



*Glasses of those murdered at Auschwitz Birkenau Nazi
German concentration and death camp (1941-1945).
© Paweł Sawicki, Auschwitz Memorial*

2021 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF COMMEMORATION IN MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST

Programme

WEDNESDAY, 27 JANUARY 2021

11:00 A.M.–1:00 P.M. EST

17:00–19:00 CET

COMMEMORATION CEREMONY

Ms. Melissa FLEMING

Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications
MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Mr. António GUTERRES

United Nations Secretary-General

H.E. Mr. Volkan BOZKIR

President of the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly

Ms. Audrey AZOULAY

Director-General of UNESCO

Ms. Sarah NEMTANU and Ms. Deborah NEMTANU

Violinists | "Sorrow" by Béla Bartók (1945-1981),
performed from the crypt of the Mémorial de la Shoah, Paris.

H.E. Ms. Angela MERKEL

Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Hon. Irwin COTLER

Special Envoy on Preserving Holocaust Remembrance
and Combatting Antisemitism, Canada

H.E. Mr. Gilad MENASHE ERDAN

Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Richard M. MILLS, Jr.

Acting Representative of the United States to the United Nations

Recitation of Memorial Prayers

Cantor JULIA CADRAIN, Central Synagogue in New York
El Male Rachamim and Kaddish

Dr. Irene BUTTER and Ms. Shireen NASSAR

Holocaust Survivor and Granddaughter

in conversation with Ms. Clarissa WARD

CNN's Chief International Correspondent

**Respondents to the question,
“Why do you feel that learning about the
Holocaust is important, and why should
future generations know about it?”**

Mr. Piotr CYWINSKI, Poland

Mr. Mark MASEKO, Zambia

Professor Debórah DWORK, United States

Professor Salah AL JABERY, Iraq

Professor Yehuda BAUER, Israel

Ms. Aigerim SEITENOVA, Kazakhstan

Mr. Ari FOLMAN, Israel

Hon. Irwin COTLER, Canada

Ms. Memory CHIPETA, Zambia

Mr. Renaud CAPUÇON, violinist,

Mr. Guillaume BELLOM, pianist

“Nigun (Baal Shem)” by Ernest Bloch (1880-1895)
performed in front of the “Lest we Forget” exhibition of
Holocaust survivors and victims of Nazi persecution.
The exhibition by German photographer Luigi Toscano
is installed at UNESCO headquarters in Paris from
18 January to 12 February 2021.

PANEL DISCUSSION “HOLOCAUST DENIAL AND DISTORTION”

MODERATOR

Ms. Hala GORANI, CNN Journalist

PANELLISTS

Ms. Hella Pick

Journalist and Kindertransport refugee

Professor Deborah E. Lipstadt

Historian, Emory University

Mr. Marian Turcki

Holocaust survivor, Vice President of the International Auschwitz Committee

Mr. Phillippe Sands

Author

Dr. Robert Williams

Chair of the IHRA Committee on Antisemitism and Holocaust Denial

STATEMENTS

Ms. Michaela Kuechler

Chair of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance

Ms. Alice Wairimu Nderitu

United Nations Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide

Mr. Serge Klarsfeld

UNESCO Special Envoy for Holocaust Education and Genocide Prevention



Professor Yehuda Bauer is the honorary chairman of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. He was the founding Chair of the Vidal Sassoon Center for the Study of Antisemitism and the founding Editor of the *Journal for Holocaust and Genocide Studies*, 1986-1990. Between 2000 and 2005, Professor Bauer served as Chair of Yad Vashem Research Institute. He is a professor of Holocaust Studies at the Avraham Harman Institute of Contemporary Jewry at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, a Member of the Israeli Academy of Science and a recipient of The Israel Prize.

© Simon Ianelli



Mr. Guillaume Bellom is a classical pianist. He was the first prize winner of the Epinal International Piano Competition, an finalist and winner of the Modern Time prize of the Clara Haskil competition. He has one of the most atypical paths of his generation, pursuing studies in both violin and piano. He performed with the Orchestre National d'Ile de France, the Lausanne Chamber Orchestra and with artists such as Paul Meyer, and Victor Julien-Laferrière.

