



**Resolution of the KI Social Justice Policy Task Force
Regarding the January 27, 2017 Statement
by President Donald Trump on International Holocaust
Remembrance Day¹
March 9, 2017**

In 2005 the UN established January 27th as International Holocaust Remembrance Day recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which states that everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. The resolution urged every UN member to honor the memory of Holocaust victims and to reject “any denial of the Holocaust as an historical event, either in full or part.”

In 2007 President George W. Bush said at the US Holocaust Museum, “...these walls show how one of the world’s most advanced nations embraced a policy aimed at the annihilation of the Jewish people. These walls help restore the humanity of the millions who were loaded into trains and murdered by men who considered themselves cultured. And these walls remind us that the Holocaust was not inevitable -- it was allowed to gather strength and force only because of the world’s weakness and appeasement in the face of evil.”

On Holocaust Remembrance Day in 2016 President Barack Obama warned of the growing threat of anti-Semitism. He said, “When any Jew anywhere is targeted, we must all respond as if we are all Jewish... we must all do what we can... we have a responsibility, and as president I will make sure the US is leading the fight against anti-Semitism.”

On Holocaust Remembrance Day this year UN Secretary-General António Guterres said that “history keeps moving forward, but anti-Semitism keeps coming back.”

Yet also this year President Trump issued a statement on Holocaust Remembrance Day that made no mention of the Jews or the growing threat of anti-Semitism. He rightfully referenced “the horror inflicted on innocent people by Nazi terror,” but made no mention of the systemic genocide inflicted on six million Jews who represented some two thirds of European Jewry. Unlike statements by his two predecessors he omitted any reference to the Nazi’s objective to annihilate the entire Jewish people because of their religion.

Following a public outcry about this Statement, the White House issued a statement that Jews had been omitted on purpose because Donald Trump’s administration “took into account all of those who suffered”.

¹ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/01/27/statement-president-international-holocaust-remembrance-day>

We find this omission to be a form of Holocaust denial because it removes Jewish identity from the Holocaust. While we honor all those who suffered at the hands of the Nazis, the horror inflicted on the Jews of Europe through their industrialized, mass-slaughter cries out for specific mention on Holocaust Remembrance Day.

We therefore call on:

- President Trump to recognize the Nazi Holocaust of the Jews as the paradigm of genocide, a crime not previously defined or repudiated, to condemn all manifestations of religious intolerance and to use his office to prevent any such future atrocities against any peoples throughout the world.
- Members of Congress to recognize narratives of Holocaust denial and acts of anti-Semitism, to speak out against them, and to vote in support of measures to counter them.
- Community members and neighbors to recognize insidious Holocaust denial and acts of anti-Semitism whenever or wherever they occur, and to forcefully condemn them by contacting their elected representatives at all levels of government, by commenting in print and on social media, and by making concerted efforts together with all people of good conscience to destroy the virus of hatred.
- Our congregation to institutionalize January 27th as a Holocaust Remembrance Day and to observe it properly and fully in the years to come.