
United Kingdom

SCOTLAND (HL- Law Commission, 2003)

On 20 February 2003 the Scottish parliament passed a Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill which included a section on religious prejudice, originally introduced by Donald Gorrie MSP. The section reads as follows:

20 February 2003 Criminal Justice Act 59A - Offences aggravated by religious prejudice

- 1) This section applies where it is -
 - (a) libelled in an indictment; or
 - (b) specified in a complaint,· and, in either case, proved that an offence has been aggravated by religious prejudice.

- 2) For the purposes of this section, an offence is aggravated by religious prejudice if -
 - (a) at the time of committing the offence or immediately before or after doing so, the offender evinces towards the victim (if any) of the offence malice or ill-will based on the victim's membership (or presumed membership) of a religious group, or of a social or cultural group with a perceived religious affiliation: or

(b) the offence is motivated (wholly or partly) by malice and ill-will towards members of a religious group, or of a social or cultural group with a perceived religious affiliation, based on membership of that group.

3) Where this section applies, the court must take the aggravation into account in determining the appropriate sentence.

4) Where the sentence or disposal in respect of the offence is different from that which the court would have imposed had the offence not been aggravated by religious prejudice, the court must state the extent of and the reasons for that difference.

5) For the purposes of this section, evidence from a single source is sufficient to prove that an offence is aggravated by religious prejudice.

6) In subsection (2)(a)-
"membership" in relation to a group includes association with members of that group;
and
"presumed" means presumed by the offender.

7) In this section, "religious group" means a group of persons defined by reference to their-

- (a) religious belief or lack of religious belief;
- (b) membership of or adherence to a church or religious organisation;
- (c) support for the culture and traditions of a church or religious organisation; or
- (d) participation in activities associated with such a culture or such traditions"

ENGLAND AND WALES

On 5 March 2008, the House of Lords abolished the common law crimes of blasphemy and blasphemous libel.

The Public Order Act, 1986

This Act defined racial hatred as 'hatred against a group of persons defined by reference to colour, race, nationality (including citizenship) or ethnic or national origins'. By section 18 of the 1986 Act, it is an offence for a person to use threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour; it is also an offence to display any material which is threatening, abusive or insulting if the defendant does so with intent to stir up racial hatred or if in the circumstances racial hatred is likely to be stirred up. Corresponding offences exist in relation to publishing or distributing written material, theatrical performances, and broadcasting. The 1986 Act did not extend to incitement to religious hatred.

Part III E+W+S Racial Hatred

Meaning of "racial hatred"

17 Meaning of "racial hatred". E+W+S

In this Part “racial hatred” means hatred against a group of persons F1. . . defined by reference to colour, race, nationality (including citizenship) or ethnic or national origins.

Amendments (Textual)

F1Words in s. 17 repealed (14.12.2001) by 2001 c. 24, ss. 37, 125, 127(2), Sch. 8 Pt. 4 (with s. 42)

Acts intended or likely to stir up racial hatred

18 Use of words or behaviour or display of written material. E+W+S

(1)A person who uses threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour, or displays any written material which is threatening, abusive or insulting, is guilty of an offence if—

(a)he intends thereby to stir up racial hatred, or

(b)having regard to all the circumstances racial hatred is likely to be stirred up thereby.

(2)An offence under this section may be committed in a public or a private place, except that no offence is committed where the words or behaviour are used, or the written material is displayed, by a person inside a dwelling and are not heard or seen except by other persons in that or another dwelling.

(3)A constable may arrest without warrant anyone he reasonably suspects is committing an offence under this section.

(4)In proceedings for an offence under this section it is a defence for the accused to prove that he was inside a dwelling and had no reason to believe that the words or behaviour used, or the written material displayed, would be heard or seen by a person outside that or any other dwelling.

(5)A person who is not shown to have intended to stir up racial hatred is not guilty of an offence under this section if he did not intend his words or behaviour, or the written material, to be, and was not aware that it might be, threatening, abusive or insulting.

(6)This section does not apply to words or behaviour used, or written material displayed, solely for the purpose of being included in a programme [F2included in a programme service].

Amendments (Textual)

F2Words substituted by Broadcasting Act 1990 (c. 42, SIF 96), s. 164(2)

19 Publishing or distributing written material. E+W+S

(1) A person who publishes or distributes written material which is threatening, abusive or insulting is guilty of an offence if—

(a) he intends thereby to stir up racial hatred, or

(b) having regard to all the circumstances racial hatred is likely to be stirred up thereby.

(2) In proceedings for an offence under this section it is a defence for an accused who is not shown to have intended to stir up racial hatred to prove that he was not aware of the content of the material and did not suspect, and had no reason to suspect, that it was threatening, abusive or insulting.

(3) References in this Part to the publication or distribution of written material are to its publication or distribution to the public or a section of the public.

20 Public performance of play. E+W+S

(1) If a public performance of a play is given which involves the use of threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour, any person who presents or directs the performance is guilty of an offence if—

(a) he intends thereby to stir up racial hatred, or

(b) having regard to all the circumstances (and, in particular, taking the performance as a whole) racial hatred is likely to be stirred up thereby.

(2) If a person presenting or directing the performance is not shown to have intended to stir up racial hatred, it is a defence for him to prove—

(a) that he did not know and had no reason to suspect that the performance would involve the use of the offending words or behaviour, or

(b) that he did not know and had no reason to suspect that the offending words or behaviour were threatening, abusive or insulting, or

(c) that he did not know and had no reason to suspect that the circumstances in which the performance would be given would be such that racial hatred would be likely to be stirred up.

(3) This section does not apply to a performance given solely or primarily for one or more of the following purposes—

(a) rehearsal,

(b) making a recording of the performance, or

(c) enabling the performance to be [F3 included in a programme service];

but if it is proved that the performance was attended by persons other than those directly connected with the giving of the performance or the doing in relation to it of the things mentioned in paragraph (b) or (c), the performance shall, unless the contrary is shown, be taken not to have been given solely or primarily for the purposes mentioned above.

(4) For the purposes of this section—

(a) a person shall not be treated as presenting a performance of a play by reason only of his taking part in it as a performer,

(b) a person taking part as a performer in a performance directed by another shall be treated as a person who directed the performance if without reasonable excuse he performs otherwise than in accordance with that person's direction, and

(c) a person shall be taken to have directed a performance of a play given under his direction notwithstanding that he was not present during the performance;

and a person shall not be treated as aiding or abetting the commission of an offence under this section by reason only of his taking part in a performance as a performer.

(5) In this section "play" and "public performance" have the same meaning as in the M1 Theatres Act 1968.

(6) The following provisions of the Theatres Act 1968 apply in relation to an offence under this section as they apply to an offence under section 2 of that Act—

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section 9 (script as evidence of what was performed),

*

section 10 (power to make copies of script),

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section 15 (powers of entry and inspection).

Amendments (Textual)

F3 Words substituted by Broadcasting Act 1990 (c. 42, SIF 96), s. 164(2)

Marginal Citations

M11968 c. 54.

