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NEWSLETTER



THE DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE GENOCIDE OF LITHUANIAN JEWS WAS COMMEMORATED WITH A ROAD OF MEMORY EVENT

On 19 September, a Road of Memory event was held in Vilnius to commemorate the Day of Remembrance for the Victims of the Genocide of Lithuanian Jews. The commemoration began in Vilnius' Old Town, at Rūdninkų Square. This site is historically linked to the Vilnius ghetto and its liquidation in 1943. The event opened with the sounds of the shofar.



Members of the Prabudimo orchestra, who played the shofar, invited participants to be solemn and contemplative. More than 500 attendees then joined a procession from Rūdninkų Square to the Vilnius railway station. From there, all travelled by train to Paneriai.





In Paneriai, the participants processed again, following the Road of Memory to the Holocaust Victims Memorial.

The commemoration at the Paneriai Memorial began with students from the Saulėtekis School, a multifunctional centre in Vilnius, performing the song 'Jerusalem'. Emanuelis Zingeris, Chairman of the International Commission and a signatory of the Act of Independence, and Michel Gourary, Head of the March of the Living, emphasized the importance of understanding history and the personal experiences of one's family during the Holocaust. Shimon Pesach, the Deputy Ambassador of Israel, delivered a speech on historical memory and the importance of remembering what happened during the Holocaust. Rugilė Lincevičiūtė, a student at Kaunas Veršvų Gymnasium, read an excerpt from Grigorijus Kanovičius's work *Candles in the Wind*, adding a touching note to the event.



During the commemoration, Ronaldas Račinskas, Executive Director of the International Commission, quoted Marija Rolnikaitė, a former Vilnius ghetto prisoner, who spoke about the victims of the Holocaust more than 30 years ago: 'Never forget that their lives were taken away by the hatred of some people towards others. Resist this hatred, whatever form it takes and whatever excuses are given for it, so that we will no longer have to commemorate such anniversaries...'

As students from the Vilnius Saulėtekio School and Multifunctional Centre performed the Vilnius ghetto partisans' anthem, 'Zog Nit Keyn Mol', participants in the commemoration were invited to place stones decorated by the students at the monument to the victims of the Holocaust.

The commemoration of the victims of the genocide of Lithuanian Jews took place before 23 September in Vilnius because 22–23 September this year is the Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashanah. Approximately 550 students and teachers from Ariogala, Balbieriškis, Elektrėnai, Ignalina district, Vidiškiai, Grigiškės, Kaunas, Kėdainiai, Marijampolė, Lentvaris, Radviliškis, Ukmergė, and Vilnius participated in the commemoration event in Vilnius. Alongside the large educational community, members of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania attended the event, including Ingrida Šimonytė, Paulė Kuzmickienė, and Radvilė Morkūnaitė-Mikulėnienė. Representatives from the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs were also present, as were diplomats from the United States, the United Kingdom, Sweden, and Germany in Lithuania. The 'Road of Memory' event, which took place from Rūdninkų Square to Paneriai, was organised by the International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania, in collaboration with the European March of the Living organisation.

INTERNATIONAL TRAINING SEMINAR FOR TEACHERS FROM THE THREE BALTIC STATES IN VILNIUS

From September 18 to 20, Vilnius hosted an international training seminar for educational communities from Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia. Entitled 'The Holocaust as a Starting Point', the seminar was held in the conference hall of the Lithuanian Jewish Community in Vilnius. The event was opened by Bruno Boyer from the Mémorial de la Shoah (France), Ronaldas Račinskas, Executive Director of the International Commission, and Faina Kukliansky, Chairwoman of the Lithuanian Jewish Community. Representatives of the French Institute in Lithuania also attended. Participants included teachers from Lithuania, Latvia, and one representative from Estonia.

During the three-day seminar, lecturers from Lithuania, France, and Estonia delivered talks on the Holocaust in the Baltic region, Jewish-Christian relations, the use of terms and concepts in the educational process, and the variety of methods employed to present the complex topic of World War II.

Teachers who participated in the seminar had the opportunity to take part in the 'Road of Memory' event, which commemorated the Day of Remembrance for the Victims of the Genocide of Lithuanian Jews. This event was organised by the Secretariat of the International Commission, in collaboration with the international organisation 'March of the Living'. Following the commemoration event in Paneriai, the teachers participated in an educational tour of the Paneriai Memorial.

The international seminar was organised by the Mémorial de la Shoah (France) in cooperation with the International Commission (Lithuania), the Ministries of Education and Science of Latvia and Estonia, the Estonian Jewish Museum, and the Lithuanian Jewish Community.

The international seminar 'The Holocaust as a Starting Point' is an ongoing project that has been running for several years. It aims to involve teachers from neighbouring countries in analysing and discussing complex issues related to the Holocaust.





Gargždų „Vaivorykštės“ gymnasium



Raudondvario A. ir A. Kriauzų primary school



Sėduvos nursery school – kindergarten Boružiukai

THE DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE GENOCIDE OF LITHUANIAN JEWS WAS COMMEMORATED IN LITHUANIA

From 19 to 25 September, events to commemorate the Day of Remembrance for the Victims of the Genocide of Lithuanian Jews took place in various cities and towns across Lithuania.

As every year in mid-September, the International Commission's Secretariat invited general education institutions and tolerance education centres in Lithuania, as well as all other educational institutions, to organise commemorations for this date by joining the civic initiative 'The Road of Memory'. This initiative invites the educational community to visit sites where Jews were killed en masse and to walk part of the route along which innocent people were driven to their deaths. There are more than 200 such sites in Lithuania.

In 2025, 115 institutions responded to the call to commemorate this date. School communities organised various commemorations: 'Road of Memory' marches were held; lessons were taught about the life and destruction of the local Jewish community; film screenings with discussions were organised; Holocaust witnesses' diaries and memoirs were read; and so on.

We invite you to explore some of the commemorations that have taken place in Lithuania.



Šiaulėnų Marcelino Šikšnio gymnasium



Students of Zarasai Paulius Širvis Progymnasium and representatives of the Zarasai Regional Museum



Kauno Juozo Grušo meno gymnasium



Jonavos Jeronimo Ralio gymnasium and Jonava Cultural Center Regional Museum

