**The Holocaust Remembrance Day**

**and the Day of Prevention of Crimes Against Humanity**

**27 January 2021**

On 27 January we commemorate the 76th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi concentration and extermination camp Auschwitz-Birkenau (Oświęcim-Brzezinka). In the Czech Republic, this day has been recognized as the Day of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust and the Day of Prevention of Crimes Against Humanity since 2004. In 2005, United Nations declared 27 January as an International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust.

**On 27 January 2021, three major commemorative events will take place in Prague, Terezín and Jerusalem. Due to the current unfavorable epidemiological situation and taking into account the crisis measures of the Government of the Czech Republic, the events will take place in the online space. The online form of the events will enable a participation of a wider audience.**

From 10 a.m., the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic and the Foundation for Holocaust Victims, in cooperation with the Office of the Czech Senate and under the auspices of the President of the Senate of Czech Parliament, Miloš Vystrčil, will hold a commemorative meeting in the Main Hall of the Senate. Thanks to the Czech TV, live broadcast will be available on the Czech TV news channel, CT24. The commemorative meeting will include speeches delivered by the President of the Senate, Miloš Vystrčil, the Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, Radek Vondráček, former prisoner of the Terezín ghetto, Michaela Vidláková, Chairman of the Committee for the Redress of the Roma Holocaust, Čeněk Růžička, and the Chairman of the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic, Petr Papoušek. The addresses will be accompanied by concert compositions by Gideon Klein performed by David Dorůžka, Robert Fischmann and Martin Novák.

At 4 p.m. there will be a Czech-Israeli online meeting called International Holocaust Memorial Day: Remembering, Perpetuating and Pursuing Justice. The meeting, organized by the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry for Social Equality and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, is aimed at public support for Holocaust survivors during a global pandemic. Israeli President, Reuven Rivlin, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Gabi Ashkenazi, and the Minister for Social Equality, Itzik Shmuli, promised to participate at the meeting. On behalf of the Czech Republic, the President of the Czech Republic, Miloš Zeman, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Tomáš Petříček, Special Envoy for Holocaust, Robert Řehák, will attend. Holocaust survivor Dita Krausová, whose story became the subject of the book, The Librarian of Auschwitz, will also address the audience. US Senate Majority Leader, Charles Schumer and the Vice-President of the European Parliament, Nicola Beer, will also address the audience. During the meeting, preparations for the conference on the Terezín Declaration, which will take place in 2022, will be announced. The meeting will be broadcasted through the Facebook page of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic.

From 6 p.m., the Jewish Museum in Prague and the Jewish Community in Prague will hold a gala concert in the Spanish Synagogue. The participants will be welcomed by the director of the Jewish Museum, Leo Pavlát, and a speech will be delivered by the Chairman of the Jewish Community in Prague, František Bányai. Compositions by Hans Krása, Josef Mysliveček and Maurice Ravel will be performed by the Doležal quartet. The concert will include a short virtual tour of the Spanish Synagogue and its new exhibition. The concert will be broadcasted via the YouTube channel of the Jewish Museum in Prague. The link will also be available on the website of the Jewish Museum in Prague and the Jewish Community in Prague.

The organizers of all three commemorative events have come together and present them together in order to highlight the importance of commemorating the victims of the Holocaust.

***#WeRemember #NeverAgain***

Petr Papoušek, Chairman of the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic

Marta Malá, the Director of the Foundation for Holocaust Victims

Robert Řehák, special envoy for the Holocaust, inter-religious dialogue and freedom of religion, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

Jan Roubínek, the Director of the Terezín Memorial

Leo Pavlát, the Director of the Jewish Museum in Prague

František Bányai, Chairman of the Jewish Community in Prague

Please find attached the official joint invitation

Contacts for the Organizers of Individual Events:

**Commemorative meeting in the Senate**

The Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic:

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The Foundation for Holocaust Victims: Marta Malá, Director, +420 777 331 937, [mala@fondholocaust.cz](mailto:mala@fondholocaust.cz)

**Czech-Israeli Meeting International Holocaust Memorial Day: Remembering, Perpetuating and Pursuing Justice**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Robert Řehák, envoy for the Holocaust, inter-religious dialogue and freedom of religion, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Tel. (land line redirected to mobile phone): +420 224 183 253, [robert\_rehak@mzv.cz](mailto:robert_rehak@mzv.cz)

Terezin Memorial: Stanislav Lada, Head of the department of external relations and marketing, +420 775 338 604, [lada@pamatnik-terezin.cz](mailto:lada@pamatnik-terezin.cz)

**Concert in the Spanish Synagogue**

Jewish Museum in Prague: Zuzana Pavlovská, Head of Department for Education and Culture, Tel.: +420 774 131 335, [zuzana.pavlovska@jewishmuseum.cz](mailto:zuzana.pavlovska@jewishmuseum.cz)

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