© Manolo Mylonas



Dr. Irene Butter was born in Berlin and grew up as a Jewish child in Nazi-occupied Europe. A survivor of Westerbork and Bergen Belsen concentration camps, she came to the United States in 1945. Since the late 1980s, Dr. Butter has been teaching students about the Holocaust and the lessons she learned during those traumatic years. Her memoir, *Shores Beyond Shores*, details her journey. She is a co-founder of the Raoul Wallenberg Medal and Lecture series at the University of Michigan, and one of the founders of Zeitouna, an Arab-Jewish women's dialogue group in Ann Arbor, Michigan.



Mr. Renaud Capuçon is a violinist. He performs with leading orchestras such as the Berliner Philharmoniker, Vienna Philharmonic, London Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre National de France. Mr. Capuçon is the Artistic Director of the Sommets Musicaux de Gstaad, and the Easter Festival in Aix-en-Provence. Appointed "Officier dans l'Ordre National du Mérite" and "Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur", he was also named UNESCO Artist for Peace. Mr. Capuçon plays the 1737 Guarneri del Gesù "Panette" violin, formerly owned by a renowned violinist Isaac Stern.



Mr. Piotr Cywiński is director of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum in Oświęcim, Poland since 2006. From 2005 to 2014, Mr. Cywiński was deputy chairman of the Council of the International Center for Education about Auschwitz and the Holocaust, and was nominated as Chairman of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation, which he co-founded. He is the author of several books including *Epitah*, *Miejsce Prawdy* and is co-author of the compendium *Auschwitz from A to Z. Illustrated history of the camp* as well as the catalogue *Auschwitz Legacies*.



Cantor Julia Cadrain received a Bachelors of Music in classical voice at New England Conservatory, and was ordained as a cantor by Hebrew Union College, the seminary of the Jewish Reform movement, in the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music. She has served as a member of the clergy team at Manhattan’s Central Synagogue since 2012. Cantor Cadrain finds inspiration in connecting people through the power of music, ritual, and spiritual practice.



Ms. Memory Chipeta is a Grade 11 student at Rufunsa Girls Technical School in Zambia. Her interests include participating in debates. She represented Zambia at the Young Southern Africa Debate Contest in South Africa in 2018 where her team won the first prize. An environment enthusiast, Ms. Chipeta is concerned about the growing problem of waste management and aspires to invent a machine that will ensure affordable recycling at household level.



Honourable Irwin Cotler is the founder and chair of the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights, an Emeritus Professor of Law at McGill University, the former Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, and an international human rights lawyer. Hon. Cotler launched Canada’s first National Justice Initiative Against Racism and Hate, and initiated the first-ever prosecution for the genocide of the Tutsis in Rwanda under Canada’s Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes Act. Hon. Cotler has served as counsel to high-profile prisoners of conscience and political prisoners. In 2020, Hon. Cotler was appointed the Special Envoy on Preserving Holocaust Remembrance and Combatting Antisemitism, Canada.



Professor Debórah Dwork is the Director of the Center for the Study of the Holocaust, Genocide, and Crimes Against Humanity at the Graduate Center – City University of New York. Her award-winning books include *Children With A Star*; *Flight from the Reich*; *Auschwitz*; and *Holocaust*. Recipient of the International Network of Genocide Scholars Lifetime Achievement Award (2020), Professor Dwork has served as a Senior Scholar-in-Residence at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and has been a Guggenheim Fellow, a Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and an ACLS Fellow.

© Jonathan Edelman



Mr. Ari Folman is an Israeli film director and screenwriter. *Waltz with Bashir*, written and directed by Mr. Folman, won 18 awards including Ophir Awards for best film, best director, and best screenplay and a Golden Globe for best foreign language film. The animated documentary was also nominated for multiple BAFTA awards, a Cannes Film Festival award, and an Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film. Mr. Folman is the son of Holocaust survivors who met and married in the Lodz ghetto. His latest project, *Where Is Anne Frank* is based on the diary and life of Anne Frank. Her imaginary friend Kitty is telling the story of the Holocaust and what happened after until in our times.

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Ms. Hala Gorani is the anchor of “Hala Gorani Tonight” and correspondent for CNN International and is based in London. Ms. Gorani joined CNN in 1998 from Bloomberg Television in London, where she worked as an anchor. Ms. Gorani, one of CNN’s most experienced international journalists, has reported from every country in the Middle East including Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan and the Palestinian territories. Ms. Gorani was also one of the CNN journalists awarded a News and Documentary Emmy for the network’s coverage of the 2011 Egyptian revolution that led to the ousting of the country’s then president, Hosni Mubarak.

