

**Welcome by Petr Papoušek,
Chairman of the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic,
The Holocaust Remembrance Day and the Day of Prevention of Crimes Against Humanity
Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic,
27th January 2023**

Dear President of the Senate,
Dear President of the Chamber of Deputies,
Dear Ministers, Senators,
Your Excellencies, members of the diplomatic staff,
Dear Mr. Chief Rabbi,
Dear Mr. Cardinal,
Dear Mr. Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Foundation for Holocaust Victims,
Dear survivors, distinguished guests and television viewers.

Please welcome to today's commemorative meeting, which the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic and the Foundation for Holocaust Victims are organizing for the 18th time on the occasion of the Holocaust Remembrance Day and the Day of Prevention of Crimes Against Humanity. I would like to thank President Vystrčil for accepting the patronage and for the opportunity to meet here in these representative premises of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, which do not in any way resemble the places we are talking about or remembering today.

I would like to personally welcome Mr. Vladimir Dvorkin and Mr. Vitaly Talalaevsky, survivors from Ukraine who were forced to flee Russian aggression and found refuge in the Czech Republic. On today's occasion, let us remember Čeněk Růžička, the Chairman of the Committee for the Redress of the Roma Holocaust, who has recently passed away. We are thankful for the years of his cooperation and tireless struggle for the removal of the pig farm in Lety.

The Nazi concentration and extermination camp Auschwitz-Birkenau was liberated 78 years ago. We have come here today to remember and to build a memory that is important for our future. Especially today when distortion and manipulation are on the rise.

I now would like to kindly invite Mr Vystrčil to deliver the introductory address.