21 Distributing, showing or playing a recording. E+W+S

(1) A person who distributes, or shows or plays, a recording of visual images or sounds which are threatening, abusive or insulting is guilty of an offence if—

(a) he intends thereby to stir up racial hatred, or

(b) having regard to all the circumstances racial hatred is likely to be stirred up thereby.

(2) In this Part “recording” means any record from which visual images or sounds may, by any means, be reproduced; and references to the distribution, showing or playing of a recording are to its distribution, showing or playing of a recording are to its distribution, showing or playing to the public or a section of the public.

(3) In proceedings for an offence under this section it is a defence for an accused who is not shown to have intended to stir up racial hatred to prove that he was not aware of the content of the recording and did not suspect, and had no reason to suspect, that it was threatening, abusive or insulting.

(4) This section does not apply to the showing or playing of a recording solely for the purpose of enabling the recording to be [F4 included in a programme service].

Amendments (Textual)

F4 Words substituted by Broadcasting Act 1990 (c. 42, SIF 96), s. 164(2)

22 Broadcasting or including programme in cable programme service. E+W+S

(1) If a programme involving threatening, abusive or insulting visual images or sounds is [F5 included in a programme service], each of the persons mentioned in subsection (2) is guilty of an offence if—

(a) he intends thereby to stir up racial hatred, or

(b) having regard to all the circumstances racial hatred is likely to be stirred up thereby.

(2) The persons are—

(a) the person providing the . . . F6 programme service,

(b) any person by whom the programme is produced or directed, and

(c) any person by whom offending words or behaviour are used.

(3) If the person providing the service, or a person by whom the programme was produced or directed, is not shown to have intended to stir up racial hatred, it is a defence for him to prove that—

(a) he did not know and had no reason to suspect that the programme would involve the offending material, and

(b) having regard to the circumstances in which the programme was [F7 included in a programme service], it was not reasonably practicable for him to secure the removal of the material.

(4) It is a defence for a person by whom the programme was produced or directed who is not shown to have intended to stir up racial hatred to prove that he did not know and had no reason to suspect—

(a) that the programme would be [F7 included in a programme service], or

(b) that the circumstances in which the programme would be . . . F8 so included would be such that racial hatred would be likely to be stirred up.

(5) It is a defence for a person by whom offending words or behaviour were used and who is not shown to have intended to stir up racial hatred to prove that he did not know and had no reason to suspect—

(a) that a programme involving the use of the offending material would be [F7 included in a programme service], or

(b) that the circumstances in which a programme involving the use of the offending material would be . . . so included, or in which a programme . . . so included would involve the use of the offending material, would be such that racial hatred would be likely to be stirred up.

(6) A person who is not shown to have intended to stir up racial hatred is not guilty of an offence under this section if he did not know, and had no reason to suspect, that the offending material was threatening, abusive or insulting.

(7),(8). F9

Amendments (Textual)

F5 Words substituted by Broadcasting Act 1990 (c. 42, SIF 96), s. 164(3)(a)

F6 Words repealed by Broadcasting Act 1990 (c. 42, SIF 96), ss. 164(3)(b)(i), 203(3), Sch. 21

F7Words substituted by Broadcasting Act 1990 (c. 42, SIF 96), s. 164(3)(a)

F8Words repealed by Broadcasting Act 1990 (c. 42, SIF 96), ss. 164(3)(b)(ii), 203(3), Sch. 21

F9S. 22(7)(8) repealed by Broadcasting Act 1990 (c. 42, SIF 96), ss. 164(3)(b)(iii)(iv), 203(3), Sch. 21

Racially inflammatory material

23 Possession of racially inflammatory material. E+W+S

(1)A person who has in his possession written material which is threatening, abusive or insulting, or a recording of visual images or sounds which are threatening, abusive or insulting, with a view to—

(a)in the case of written material, its being displayed, published, distributed, [F10or included in a cable programme service], whether by himself or another, or

(b)in the case of a recording, its being distributed, shown, played, [F10or included in a cable programme service], whether by himself or another,

is guilty of an offence if he intends racial hatred to be stirred up thereby or, having regard to all the circumstances, racial hatred is likely to be stirred up thereby.

(2)For this purpose regard shall be had to such display, publication, distribution, showing, playing, [F11or inclusion in a programme service] as he has, or it may reasonably be inferred that he has, in view.

(3)In proceedings for an offence under this section it is a defence for an accused who is not shown to have intended to stir up racial hatred to prove that he was not aware of the content of the written material or recording and did not suspect, and had no reason to suspect, that it was threatening, abusive or insulting.

(4)..... F12

Amendments (Textual)

F10Words substituted by Broadcasting Act 1990 (c. 42, SIF 96), s. 164(4)(a)

F11Words substituted by Broadcasting Act 1990 (c. 42, SIF 96), s. 164(4)(b)

F12S. 23(4) repealed by Broadcasting Act 1990 (c. 42, SIF 96), ss. 164(4)(c), 203(3), Sch. 21
24 Powers of entry and search. E+W+S

(1) If in England and Wales a justice of the peace is satisfied by information on oath laid by a constable that there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that a person has possession of written material or a recording in contravention of section 23, the justice may issue a warrant under his hand authorising any constable to enter and search the premises where it is suspected the material or recording is situated.

(2) If in Scotland a sheriff or justice of the peace is satisfied by evidence on oath that there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that a person has possession of written material or a recording in contravention of section 23, the sheriff or justice may issue a warrant authorising any constable to enter and search the premises where it is suspected the material or recording is situated.

(3) A constable entering or searching premises in pursuance of a warrant issued under this section may use reasonable force if necessary.

(4) In this section “premises” means any place and, in particular, includes—

(a) any vehicle, vessel, aircraft or hovercraft,

(b) any offshore installation as defined in section 1(3) (b) of the Mineral Workings (Offshore Installations) Act 1971, and

(c) any tent or movable structure.

Marginal Citations

M21971 c. 61.

25 Power to order forfeiture. E+W+S

(1) A court by or before which a person is convicted of—

(a) an offence under section 18 relating to the display of written material, or

(b) an offence under section 19, 21 or 23,

shall order to be forfeited any written material or recording produced to the court and shown to its satisfaction to be written material or a recording to which the offence relates.

(2) An order made under this section shall not take effect—

(a) in the case of an order made in proceedings in England and Wales, until the expiry of the ordinary time within which an appeal may be instituted or, where an appeal is duly instituted, until it is finally decided or abandoned;

(b) in the case of an order made in proceedings in Scotland, until the expiration of the time within which, by virtue of any statute, an appeal may be instituted or, where such an appeal is duly instituted, until the appeal is finally decided or abandoned.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (2)(a)—

(a) an application for a case stated or for leave to appeal shall be treated as the institution of an appeal, and

(b) where a decision on appeal is subject to a further appeal, the appeal is not finally determined until the expiry of the ordinary time within which a further appeal may be instituted or, where a further appeal is duly instituted, until the further appeal is finally decided or abandoned.

(4) For the purposes of subsection (2)(b) the lodging of an application for a stated case or note of appeal against sentence shall be treated as the institution of an appeal.