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Professor Salah Al Jabery is the UNESCO Chair on Genocide Prevention Studies in the Islamic World, at the University of Baghdad, where he also served as Dean of the College of Arts from 2014 to 2019. In this role, Professor Al Jabery seeks to promote a tolerant, pluralistic and democratic culture and ideology for peaceful local and global coexistence in Iraq as well as to promote the principles of religious and cultural dialogue through science, humanities, law and politics. His books include *The Philosophy of Science: Advanced Research in the Philosophy of Physics, Causality, Synchronicity, Mind and the Brain* (2004) and *Philosophy of Mind, Scientific and Metaphysical Integration* (2014).



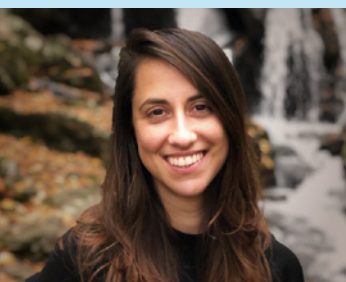
Mr. Serge Klarsfeld is the UNESCO Honorary Ambassador and Special Envoy for Education about the Holocaust and the Prevention of Genocide, an honour he shares with his wife, Ms. Beate Klarsfeld. He is Vice-President of The Foundation for the Memory of the Shoah, and author of *Memorial to the Deportation of Jews from France* (1978). In 1943, Klarsfeld witnessed his father's arrest by the Gestapo. This shaped his career. He has defended French Jews deported during the Second World War and exposed Nazi and Vichy regime figures who committed atrocities. The Klarsfelds established the *Association of the Sons and Daughters of Jewish Deportees from France* and contributed to the prosecution of Klaus Barbie and Maurice Papon. In 2010, Mr. Klarsfeld was decorated with the Grand Cross of the National Order of Merit and was named Grand Officer of the Legion of Honour.



Ms. Michaela Kuechler is currently the Chair of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA). Her priority is combatting denial, distortion and relativization of the Holocaust. Under her Presidency the IHRA adopted the non-legally binding working definition of Antigypsyism / anti-Roma discrimination. She serves as the German Foreign Office's Special Representative for Relations with Jewish Organizations, Holocaust Remembrance, Antisemitism, and international affairs relating to Sinti and Roma. She works on issues such as building cooperation with international organizations like OSCE/ODIHR, UNESCO and the EU, cooperating with countries in the field of combatting antisemitism, maintaining dialogue with Jewish organizations throughout Germany, central and Eastern Europe, the USA, Canada and Australia. Her office provides funds for projects that strengthen the remembrance of the Holocaust and the genocide of the Sinti and Roma around the world.



Professor Deborah E. Lipstadt, Dorot Professor of Holocaust Studies at Emory University in Atlanta, has published and taught about the Holocaust, and especially about the denial of this unprecedented crime, as well as antisemitism for close to 40 years. She has published several books, and her recent book *Antisemitism: Here and Now* has been awarded the 2019 National Jewish Book Award. She served as the 2019-2020 Ina Levine Invitational Scholar at the Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies. Professor Lipstadt was an historical consultant to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and helped design the section of the Museum dedicated to the American Response to the Holocaust. In 2019 she won the Emory Mentorship award and in 2020 the Exemplary Teaching award.



Ms. Shireen Nassar is a granddaughter of a Holocaust survivor Dr. Irene Butter, and the daughter of a Jewish American mother and a Muslim Arab-Israeli father. She moved to the United States in 2013. Ms. Nassar works as is a labour and delivery nurse at the George Washington University Hospital in Washington, D.C.



Ms. Sarah Nemtanu and **Ms. Deborah Nemtanu** are French-Romanian violinists. They began the violin studies with their father Vladimir Nemtanu who led the Orchestre National Bordeaux Aquitaine. The sisters have approached the intimate and virtuoso repertoire of the two violins from a young age. Sarah Nemtanu leads the Orchestre National de France and Deborah Nemtanu, the Orchestre de Chambre de Paris.



Ms. Alice Wairimu Nderitu is the United Nations Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide. A recognized voice in the field of peacebuilding and violence prevention, Ms. Nderitu has led as mediator and senior adviser in reconciliation processes. Ms. Nderitu holds a Master of Armed Conflict and Peace Studies (2013) and a Bachelor of Arts, Literature and Philosophy (1990) from the University of Nairobi. She is a Transitional Justice Fellow, Institute for Justice and Reconciliation in South Africa and is widely published.



