

Seventh International Conference on Holocaust Education Shoah Education and Remembrance

Recommendations of Participants of the Seventh International Conference on Holocaust Education to Policy Makers

Preamble

In consideration of the proceedings of the Seventh International Conference on Holocaust Education, "Holocaust Education and Remembrance in insight and Foresight: Text and Context," held at Yad Vashem, Jerusalem, June 12-13, 2010 in which approximately two hundred representatives of various governmental bodies and non-governmental organizations from some forty countries met to discuss significant issues in Holocaust education and remembrance;

Underlining the importance and necessity of supporting Holocaust education and commemoration;

Recalling the commitment of multilateral organizations as well as that of the member states of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance, and Research (ITF) to uphold the Stockholm Declaration on the Holocaust (2000), and thus the responsibility of ITF member state governments to strengthen their efforts towards Holocaust education, remembrance and research as vital to their societies;

Underlining that many ITF delegates participated in the Conference deliberations and discussions;

Aware of the potential positive outcome that may result from continued consideration, attention and implementation of the following measures;

Convinced of the correlation between preservation of memory and the shaping of a better future;

Proposals

The Conference participants recommend policy makers to:

- Recognize January 27 as International Holocaust Memorial Day.
- Recommend commemorating totalitarian crimes, but consider an alternative date to August 23 in an effort to prevent political equalization of National Socialism with the Soviet regime.

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- Ensure that Holocaust Memorial Day reflects the international context as well as each state's national narrative.
- Enlist the aid of universities to create training programs for educators and Holocaust memorial museum staff in an effort to provide historical and methodological guidance.
- Encourage discourse regarding the expectations of educators and visitors to Holocaust-related memorial museums in order to determine where formal and informal education systems should augment the learning experience.
- Encourage dialogue between educators and staff at Holocaust-related memorial museums so that the staff may tailor visits to meet the needs of different audiences. Preparation and follow-up programming is as important as visiting the site.
- Encourage government support of Holocaust-related memorial institutions, including state museums as well as smaller, local authentic sites that are largely maintained by local civil authorities. Government support should be independent of political interests.

The International School for Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem, as the organizer of these proceedings, calls upon policy makers to seriously consider the translation of these suggested recommendations into action.

It is hoped that this conference will highlight the axiom of remembrance fostering governmental responsibility to ensure sustainable Holocaust education and remembrance.

June 13, 2010
Jerusalem, Israel

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