Supplementary provisions

26 Savings for reports of parliamentary or judicial proceedings. E+W+S

(1) Nothing in this Part applies to a fair and accurate report of proceedings in Parliament [F13 or in the Scottish Parliament].

(2) Nothing in this Part applies to a fair and accurate report of proceedings publicly heard before a court or tribunal exercising judicial authority where the report is published contemporaneously with the proceedings or, if it is not reasonably practicable or would be unlawful to publish a report of them contemporaneously, as soon as publication is reasonably practicable and lawful.

Amendments (Textual)

F13 words in s. 26 inserted (6.5.1999) by 1998 c. 46, s. 125, Sch. 8 para. 24 (with s 126(3)-(11)); S.I. 1998/3178, art. 2, Sch. 3

27 Procedure and punishment. E+W+S

(1) No proceedings for an offence under this Part may be instituted in England and Wales except by or with the consent of the Attorney General.

(2) For the purposes of the rules in England and Wales against charging more than one offence in the same count or information, each of sections 18 to 23 creates one offence.

(3) A person guilty of an offence under this Part is liable—

(a) on conviction on indictment to imprisonment for a term not exceeding [F14seven years] or a fine or both;

(b) on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum or both.

Amendments (Textual)

F14 Words in s. 27(3) substituted (14.12.2001) by 2001 c. 24, ss. 40, 127(2) (with s. 42)
28 Offences by corporations. E+W+S

(1) Where a body corporate is guilty of an offence under this Part and it is shown that the offence was committed with the consent or connivance of a director, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the body, or a person purporting to act in any such capacity, he as well as the body corporate is guilty of the offence and liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

(2) Where the affairs of a body corporate are managed by its members, subsection (1) applies in relation to the acts and defaults of a member in connection with his functions of management as it applies to a director.

29 Interpretation. E+W+S

In this Part—

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“distribute”, and related expressions, shall be construed in accordance with section 19(3) (written material) and section 21(2) (recordings);

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“dwelling” means any structure or part of a structure occupied as a person’s home or other living accommodation (whether the occupation is separate or shared with others) but does not include any part not so occupied, and for this purpose “structure” includes a tent, caravan, vehicle, vessel or other temporary or movable structure;

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“programme” means any item which is [F16included in a programme service];

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[F17“programme service” has the same meaning as in the Broadcasting Act 1990;]

*

“publish”, and related expressions, in relation to written material, shall be construed in accordance with section 19 (3);

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“racial hatred” has the meaning given by section 17;

*

“recording” has the meaning given by section 21(2), and “play” and “show”, and related expressions, in relation to a recording, shall be construed in accordance with that provision;

*

“written material” includes any sign or other visible representation.

Amendments (Textual)

F15Definitions repealed by Broadcasting Act 1990 (c. 42, SIF 96), ss. 164(5)(a), 203(3), Sch. 21

F16Words substituted by Broadcasting Act 1990 (c. 42, SIF 96), s. 164(5)(b)

F17Definition inserted by Broadcasting Act 1990 (c. 42, SIF 96), s. 164(5)(c)

Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006 An Act to make provision about offences involving stirring up hatred against persons on racial or religious grounds.

The Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006 inserts a new part 3A into the 1986 Public Order Act; part 3A is entitled ‘Hatred against persons on religious grounds’. Religious hatred means ‘hatred against a group of persons defined by reference to religious belief or lack of religious belief’ (s 29A). The primary offence (s 29B) is to use *threatening* words or behaviour or to display any written material that is *threatening*, if the defendant thereby intends to stir up religious hatred. It is also an offence (s 29C) to publish or distribute written material which is threatening, if the defendant thereby intends to stir up religious hatred. Offences of this kind have been created in respect of theatrical performances (s 29D), broadcasting (s 29F) etc. There is also an offence of possessing inflammatory material (with a view to publication, distribution etc) which is *threatening* if the defendant intends religious hatred to be stirred up thereby. An important restriction on proceedings for these offences is that no prosecution for these offences may be instituted except with the consent of the Attorney-General (s 29L(1)).

Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006, § 29B - Use of words or behaviour or display of written material

- 1) A person who uses threatening words or behaviour, or displays any written material which is threatening, is guilty of an offence if he intends thereby to stir up religious hatred.
- 2) An offence under this section may be committed in a public or a private place, except that no offence is committed where the words or behaviour are used, or the written material is displayed, by a person inside a dwelling and are not heard or seen except by other persons in that or another dwelling.
- 3) A constable may arrest without warrant anyone he reasonably suspects is committing an offence under this section.
- 4) In proceedings for an offence under this section it is a defence for the accused to prove that he was inside a dwelling and had no reason to believe that the words or behaviour used, or the written material displayed, would be heard or seen by a person outside that or any other dwelling.
- 5) This section does not apply to words or behaviour used, or written material displayed, solely for the purpose of being included in a programme service.

Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006, § 29C - Publishing or distributing written material

- 1) A person who publishes or distributes written material which is threatening is guilty of an offence if he intends thereby to stir up religious hatred.
- 2) References in this Part to the publication or distribution of written material are to its publication or distribution to the public or a section of the public.

Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006, § 29D - Public performance of play

- 1) If a public performance of a play is given which involves the use of threatening words or behaviour, any person who presents or directs the performance is guilty of an offence if he intends thereby to stir up religious hatred.
- 2) This section does not apply to a performance given solely or primarily for one or more of the following purposes-
 - (a) rehearsal,
 - (b) making a recording of the performance, or
 - (c) enabling the performance to be included in a programme service;
- 3) But if it is proved that the performance was attended by persons other than those directly connected with the giving of the performance or the doing in relation to it of the things mentioned in paragraph (b) or (c), the performance shall, unless the contrary is

shown, be taken not to have been given solely or primarily for the purpose mentioned above.

4) For the purposes of this section-

(a) a person shall not be treated as presenting a performance of a play by reason only of his taking part in it as a performer,

(b) a person taking part as a performer in a performance directed by another shall be treated as a person who directed the performance if without reasonable excuse he performs otherwise than in accordance with that person's direction, and

(c) a person shall be taken to have directed a performance of a play given under his direction notwithstanding that he was not present during the performance; and a person shall not be treated as aiding or abetting the commission of an offence under this section by reason only of his taking part in a performance as a performer.

5) In this section "play" and "public performance" have the same meaning as in the Theatres Act 1968.

6) The following provisions of the Theatres Act 1968 apply in relation to an offence under this section as they apply to an offence under section 2 of that Act-
section 9 (script as evidence of what was performed),
section 10 (power to make copies of script),
section 15 (powers of entry and inspection).

Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006, § 29E - Distributing, showing or playing a recording

1) A person who distributes, or shows or plays, a recording of visual images or sounds which are threatening is guilty of an offence if he intends thereby to stir up religious hatred.

2) In this Part "recording" means any record from which visual images or sounds may, by any means, be reproduced; and references to the distribution, showing or playing of a recording are to its distribution, showing or playing to the public or a section of the public.

3) This section does not apply to the showing or playing of a recording solely for the purpose of enabling the recording to be included in a programme service.

Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006, 29F - Broadcasting or including programme in programme service

1) If a programme involving threatening visual images or sounds is included in a programme service, each of the persons mentioned in subsection (2) is guilty of an offence if he intends thereby to stir up religious hatred.

2) The persons are-

(a) the person providing the programme service,

-
- (b) any person by whom the programme is produced or directed, and
 - (c) any person by whom offending words or behaviour are used.

Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006, 29G - Possession of inflammatory material

1) A person who has in his possession written material which is threatening, or a recording of visual images or sounds which are threatening, with a view to-

- a) in the case of written material, its being displayed, published, distributed, or included in a programme service whether by himself or another, or
- b) in the case of a recording, its being distributed, shown, played, or included in a programme service, whether by himself or another, is guilty of an offence if he intends religious hatred to be stirred up thereby.

2) For this purpose regard shall be had to such display, publication, distribution, showing, playing, or inclusion in a programme service as he has, or it may be reasonably be inferred that he has, in view.

Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006, § 29H - Powers of entry and search

1) If in England and Wales a justice of the peace is satisfied by information on oath laid by a constable that there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that a person has possession of written material or a recording in contravention of section 29G, the justice may issue a warrant under his hand authorising any constable to enter and search the premises where it is suspected the material or recording is situated.

2) If in Scotland a sheriff or justice of the peace is satisfied by evidence on oath that there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that a person has possession of written material or a recording in contravention of section 29G, the sheriff or justice may issue a warrant authorising any constable to enter and search the premises where it is suspected the material or recording is situated.

3) A constable entering or searching premises in pursuance of a warrant issued under this section may use reasonable force if necessary.

4) In this section "premises" means any place and, in particular, includes-

- (a) any vehicle, vessel, aircraft or hovercraft,
- (b) any offshore installation as defined in section 12 of the Mineral Workings (Offshore Installations) Act 1971, and
- (c) any tent or movable structure.

Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006, § 29I - Power to order forfeiture

1) A court by or before which a person is convicted of-

- (a) an offence under section 29B relating to the display of written material, or
- (b) an offence under section 29C, 29E or 29G, shall order to be forfeited any written material or recording produced to the court and shown to its satisfaction to be written material or a recording to which the offence relates.

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- 2) An order made under this section shall not take effect-
- (a) in the case of an order made in proceedings in England and Wales, until the expiry of the ordinary time within which an appeal may be instituted or, where an appeal is duly instituted, until it is finally decided or abandoned;
 - (b) in the case of an order made in proceedings in Scotland, until the expiration of the time within which, by virtue of any statute, an appeal may be instituted or, where such an appeal is duly instituted, until the appeal is finally decided or abandoned.
- 3) For the purposes of subsection (2)(a)-
- (a) an application for a case stated or for leave to appeal shall be treated as the institution of an appeal, and
 - (b) where a decision on appeal is subject to a further appeal, the appeal is not finally determined until the expiry of the ordinary time within which a further appeal may be instituted or, where a further appeal is duly instituted, until the further appeal is finally decided or abandoned.
- 4) For the purposes of subsection (2)(b) the lodging of an application for a stated case or note of appeal against sentence shall be treated as the institution of an appeal.

Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006, § 29J - Protection of freedom of expression

Nothing in this Part shall be read or given effect in a way which prohibits or restricts discussion, criticism or expressions of antipathy, dislike, ridicule, insult or abuse of particular religions or the beliefs or practices of their adherents, or of any other belief system or the beliefs or practices of its adherents, or proselytising or urging adherents of a different religion or belief system to cease practising their religion or belief system.

Case Law

Public Policies

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The objectives of the campaign are to promote greater public understanding of the equality legislation, across all of the grounds covered, and to publicise the role and the work of the Equality Commission. »



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The Commission has the duty to keep equality legislation under review and there are a number of areas where we believe reform to be both necessary and desirable - click here for further information. »



Investigation Report »

Our investigation has identified a number of improvements which the recruitment sector can make to promote equality of opportunity for migrant workers - click here for more information »



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The Commission aims to further develop and implement a programme of partnership working. This strategic focus aims to 'Bridge the Gap' between employers and those individuals marginalized from employment. »



ECRI REPORT ON THE UNITED KINGDOM

(fourth monitoring cycle)

Adopted on 17 December 2009

Published on 2 March 2010



126. In Northern Ireland, 990 incidents and 771 crimes with a racist motivation were recorded in 2008/09; 46 incidents and 35 crimes with a faith/religion motivation were recorded in the same period, and 1595 incidents and 1017 crimes with a sectarian motivation were recorded. While the figures for crimes with a faith/religion motivation showed a decrease on the previous year, crimes with racist motivations increased. Amongst the crimes recorded, around 40% of crimes with a racist or sectarian motivation were violent crimes, as were 17.1 % of crimes with a faith/religion motivation ⁷².
127. As regards victims of racist violence, NGOs have reported that Black people are 4.5 times and Asian people 1.7 times more likely to be victims of murder and manslaughter than White people", although some research has shown that the link may be indirect, as differences in the risk of being a victim of racist offences may be more directly attributable to factors other than ethnicity (such as being young or male, or living in an area with high levels of perceived anti-social behaviour}". Migrant workers have also increasingly been targeted in violent attacks in various parts of the United Kingdom, including in Northern Ireland, where a spate of attacks directed against migrants in Belfast in May and June 2009 reportedly prompted more than 100 migrants to move house, and some of them even to leave the country, despite receiving public support from the local community.
128. Racist violence in the United Kingdom is a cause for concern for ECRI. While it commends the authorities for the collection and publication of wide-ranging data in this field, and for the steps taken to improve the manner in which all racist offences are handled when they reported ⁷⁵, ECRI stresses that more efforts need to be made to prevent such violence from occurring at all. It emphasises in this connection that racist violence is one of the worst manifestations of racism, which affects not only those who are themselves victims of attacks but also the broader community to which they belong. ECRI is concerned that to date, efforts to address the causes of racist violence and prevent it from occurring do not appear to have kept pace with efforts to deal with cases when they occur.
129. ECRI recommends that the United Kingdom authorities intensify their efforts to prevent racist violence and combat its underlying causes, and draws the authorities' attention to the links between racist discourse and racist violence explored elsewhere in this report ⁷⁶. It strongly encourages the authorities in their efforts to monitor racist offences and to prosecute and punish persons having committed acts of racist violence.

IV. Racism in Public Discourse

Exploitation of racism in politics

130. In its third report, ECRI recommended that the United Kingdom authorities take measures to tackle the exploitation of racism in politics, and emphasised in this context that the law should provide for the possibility of dissolution of organisations which promote racism.

⁷² PSN I Annual Statistical Report: Report No.3, Hate Incidents and Crimes, 1 st April 2008 - 31 st March 2009, pp4-5.

⁷³ The 1990 Trust, Shadow Report to the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, The 1990 Trust, May 2007, page 16

⁷⁴ Ministry of Justice, Statistics on Race and the Criminal Justice System 2007/8, p11. ⁷⁵

See above, Criminal law provisions against racism applicable in England and Wales. ⁷⁶ See below, Racism in Public Discourse.

