

A new Tolerance Education Center has been established

A new center in the network of Tolerance Education Centers – No.151. It is in Kretinga Jurgis Pabrėža University Gymnasium.



Newsletter

2021 January

Commemorating the International Holocaust Remembrance Day, Tolerance Education Centers participate in the project "About What Was Lost"

On January 22 - 29, Tolerance education centers, public education institutions, and museums implemented various activities to commemorate the International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

The Secretariat of the International Commission invited Tolerance Education Centers in mid-January to participate in the project "About What Was Lost." Teachers were encouraged to organize lessons, film reviews, and discussions about the Holocaust in Europe and Lithuania. The project organizers called teachers to introduce students to the stories of the local Jewish community.

The project "About What Was Lost" is still ongoing. Students are invited to create posters that reflect the meaning of International Holocaust Remembrance Day. At the beginning of February, the posters will be evaluated by a jury of experts. The best will be shared on the International Commission's website and in the Fb account of the Polish Embassy in Vilnius.



Commemoration of International Holocaust Remembrance Day in Tolerance Education Centers

On January 22 - 29, Tolerance Education Centers held events dedicated to the International Holocaust Remembrance Day. The commemorations were organized in various forms by 100 teachers from 78 Tolerance Education Centers. The educational process is managed remotely, so a wide range of activities was elaborated: traditional lessons on the Holocaust, lectures, film

reviews and discussions, readings of excerpts from different pieces, participation in classes organized by other institutions, and in virtual performances.

To commemorate Holocaust Remembrance Day, lectures were organized for teachers

Together with the global commemoration of Holocaust Remembrance Day worldwide, the Secretariat of the International Commission organizes remote lectures for teachers. The lecture on the Roma genocide was given by the historian Dr. Arūnas Bubnys. The story of the Polish officer Witold Pilecki, which is related to the Nazi death camp in Auschwitz, was told by Dr. Simonas Jazavita. The Secretariat of the International Commission has been organizing lectures for teachers remotely since the autumn of 2020. Topics of the lectures are related to the subjects of research conducted in the International Commission and the issues analyzed by the Commission's historians.

Tolerance Education Centers and other educational institutions joined the global initiative WeRemember

To Tolerance Education Centers and other educational institutions joined the *#Mes Prisimename / #We Remember* campaign initiated by the World Jewish Congress. The initiative is dedicated to the International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

As the educational process is organized remotely, teachers and students took authentic photos with the hashtag *#We Remember*, forwarded them to the campaign organizers, published them on social networks, and shared them on school websites.



Kaunas art gymnasium poster



Students' delegation to Israel in 2019 "Lita Youth Mission 2"



Vilnius Adomas Mickevičius lyceum

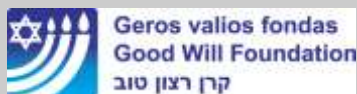
International conference in Panevėžys "Prohibition To Live. Interaction Of Present And Past"

On January 27, an international conference, "Prohibition to live. Interaction Of Present And Past", dedicated to the International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Keynote speakers of the conference were from Lithuania, Germany, and Israel. Representatives of the Lithuanian Jewish community who spoke at the conference: President Faina Kukliansky, Gennady Kofman (Chairman of the Panevėžys Jewish Community), and Arie Ben-Ari Grodzensky, Chairman of the Jewish Expatriate Community in Israel, recalled the Holocaust suffered by their families – relatives, who were killed, but at the same time, they spoke of the need for tolerance now and in the future. Ronaldas Račinskas, Executive Director of the International Commission, emphasized in his speech that "the tragedy of the Holocaust must remind us of what happened then, but at the same time we have to be vigilant and see and hear what is happening in our today's world."

Many lecturers attended the conference remotely. The event was for school communities and society in general. The conference was organized by Gabrielė Petkevičaitė-Bitė Public Library of Panevėžys County.

Partners of the event:



Historians of the International Commission gave lecturers to teachers at the International Conference

On January 25 – 27, an international conference, "Lessons Of The Holocaust In The Changing World," was held. The meeting was organized by Yad Vashem, an international school in Israel, for studies on the Holocaust.

The three-day conference was attended remotely by more than 300 participants from Eastern Europe. A big group of teachers from Lithuania joined the event, mainly from schools with Tolerance Education Centers. During the conference, participants were given lectures, film reviews and discussions with directors were organized, and museums' activities in different countries were introduced. The conference participants had a lecture on "History of Eastern Europe in the First Half of the 20th Century. The Main Trends" by prof. Timothy Snyder (Yale University, USA), who is also an expert of the International Commission's Subcommittee on the Investigation of Crimes of the Soviet Occupation Regime. A topic about Jews, who joined the Red Army during WWII, was elaborated by a specialist of this period, dr. Arkady Zeltser (Yad Vashem, Israel). Arkady Zeltser is familiar to many Lithuanian teachers who have participated in internship



workshops in Israel, as this historian is also a member of the Subcommittee on Crimes of the Nazi Occupation Regime and the Holocaust under the International Commission.

Prof. Christopher Browning (USA) also gave lectures at the conference and dr. Karel Berghoff (Netherlands), and dr. Kiril Feferman. Participants had the opportunity to take virtual tours in the museums: The Janis Lipke in Latvia; The Gulag Museum in Moscow; The Holocaust museum in Minsk; The history of WWII in Ukraine; Fort IX in Kaunas.

The conference was organized by Yad Vashem - an international school in Israel on Holocaust studies- a long-term partner of the International Commission.

A tree in the Litvak Memorial Garden to pay tribute to the Jewish community of Balbieriškis

In Lithuania, in Samogitia, near the city of Plungė, there is Litvak Memorial Garden. In this garden, on the map of the Lithuanian state's shape, there are metal apple trees, which mark shtetls, where larger or smaller Jewish communities have lived.

Among many other trees, Litvak Memorial Garden embraced an apple tree for the Jewish community of Balbieriškis. The international commission "planted" the apple tree for the Balbieriškis shtetl and dedicated a metal apple to Wolf Kagan, a Jew, who lived in the town before WWII. By profession, Wolf Kagan was a shoemaker but made history as a soldier who took part in the War of Independence in 1919-1921. He was awarded two prizes: 1st degree Cross "For the Homeland!" and the 2nd degree Vytis cross. Wolf Kagan's life ended in 1941 - when the whole community of Balbieriškis was destroyed.

The International Commission highly appreciates that this town cherishes the memory of the Jews who lived in Balbieriškis. Balbieriškis has a population of only about 1,000; 2 Tolerance Education Centers are active and strives to perpetuate historical memory. A few years ago, the people of Balbieriškis built a memorial stone in the town dedicated to Wolf Kagan.

Litvak Memorial Garden is a Jakovas Bunka Charity and Sponsorship Fund project to remind about Lithuanian Jewish communities in cities and towns, remember the people who lived, their stories, and fostered culture.



Apples for Yitzhak Arad and his family in the Litvak Memorial Garden

Yitzhak Arad is a historian and a former member of the International Commission. He survived the Holocaust, escaping from the Švenčionys ghetto, and later, after the war, reached the land of Israel. The International Commission dedicated apples to Yitzhak Arad, his parents, and grandparents and placed them in the Litvak Memorial Garden on the apple tree, commemorating the Jewish community of Švenčionys.

Yitzhak Arad is the first and a longtime director of Yad Vashem - a complex of the Holocaust Remembrance Center and Museum. In 2020, his book in Lithuanian "From the Valley of Death to Mount Zion" was published in Lithuania.