

## “THE ROAD OF MEMORY – THE MARCH OF THE LIVING IN PANERIAI” – VILNIUS, 23 SEPTEMBER



On 23 September, the Lithuanian National Holocaust Remembrance Day was commemorated in Lithuania. The event, which started in Vilnius, Rūdninkai Square, continued at the Paneriai Memorial.

The event in Rūdninkai Square was attended by a large number of guests and participants: the Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania, Lithuanian politicians, foreign diplomats, representatives of the Jewish community of Lithuania, guests from abroad, teachers, and pupils from twenty Lithuanian schools.

The sound of the Shofar horn opened the commemoration event, students from Tolerance Education Centres performed literary–artistic compositions, and a song composed by a student from Ariogala touched people's hearts.



Emanuelis Zingeris, Chairman of the International Commission, shared the news about a project for a new day of remembrance on 15 March – the Day of the Rescuers of Lithuanian Jews. Michel Gourary, Director of the International March of the Living, gave a speech at the event. This organization provided blue jackets for the participants. Saadia Bahat, a Holocaust survivor, spoke about the ghetto and survival.

After the national anthem of the Vilnius Ghetto prisoners, Ronaldas Račinskas, Executive Director of the International Commission, and MC of the event invited everyone to take part in the procession – to march to Vilnius railway station and to take the train to the ceremony of honoring the victims of the Holocaust in Paneriai.



A large crowd of participants, led by Lithuanian Prime Minister Ingrida Šimonytė, diplomats, politicians, and foreign guests, marched from Rūdninkai Square to Vilnius Railway Station. The procession reached Paneriai by train, where they marched in a column and took part in the March of the Living in Paneriai, the Road of Memory.

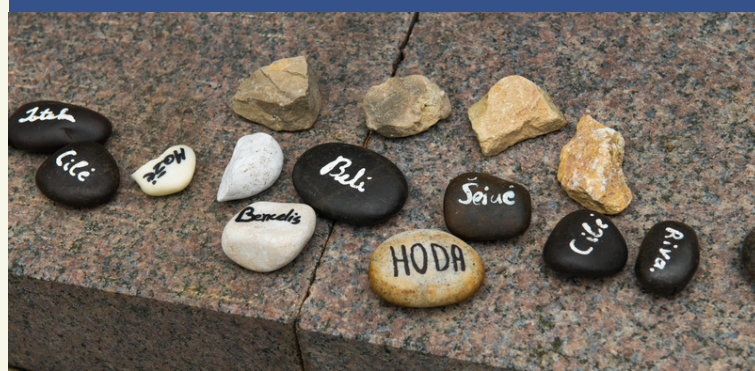






In Paneriai, the ceremony commemorating the victims of the Holocaust began with a minute of silence. “Today, as every year, we gather in the pine forest of Aukštieji Paneriai to remember the ultimate tragedy of the 20th century. This is a place where, when we visit, we are inevitably overwhelmed by pain and infinite sorrow. Paneriai is a painful echo of the name of death.”

The event was addressed by the President of the Lithuanian Jewish Community and foreign diplomats. The ceremony ended with a prayer for the innocent victims of the Holocaust, and a hymn of the Vilnius Ghetto prisoners.



*More about the event can be found here: <https://www.komisija.lt/en/on-23-september-the-road-of-memory-from-rudninkai-square-to-paneriai-memorial/>*

## COMMEMORATION EVENTS IN LITHUANIA

Around 160 institutions participated in the commemoration events "The Road of Memory": public education institutions and museums in Lithuania, culture centres, municipalities, and libraries in several districts organized activities to commemorate the destruction of local Jewish communities. Some schools and other institutions organized a Road of Memory – a walk or bus trip to the site of the victims of the Holocaust. Some schools organized lessons, film screenings and discussions, and other commemorative events.



Mažeikiai Gabija gymnasium

*More photos from the commemoration event in Vilnius and all Lithuania can be found in the [gallery](#) ([The Day of Commemoration of the Victims of the Genocide of Lithuanian Jews - September 23](#)).*





Visaginas Žiburys primary school



Visaginas Žiburys primary school



Plungė district, Liepijai school



Panevėžys J. Balčikonis gymnasium



Kelmė vocational training centre, branch of Tytuvėnai



Ramygala gymnasium



Radviliškis district, Šiaulėnai Marcelinas Šikšnys gymnasium



Akmenė district, Venta gymnasium



Klaipėda university "Žemyna" gymnasium



The Old gymnasium of Palanga



Radviliškis Lizdeika gymnasium

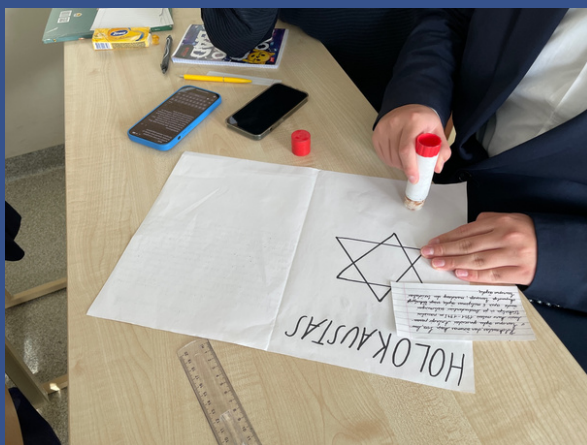


Klaipėda university "Žemyna" gymnasium





Raseiniai district, Nemakščiai Martynas Mažvydas gymnasium



Kaunas Bernardas Brazdžionis school



Jurbarkas "Ažuoliukas" school



Kėdainiai district, Surviliškis Vincas Svirskis primary school



Palanga Vladas Jurgutis progymnasium

### THREE NEW TOLERANCE EDUCATION CENTRES WERE ESTABLISHED IN SEPTEMBER

Two gymnasiums, Algimantas Mackus Gymnasium in Pagėgiai and Molėtai Gymnasium, have established Tolerance Education Centres. One more Tolerance Education Centre was established in the Pakruojis Synagogue – the Juozas Paukštelis Public Library of Pakruojis Municipality.



**MORE INFORMATION:**  
**[WWW.KOMISIJA.LT](http://WWW.KOMISIJA.LT)**

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