131. ECRI notes that there is currently a vigorous debate in the United Kingdom on the future direction of immigration and citizenship policy. This is reflected in the proposed legislation on these issues. This debate is taking place against a background of concern about the possible social and economic effects of perceived significant population in-flows. ECRI views with deep concern a tendency, on the fringes of the political debate, for views to be expressed that are at best demeaning of migrants and at worst xenophobic or racist. It is also concerned that statements by some mainstream politicians may have stigmatised certain groups, such as refugees, asylum-seekers or migrant workers. ECRI emphasises the need for xenophobic and racist views to be strongly challenged by mainstream political parties at the highest level and encourages the United Kingdom authorities to counter these views by ensuring that its policies fully reflect the principles of tolerance and inclusiveness, and by taking the greatest care to ensure that any public statements on issues of policy in this area do not appear to give credence to such views.
132. Although the electoral success of parties who have resorted to openly racist and xenophobic propaganda has remained relatively low in general elections, the pattern of voting is such that, between general elections (for example in local and European elections), votes tend to deflect significantly away from the main political parties. The British National Party (BNP), which has presented increasingly anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant views and whose leader has previously been convicted for the distribution of material likely to incite racial hatred, has built significant local support in certain areas. Against a background of considerable political volatility in the United Kingdom at the time of the June 2009 European elections, the BNP's share of the vote in elections with a limited turnout increased marginally, but enough to secure the election of two MEPs. ECRI is deeply concerned that this combination of factors has resulted in providing the BNP with a platform that could make overtly racist discourse more common in British society.
133. ECRI recommends that the United Kingdom authorities take particular care, when developing and explaining policies, to ensure that the message sent to society as a whole is not one likely to foment or foster intolerance. It underlines that political leaders on all sides should take a public stance against the expression of racist and xenophobic attitudes, including when these expressions come from within their own ranks.
134. ECRI urges the United Kingdom authorities to take measures to tackle the exploitation of racism in politics. In this respect, it draws the attention of the authorities to its General Policy Recommendation No.7, which sets out measures that can be taken to this end. ECRI emphasises once again that according to this General Policy Recommendation, "the law should provide for the possibility of dissolution of organisations which promote racism".

Media

135. In its third report, ECRI encouraged the authorities to impress on the media, without encroaching on their editorial independence, the need both to ensure that reporting does not contribute to creating an atmosphere of hostility and rejection towards various minority ethnic groups, and to play a proactive role in countering such an atmosphere. ECRI recommended that the authorities engage in a debate with the media and members of other relevant civil society groups on how this could best be achieved.
136. The Media Trust and the Society of Editors published guidelines in 2005, in the form of a booklet entitled Reporting Diversity: How journalists can

contribute to community cohesion, which is available free on the website of the Department for Communities and Local Government. In 2007, the Press Complaints Commission ratified a new Editors' Code of Practice for newspaper and magazine publishing in the United Kingdom. This provides that the press "must avoid prejudicial or pejorative reference to an individual's race, colour, religion, gender, sexual orientation or to any physical or mental illness or disability", and that "details of an individual's race, colour, religion, sexual orientation, physical or mental illness or disability must be avoided unless genuinely relevant to the story".⁷⁷ Individuals may lodge complaints with the Press Complaints Commission regarding breaches of this Code, although it cannot accept third-party complaints, and it is not clear to what extent complaints may concern breaches with respect to a group.

137. ECRI welcomes these steps, which should help to provide a useful framework for the media in carrying out their work. However, it notes with concern that Muslims, migrants, asylum-seekers and Gypsies/Travelers are regularly presented in a negative light in the mainstream media, and in particular in the tabloid press, where they are frequently portrayed, for example, as being by definition associated with terrorism, sponging off British society, making bogus claims for protection or being troublemakers. ECRI is concerned not only at the racist and xenophobic messages themselves that are thus propagated by the media, but also by the fact that civil society actors have in some cases observed direct links between minority groups targeted by the media and minority groups targeted in violent attacks.
138. ECRI strongly encourages the authorities to continue and intensify their efforts to impress on the media, without encroaching on their editorial independence, the need to ensure that reporting does not contribute to creating an atmosphere of hostility and rejection towards various minority ethnic groups, and to play a proactive role in countering such an atmosphere. ECRI again recommends that the authorities engage in a debate with the media and members of other relevant civil society groups on how this could best be achieved. It recommends that further efforts be made to ensure that successful initiatives developed at local level in this field are reproduced on a broader scale at national level.

V. Antisemitism

139. In its third report, ECRI recommended that the United Kingdom authorities continue and intensify their efforts to counter all manifestations of antisemitism, and referred in particular to the implementation of criminal law provisions against incitement to racial hatred.
140. In 2006, the All-Party Parliamentary Group against Antisemitism published the report of a detailed inquiry into antisemitism in the United Kingdom.⁷⁸ The inquiry found not only that violence, desecration of property and intimidation directed against Jews were on the rise, but also that antisemitic discourse (in the form of anti-Jewish themes and remarks) seemed to be gaining acceptability in some quarters, including on some university campuses. The inquiry also concluded that although the far right remained a problem, it was no longer the sole source of antisemitism in Britain. Furthermore, increases in antisemitic violence tended to be linked in time with outbreaks of violence in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict - yet the majority of victims in such cases were

⁷⁷ Editors' Code of Practice for newspaper and magazine publishing in the United Kingdom, clause 12, Discrimination.

⁷⁸ All-Party Parliamentary Group against Antisemitism, Report of the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Antisemitism, London, September 2006

neither Israeli nor clearly supporting Israel when they were attacked. The group made a number of recommendations to relevant institutions, the media and other bodies in order to tackle these issues, and cautioned strongly against becoming complacent with regard to physical or verbal racist, antisemitic or similarly intolerant abuse.

141. In its response to the inquiry", the government expressed its concern at this situation and stressed its commitment to tackling all forms of hate crime and racial intolerance, including antisemitism, wherever they exist, through the effective implementation of strong legislation and of policies and strategies to increase racial equality and build community cohesion. It detailed the steps it was already taking in a number of fields to combat antisemitism and the further steps it intended to take, for example in order to improve the reporting of antisemitic and other hate crimes". The government's response was hailed by the Jewish community as "the single most important action against UK antisemitism for many years?". A government progress report was published a year later", setting out an array of concrete steps taken in this field in the previous year, or forthcoming, and the firm commitment to fighting antisemitism on which they were based. For its part, the Crown Prosecution Service carried out an in-depth investigation into the reporting and prosecution of antisemitic crimes and published a detailed response concerning these matters, including proposals for future actions to increase the effectiveness of its work". As regards the police, steps have been taken to co-ordinate efforts between the police and the Jewish community so as to improve the reporting of antisemitic incidents, and in 2008 a guide to the Holocaust was published for police personnel.
142. ECRI welcomes the authorities' strong commitment to dealing with issues of antisemitism in the United Kingdom, and notes with interest the prosecution of two offenders in the United Kingdom in 2008 for racist and antisemitic material published on the internet. ECRI is concerned, however, that according to data collected by the Community Security Trust, while the number of antisemitic incidents (including extreme violence, assault, damage and desecration, threats, abusive behaviour and mass-produced antisemitic literature) recorded in the United Kingdom has dropped since 2006, the total number of incidents recorded in 2008 was still the third highest ever. Furthermore, there was a sharp increase in antisemitic incidents in early 2009, triggered by events in Gaza": 260 antisemitic incidents occurred in the first four weeks of 2009 alone. These incidents parallel comment in the mainstream media which is increasingly critical of the policies of the State of Israel to an extent which at times threatens to blur the lines between criticism and antisemitism. At the same time, there appears to be an increasing presence of antisemitic discourse on the comments pages of newspaper and radio websites".

