International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust

"In spite of everything, I still believe that people are really good at heart."  
- Anne Frank -

Why do we mark this day?

January 27 marks the anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi concentration and extermination camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau by Soviet troops in 1945. The United Nations General Assembly designated this date as "International Holocaust Remembrance Day."

On this day, UNESCO pays tribute to the memory of the victims of the Holocaust. UNESCO reaffirms its commitment to counter antisemitism, racism, and other forms of intolerance that may lead to group-targeted violence. It is necessary "to protect knowledge acquired through historical research on the Holocaust by promoting historical literacy and Holocaust education" (#protectthefacts). Learning the facts about the Holocaust is an opportunity to reflect on the root causes of hatred and prevent atrocities such as genocide and other crimes against humanity from occurring again in the future.

Questions for Discussion

Why do we need to know about Holocaust?

What can we do to prevent another Holocaust or genocide?

Meet Today’s Global Citizens

Elie Wiesel

He was born on September 30, 1928 in Sighet, Romania. Wiesel was a writer, teacher, and activist. He also won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986. He spoke against persecution and injustice across the globe.

Anne Frank

She was a victim of the Holocaust. To avoid the Nazi persecution, she and her family hid for 2 years in a secret attic. Anne became famous for writing about her experiences during that time in a diary. She died at the young age of 15 in 1945. Her diary has become a means to teach many people about the Holocaust. She also became a symbol of the many Jewish children who lost their lives in the Holocaust.