

NEWSLETTER



The International Commission
for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania

[Seimas adopted a Resolution on the 75th Anniversary of the End of World War II in Europe and the Victory against Nazism](#)

Emanuelis Zingeris, Chairman of the International Commission, Member of the Seimas, Signatory of the 1990 Act of the Re-Establishment of the State of Lithuania, is the initiator of the Seimas resolution.

Noting that in 2020 the world marks the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, the most brutal global armed conflict in the history of humanity, which claimed tens of millions of lives, the Seimas invited the global academic community and civil society to continue investigating the crimes against humanity committed by totalitarian regimes, examine historical facts and spread the truth to prevent any tragedies of this scale from happening ever again.

The Resolution expresses respect for those who fought against Nazism and condemns the historical revisionism and disinformation that the Russian Federation has employed to deny the role of the Soviet Union, as one of the key instigators of World War II, in an effort to shift the blame on the victims of the aggression and justify the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact and its secret protocols of 1939.

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LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS SEIMAS

[Chairman of the International Commission Emanuelis Zingeris, together with other representatives of politics and society, paid tribute to Polish officer Witold Pilecki in Vilnius](#)

On 25 May the International Day of Heroes of the Fight against Totalitarianism was marked in Lithuania for the first time. That day, Polish officer Witold Pilecki was honored in Užupis in Vilnius. Polish officer Witold Pilecki fought against both totalitarian regimes, i.e. Communism and Nazism.

On 25 May members of the European Parliament Rasa Juknevičienė and Andrius Kubilius, Polish Ambassador to Lithuania Urszula Doroszewska, Chairman of the International Commission, Member of the Seimas Emanuelis Zingeris and other members of the Seimas, Ronaldas Račinskas, Executive Director of the International Commission, representatives of Vilnius City Municipality commemorated the story of Witold Pilecki at the house in Užupis, where the Pilecki family had lived.

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[The lecture on the writer Sholem Aleichem was attended by a large group of teachers from Tolerance Education Centers](#)

On April 23, an on-line lecture was given on "Laughter through tears – the niceties of Sholem Aleichem's works". The lecture was given by a lecturer Mordechai Yushkovsky.

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[The lecture on Jewish schools in interwar Lithuania attracted a lot of teachers' attention](#)

On 14 May, an on-line lecture "Jewish schools in interwar Lithuania" was given to teachers about Jewish schools operating in interwar Lithuania. The lecture was given by a lecturer, a professional guide Daniel Gurevich.

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[Teachers listened to lectures on attitudes toward Jewish art](#)

On 20 May a lecture was given to the teachers of the Tolerance Education Centers "Why and how did a negative attitude towards the existence of the Jewish art develop?" A lecture was delivered to teachers by lecturer dr. Vilma Gradinskaite.

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Lectures were organized by the Secretariat of the International Commission together with the International Yiddish Center of the World Jewish Congress.



[Day of Mourning and Hope – an initiative „Kite of Hope“ to mark the deportation of the Lithuanian population in 1941](#)

On 14 June the Day of Mourning and Hope will be commemorated in Lithuania. This year the Secretariat of the International Commission is initiating commemoration events "The Kite of Hope". The kite as a symbol is being connected with the idea of hope.

Since 2004 the Secretariat of the International Commission has been inviting general education institutions to mark this date and to organize commemorations in local communities, Lithuanian towns and boroughs.



Lectures to commemorate the beginning of the occupation of Lithuania in 1940, its consequences and the deportation of the Lithuanian inhabitants

June 2 – A lecture by Assoc.Prof. Dr. Algirdas Jakubčionis, a member of the subcommittee of the International Commission on the investigation of crimes of Soviet occupation regimes: “An aggressive neighbor of Lithuania. And what comes next?”

June 8 – A lecture by Dr. Arvydas Anušauskas, Chairman of the subcommittee of the International Commission on the investigation of crimes of Soviet occupation regimes, Member of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania: “Citizens of the occupied state: terror, dehumanization and marginalization?”



A yellow daffodil reminded of the Warsaw ghetto uprising

5-8 graders from Ryto progymnasium in Vilnius joined a civic initiative this year for commemoration of the Warsaw ghetto uprising.

The pupils made daffodil blossoms, giving a meaning to April 19, marking the beginning of the Warsaw ghetto uprising.

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The sakura planted will cherish historical memory

On April 17 the 20th anniversary of Kalvarija municipality was celebrated in Kalvarija. To mark the date, representatives of Kalvarija authorities planted 20 sakura trees. Sakura was chosen to commemorate the friendly relations of the Tolerance Education Center of Kalvarija gymnasium and Kalvarija Municipality with the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania.

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Online lessons are given for students of Tolerance Education Centers: “How can we preserve cultural heritage? What does the old Jewish cemetery reveal to us?”

Meilė Platūkienė, a coordinator of the Tolerance Education Center of Alytus Adolfas Ramanauskas – Vanagas gymnasium, gave on-line lessons to pupils of other Tolerance Education Centers. The lessons were dedicated to the introduction to the old Jewish cemetery in Alytus, and the inscriptions found on the tombstones in the old Jewish cemetery in Alytus.

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News from Tolerance Education Centers

Agita Beržanskaitė, a pupil from a Tolerance Education Center, participates in on-line international trainings for young people

International trainings for young people started in April – to learn how to fight racial hatred in cyberspace. The part of the training that took place on April 26 was focused on a general review and discussion. Agita Beržanskaitė, a pupil of Ažuolas gymnasium from Varėna, participates in these trainings and expands her horizons by taking on the topics of human rights violations and anti-Semitism. The international training for young people is organized by the European Living March Organization (EMOTL) in cooperation with the Secretariat of the International Commission.

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