⁷⁹ Report of the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Antisemitism: Government Response, London, March 2007

⁸⁰ See above, Criminal law provisions against racism applicable in England and Wales. ⁸¹

CST, Antisemitic Discourse in Britain in 2007, p6.

⁸² Report of the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Antisemitism: Government Response, One year on Progress Report, London, May 2008

⁸³ The Crown Prosecution Service Response to the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Antisemitism, London, May 2008

⁸⁴ Community Security Trust, Antisemitic Incidents Report 2008

⁸⁵ Community Security Trust, Antisemitic Discourse in Britain in 2007 40

143. ECRI strongly encourages the authorities of the United Kingdom to continue and strengthen their efforts to counter all manifestations of antisemitism. It refers in this context to the recommendations formulated above on the implementation of existing criminal law provisions, and notably those against incitement to racial hatred. More generally, ECRI draws the attention of the authorities of the United Kingdom to its General Policy Recommendation NO.9 on the fight against antisemitism, which proposes a range of measures the authorities can take to combat antisemitism.

VI. Vulnerable Target Groups

Muslim communities

144. In its third report, ECRI recommended that the authorities maintain a regular and even closer process of consultation with representatives of the Muslim communities of the United Kingdom on the causes of Islamophobia and its manifestations, and that they elaborate an overall strategy against Islamophobia.
145. Muslim representatives indicate that the concept of Islamophobia is still not widely understood, and that phenomena of hatred or fear of Muslims tend to be conflated with simple criticism of their religion. Monitoring of crimes motivated by Islamophobia is also still reportedly quite weak, and further efforts may be needed to ensure that Muslims know where and how to report such crimes. At the same time, the categories according to which hate crimes are recorded, which are collected on the basis of geographical origin, do not clearly reflect the religious convictions of victims or offenders, making the extent of crimes motivated by Islamophobia difficult to discern. While police forces have taken steps to build confidence between Muslims and the police, including efforts to encourage Muslims to take up a career in the police force, these efforts have to some extent been undermined by other factors such as the disproportionate impact of anti-terror measures on Muslims".
146. Public discourse about Muslims is frequently negative, whether in the mainstream (especially tabloid) press, on the internet, or in the discourse of political parties. The swift intervention of the authorities after the 2005 bombings in the London transport system was found to have deflected blame from the Muslim community as a whole and helped to prevent a media backlash at the time." However, Muslim representatives underline that Muslims find their presence in the media increasingly structured by other people's narratives, with the content of stories and the choice as to which stories to cover tending to reinforce cleavages by suggesting that Muslims want to create distinct communities within British society rather than play a full part in it; Muslims who seek equal protection under the law, in line with the human rights of all individuals, are also reportedly more likely to be presented in a negative light. One report, which analysed a sample of newspaper articles in British tabloids and broadsheets between 2000 and 2008, found that since 2000, two thirds of newspaper articles about Muslims in Britain had portrayed British Muslims as either a threat or a problem; these articles increasingly

⁸⁶ See below, Anti-terror legislation

⁸⁷ EUMC, The Impact of 7 July 2005 London Bomb Attacks on Muslim Communities in the EU, November 2005

used negative and stereotypical imagery." Civil society actors moreover emphasise that debates on community cohesion increasingly shift the responsibility for cohesion to Muslims, focusing attention on prevention of terrorism and at the same time suggesting that this question primarily concerns Muslim communities.

147. ECRI notes that in parallel to these negative phenomena, Muslims face discrimination in access to the labour market, although here, as in other fields, the focus on data collection broken down by ethnic group" and not by religious convictions makes it more difficult to determine the precise extent to which religion is a factor in such discrimination. Some Muslim representatives point out that the lack, or reduced prospects, of employment may make young Muslims easy prey for extremist groups; they stress that effective prevention strategies must focus on providing genuine alternative aspirations and projects.
148. ECRI again recommends that the United Kingdom authorities pursue and strengthen their dialogue with representatives of Muslims in the United Kingdom on the causes of Islamophobia and on the ways in which this manifests itself in institutions and in society in general. It emphasises the need for an overall strategy against Islamophobia which cuts across different areas of life. ECRI again draws the attention of the authorities of the United Kingdom to its General Policy Recommendation NO.5 on combating intolerance and discrimination against Muslims, which proposes a range of measures they can take in this field.
149. ECRI recommends that the United Kingdom authorities consider ways of collecting data with respect to discrimination on the grounds of religious beliefs, with a view inter alia to building a clearer picture of the situation of Muslims in British society and to taking targeted steps to combat patterns of discrimination against Muslims.

Gypsies and Travellers

150. In its third report, ECRI made a series of recommendations concerning the situation of Gypsies and Travellers in the United Kingdom, with respect to the monitoring of their situation, their access to housing, education and employment, combating prejudice and promoting good relations, the participation of Gypsies and Travellers in decision-making processes concerning them, and combating exclusion.
151. The situation of Gypsies and Travellers remains a cause of concern for ECRI. It notes that although few data are currently available for Gypsies and Travellers", the available evidence tends to show that Gypsies and Travellers are still among the most disadvantaged minority ethnic groups in the United Kingdom and the most likely to face discrimination, and that they experience

⁸⁸ Kerry Moore, Paul Mason and Justin Lewis, Images of Islam in the UK: The Representation of British Muslims in the National Print News Media 2000-2008, Cardiff School of Journalism, Media and Cultural Studies, 7 July 2008

⁸⁹ In the 2001 census, the following five main categories, broken down into "16+1 self-defined ethnic groups", were used in data collection in England and Wales (with minor variations applying in Scotland and Northern Ireland): Asian or Asian British - Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Any other Asian background; Black or Black British - Caribbean, African, Any other Black background; Mixed - White and Black Caribbean, White and Black African, White and Asian, Any other Mixed background; Chinese or other ethnic group - Chinese, Any other ethnic group; White - British, Irish, Any other White background; Not Stated. See <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/profiles/commentaries/ethnicity.asp>. These groups have also since been used in other contexts, for example in Home Office data collection.

⁹⁰ Third progress report, vol. 2, p 183.

some of the most severe levels of hostility and prejudice". While a number of initiatives to redress these inequalities have been taken both by the authorities and by civil society actors in a variety of fields, much more still needs to be done in order to redress the situation and allow Gypsies and Travellers to participate on an equal footing in society in the United Kingdom.

