Foundation, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Anti-Defamation League. In November, the Programme screened a documentary film *Rescue in the Philippines: Refuge from the Holocaust*. In December 2013, the Programme co-organized a special event to mark the 65th anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. The latest event was the first ever Model United Nations simulation on the Holocaust and Genocide Prevention held on 2 June 2014 at the Bronx High School of Science in New York. Students simulated work of the United Nations General Assembly and presented their recommendations for world action to prevent genocide. The event was organized in partnership with the UN4MUN Programme of the Education Outreach Section and the United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect.

V. Support to the Worldwide Network of United Nations Information Centres



Soon after its inception, the Holocaust Programme organized four regional training programmes to support the outreach efforts of United Nations Information Centres (UNICs). The training programmes were designed to give staff in the field the tools they needed to organize meaningful and effective memorial and educational events. Staff could then integrate these principles into outreach activities aspiring to combat Holocaust denial and promote respect for diversity and human rights. As a follow-up to these trainings, the Programme has organized three video conferences with a Holocaust survivor and students in Asia, Africa and Latin America as a way to deepen their understanding of the dangers of hatred and racism.

Please visit www.un.org/holocaustremembrance or email HolocaustRemembrance@un.org