Mr. Mark Maseko is the National Information Officer at the United Nations Information Centre in Lusaka, Zambia. He is responsible for joint communication and visibility for the United Nations in Zambia and ensuring a better public understanding of United Nations key messages and issues through social, mass and online media, schools and community outreach.



Ms. Hella Pick was one of the children selected for a Kindertransport from Vienna to the United Kingdom in 1939. After working on the weekly paper West Africa, she began work for the Guardian in 1961 and remained there as a foreign affairs specialist for more than 35 years. She went on to work for George Weidenfeld's Institute for Strategic Dialogue, where she still acts as Senior Consultant. She is on the Advisory Board of the Sussex University Weidenfeld Institute of Jewish Studies. Ms. Pick is the author of *Simon Wiesenthal: A Life in Search of Justice* (1996) and *Guilty Victim: Austria from Holocaust to Haider* (2000) and was honoured with the CBE the same year. Her latest book *Invisible Walls: A Journalist in Search of her Life* will be released in March 2021. She has also received decorations from Germany and Austria.



Mr. Philippe Sands is Professor of Law at University College London, he is a practicing barrister and an author. He received the 2016 Baillie Gifford Prize for Non-Fiction, the 2017 British Book Awards Non-Fiction Book of the Year, and the 2018 Prix Montaigne for his book, *East West Street: On the Origins of Crimes Against Humanity and Genocide*. His most recent publication is *The Ratline: Love, Lies and Justice on the Trail of a Nazi Fugitive* (2020). Mr. Sands is the current President of English PEN.



Ms. Aigerim Seitenova is a student of International Human Rights Law at the University of Essex. She previously worked as the Head of the Department of Programmes in local NGO Wings of Liberty, based in Astana, Kazakhstan. Ms. Seitenova's interests have centred on identifying the most efficient ways to increase young Kazakhstanis' human rights knowledge. She has coordinated the educational exhibition *Anne Frank: A history for Today* for two years in partnership with Anne Frank House Museum. Through the exhibition, more than 800 young people learned about Anne Frank's story, the history of the Second World War and analysed past events within contemporary context throughout 13 cities in Kazakhstan.



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Mr. Marian Turski was born in 1926 in Druskienniki, as Mosze Turbowicz. He was fourteen years old when he was confined in the Łódź Ghetto where he was active in the underground organization "Trade Union-Left". He was deported to the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp in one of the last transports of 1944. There, the Nazis murdered his father and his brother. In 1945 he lived through two death marches: in January – from Auschwitz to Buchenwald, and in April – from Buchenwald to Theresienstadt. Mr. Turski has had a distinguished career in Poland as a journalist and Jewish activist. Mr. Turski is Vice President of the International Auschwitz Committee and the Association of the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland, He is the Chair of POLIN Museum's Council. Mr. Turski has been recognized for his work in promoting human rights and the memory of the Holocaust. His awards include Poland's Honorary Medal of the Commissioner for Human Rights; the Commander's Cross with Star of the Order of the Rebirth of Poland; France's Order of the Legion of Honor, and The Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany.



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Ms. Clarissa Ward is CNN's chief international correspondent based in London. For more than 15 years, Ms. Ward has reported from front lines across the world including Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen, Ukraine and Georgia. Named 2019 Correspondent of the Year by the Gracies, she is the author of *On All Fronts: The Education of a Journalist*, a memoir that details her career as a conflict reporter. In 2018, Ms. Ward reported extensively on the rise of antisemitism in Europe for the "Shadow Over Europe" CNN investigation, travelling to Poland, Germany and France to see how these countries were tackling this rise of antisemitic incidents and stereotypes.



Dr. Robert Williams chairs the Committee on Antisemitism and Holocaust Denial at the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. He is the Deputy Director for International Affairs at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and is on the steering committee of the Global Task Force on Holocaust Distortion. Dr. Williams serves in an advisory capacity to several international organizations on antisemitism and Holocaust issues. He currently oversees an international initiative that assesses the impact of Holocaust and genocide denial laws.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank CNN for its contribution to the programme.



We thank the Permanent Delegations of Austria, France, Germany and the Principality of Monaco to UNESCO for their generous support of the programme.



We thank the Mémorial de la Shoah for hosting Ms. Sarah and Ms. Debórah Netmanu's performance.