152. In the field of housing, a detailed study on equality, good race relations and site provision for Gypsies and Travellers was carried out by the Commission for Racial Equality and published in 2006⁹². Data collected by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and published in that report showed that in January 2004, there were 5 901 caravans on authorised public sites in England and 4 890 on permitted private sites; however, there were 1 977 caravans on land owned by Gypsies and Travellers but developed without planning permission, and 1 594 caravans stationed without authorisation on land not owned by Gypsies and Travellers. The authorities have recognised the lack of sites and imposed a duty on local authorities to conduct needs assessments in their areas. An independent task group was also set up to examine site provision and enforcement for Gypsies and Travellers and reported its findings in 2007. It emphasised the urgency of moving forward with site provision and noted that until there were sufficient places for Gypsies and Travellers to live, there would continue to be conflicts between the right of Gypsies and Travellers to adequate housing and their obligation to respect the law and the interests of the settled community. It made a series of recommendations, directed for the most part at central or local government, with respect to policy, enforcement, site provision, tackling social exclusion and monitoring progress". In recent years, the Department for Communities and Local Government has also published draft guidance on the management of Gypsy and Traveller sites, guidance on Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments and a Good Practice Guide on Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites".
153. Representatives of Gypsies and Travellers have emphasised that adequate site provision remains an especially pressing issue for their communities. They have pointed to the reluctance of many local councils to provide additional sites - frequently related to high levels of resistance amongst local communities and parish councils to such developments -, despite a clearly identified present need for around 4500 additional pitches across Britain, and the need to plan for a higher number to take account of likely population growth. Moreover, representatives of Gypsies and Travellers point out that while necessary, the refurbishment of existing sub-standard, polluted or overcrowded sites - an approach preferred by some local authorities, to the exclusion of creating additional pitches - may lead to a reduction in the number of pitches on a site as each pitch is increased in size, thus aggravating the problem of lack of pitches and doing little to defuse community tensions in this field; for this reason, they emphasise the need to ensure that statistics on site provision are broken down by local authority. An excessive emphasis on enforcement (i.e. eviction), involving often protracted and

⁹¹ See, for example, Sarah Cemlyn, Margaret Greenfields, Sally Burnett, Zoe Matthews and Chris Whitwell, *Inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller communities: A review*, Equality and Human Rights Commission Research Report 12, 2009

⁹² Commission for Racial Equality, *Common Ground: Equality, good race relations and site provision for Gypsies and Irish Travellers*, 2006.

⁹³ *The Road Ahead: Final Report of the Independent Task Group on Site Provision and Enforcement for Gypsies and Travellers*, December 2007; the Government Response was published in April 2008.

⁹⁴ *Draft Guidance on the Management of Gypsy and Traveller Sites: A consultation paper*, May 2007; *Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments: Guidance*, October 2007; *Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites: Good Practice Guide*, May 2008.

expensive litigation, instead of seeking forward-looking solutions in consultation with all members of the local community, has also been shown to damage race relations". ECRI observes that this issue is frequently at the crux of escalating tensions within communities, as the lack of pitches forces Gypsies and Travellers into unauthorised encampments or developments. ECRI stresses the urgency of addressing this problem, and of ensuring not only that enough pitches exist but also that they are properly run.

154. ECRI strongly encourages the United Kingdom authorities in their efforts to address the disadvantages faced by Gypsies and Travellers in access to adequate accommodation. It strongly recommends that the authorities take all necessary measures to ensure that the assessment of accommodation needs at local level is completed thoroughly and as quickly as possible.
155. ECRI recommends that the United Kingdom authorities step up their efforts to ensure that a sufficient number of pitches are in place to accommodate the needs of Gypsies and Travellers.
156. ECRI recommends that the United Kingdom authorities encourage local authorities to treat enforcement measures - legitimate though they are - as a last resort, and to privilege wherever possible an approach aimed at bridging gaps between communities and at finding mutually acceptable solutions, rather than approaches that will inevitably place groups in opposition to each other.
157. As mentioned earlier in this report, the situation of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children with respect to education is particularly worrying, as only around one in six of them presently succeed in gaining 5 GCSEs at A *-C grades, compared with the national average that is four times higher". The number of children who drop out of education before reaching secondary school, or very early on in secondary school, also remains of concern. The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) has reported that there could be as many as 12 000 Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children not in secondary school". When they are in school, they are reported to be frequently subjected to bullying or harassment, which has a negative impact on their achievements and has also contributed to this group being afraid to identify itself in the context of ethnic monitoring - a fact which in turn makes it difficult for schools to apply for the extra support and funding that would be available to help them. Representatives of Gypsies, Roma and Travellers have also emphasised the need to educate teachers better to understand Gypsy, Roma and Traveller culture, in order to help create a more welcoming atmosphere in the classroom and more general within the school environment.
158. ECRI notes with interest that since its third report, the United Kingdom authorities have put in place a new E-learning and Mobility Project, using laptops and data cards with learning materials. The initiative aims to improve achievement and help pupils remain in contact with their schools when they travel. In February 2009, it was reported that the outcomes of ELAMP were encouraging. Evidence had shown that the use of e-learning helped to increase motivation, improve achievement and allow pupils to re-integrate more easily when they return to school. Moreover, the impact of the project on educational opportunities for its participants was appreciated by parents,

⁹⁵ On this point, see for example Commission for Racial Equality, *Common Ground: Equality, good race relations and site provision for Gypsies and Irish Travellers*, 2006, *passim*.

⁹⁶ See above, *Discrimination in Various Fields - Education*.

⁹⁷ Third progress report, vol. 1, p19, p27.

APPENDIX: GOVERNMENT'S VIEWPOINT

The following appendix does not form part of ECRI's analysis and proposals concerning the situation in the United Kingdom

ECRI, in accordance with its country-by-country procedure, engaged into confidential dialogue with the authorities of the United Kingdom on a first draft of the report. A number of the authorities' comments were taken on board and integrated into the report's final version (which, in line with ECRI's standard practice, had to reflect, in principle, the situation as at 3 July 2009, date of the examination of the first draft).

The authorities also requested that the following viewpoint be reproduced as an appendix to the report.

The CPS has established Hate Crime Scrutiny Panels made up from members of the public covering all its Areas, which scrutinise the Service's performance on how it handles hate crimes and disseminates lessons learned to prosecutors and CPS staff.

IV, RACISM IN PUBLIC DISCOURSE

The UK Government shares ECRI's concerns at the publication of racist or inflammatory material, and points out that the laws on incitement to racial hatred apply to all such media. The Government recognises that the print media, particularly at the local and regional level can help shape opinion in a positive or negative way. However it is not the Government's role to "impress" on the media any particular approach to these issues. That would not be consistent with a free press.

That said, the impact of myths rumours and misinformation on cohesion is well known, particularly surrounding the arrival of new migrants. These are often hard to challenge. The Department for Communities and Local Government has been working with a number of local authorities to find ways in which they can communicate positive factual messages in an impartial way. We have also been working with some local authorities on how best to deal with the negative perceptions of the town in the media. The aim of this work is to work with public sector agencies (principally the local authority and local strategic partnerships) to critically examine their engagement with local media and to consider ways in which supportive coverage can be fostered and community cohesion generally promoted.

The Department for Communities and Local Government is also currently working with the Society of Editors, the Attorney General's Office, the Ministry of Justice and representatives of the Jewish community to develop a guide for the media on the role and responsibility of moderators of on-line blogs.

The importance of producing a guide of this nature cannot be overstated in light of recent events where reputable newspapers allow the publication of blatantly antisemitic, Islamophobic or racist comments.

Additionally, the Government is keen to challenge and remove perceptions which can contribute to generating hostility towards migrants through locally driven, resourced, initiatives.

Concrete measures Government has taken in this area include:

1) allocating the Migration Impacts Fund (£35 million p.a.), a tax paid by migrants which is used to manage impacts on local services attributable to migration,

2) promotion of evidence that migrants do not place a significant burden on social housing, and actually tend to use private rented housing,

3) a programme of work with the Office for National Statistics to ensure public sector funding streams follow more closely population shifts caused by migration, and

4) funding for English for Speakers of Other Languages (£300 million p.a.), Exceptional Circumstances Grant to schools facing migration pressures (£6 million p.a.) and other measures to facilitate migrant integration and reduce the impact on local communities of rapid population change driven by migration.

V, ANTISEMITISM

We welcome ECRI's acknowledgement of the UK Government's strong committed to tackling antisemitism. We believe the best way to do that is through effective implementation of strong legislation against racial and religious discrimination and racially and religiously motivated crime. The Government strongly condemns all antisemitic incidents and understands the fears and concerns of the Jewish community in Britain. British Jews, like all communities must be able to live their lives free from fear of verbal or physical attack. The Government will continue to meet and work with Jewish community representatives and continue to offer whatever support it can

The Department for Communities and Local Government is leading the Government's response to the All Party Inquiry into Antisemitism and coordinates the cross-government task force which tackles antisemitism. The taskforce is made up of officials from across government and representatives of the Parliamentary Committee against Antisemitism and the Jewish community.

The task force meets quarterly and is instrumental in ensuring that the commitments made by Government departments in the "one year on" response are followed through. The taskforce has been positively received by the Jewish community and the Chief Rabbi hosted a reception last year to thank members of the taskforce for the work they had done to tackle antisemitism.

The Department for Communities and Local Government has also provided funding to the European Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism to conduct research into antisemitic discourse. This research was launched by the Minister for Cohesion in July 2009. The report has been well received and officials are currently following up on the recommendations.

The Department for Communities and Local Government has also supported the work of the Parliamentary Committee against Antisemitism to take the model of an all party inquiry into antisemitism across Europe, the Americas and Ethiopia.

The Department for Communities and Local Government hosted the opening reception for the London conference for combating Antisemitism on 15th February 2009; the conference brought together parliamentarians and experts from across the world to discuss how to tackle antisemitism and resulted in the adoption of the London Declaration to tackle Antisemitism. The Prime Minister and a number of other ministers have signed the declaration.

The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills has formed a subgroup to tackle antisemitism on university campuses and has tasked their Equality Challenge Unit to work with the Union of Jewish Students to investigate why Jewish students do not report antisemitic incidents to university authorities.

Government departments are continuing to work together to ensure that the security concerns of the Jewish community in relations to schools and Jewish communal buildings are taken in to account.

VI, VULNERABLE/TARGET GROUPS

Muslim communities (paragraph 144-149)

The UK Government is determined to tackle Islamophobia and stamp out extremism and racism wherever it occurs. We deplore all religious and racially motivated attacks. We will not tolerate racists and trouble-makers disrupting our local communities.

We are determined that events involving the Muslim community should not be exploited by anyone as an excuse to start blaming, persecuting, or preaching inflammatory messages about any particular group. British Muslims like all communities must be able to live their lives free from fear of verbal or physical attack. The Government has a shared responsibility to tackle Islamophobia and all other forms of racism and prejudice against members of lawful religious traditions not only with those communities directly affected, but with all members of society.

The Government is fully committed to engaging with faith and non-faith communities to help build a more inclusive, tolerant and cohesive society. Our relations with Muslim communities are extremely important and we will continue to strive to improve them.

Any crime should be reported to the police. The police are alive to the need to reassure communities that might be targeted and liaise directly with community leaders. The police and prosecuting authorities have robust policies - police forces continue to be alert to crimes being committed against members of all faith communities and take appropriate steps to safeguard people and property.

Additionally, in a July 2003 Policy Statement, the Crown Prosecution Service gave a commitment to prosecute racist and religious crime fairly, firmly and robustly. This sends a clear message to perpetrators that they will not get away with crimes of hatred towards members of racial or religious groups.

The Government is aware that research conducted by a number of our stakeholders has indicated that Islamophobia is on the rise. This may in part be due to the increase in reporting crimes against Muslims, a development that the Government welcomes and is keen to encourage in practical ways.

The police collate data on trends in hate crime and whilst data is not available to show any increase in attacks on religious establishments, the

Adde – Holocaust Memorial Remembrance Day

Task Force For International Cooperation On Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research

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21.01.10

January 27th International Holocaust Remembrance Day: A Look at Remembrance Events in ITF's Member Countries



What are ITF member states doing to commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day on January 27th?

Update 1: [President Obama delivers remarks](#)

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/photos-and-video/video/president-obama-65th-anniversary-liberation-auschwitz-and-birkenau>) commemorating the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz and Birkenau in a taped message for the ceremony in Krakow, Poland, and Auschwitz-Birkenau. For a text version of the remarks see [here \(http://blog.taragana.com/politics/2010/01/27/text-of-the-videotaped-message-from-president-barack-obama-for-the-ceremony-commemorating-the-65th-anniversary-of-the-liberation-of-auschwitz-birkenau-15469/\)](http://blog.taragana.com/politics/2010/01/27/text-of-the-videotaped-message-from-president-barack-obama-for-the-ceremony-commemorating-the-65th-anniversary-of-the-liberation-of-auschwitz-birkenau-15469/).

Update 2: On 27 January, the German Bundestag held a [Ceremony of Remembrance \(http://www.bundestag.de/htdocs_e/bundestag/plenary/remembrance.html\)](http://www.bundestag.de/htdocs_e/bundestag/plenary/remembrance.html) for the Victims of National Socialism in the Reichstag Building in Berlin, including speeches by the President of the Bundestag, Professor [Norbert Lammert \(http://webtv.bundestag.de/iptv/player/macros/v_f_514_de/od_player.html?singleton=true&content=475522\)](http://webtv.bundestag.de/iptv/player/macros/v_f_514_de/od_player.html?singleton=true&content=475522), followed by the President of the State of Israel, [Shimon Peres \(http://webtv.bundestag.de/iptv/player/macros/v_f_514_de/od_player.html?singleton=true&content=475524\)](http://webtv.bundestag.de/iptv/player/macros/v_f_514_de/od_player.html?singleton=true&content=475524), and Polish historian Professor [Feliks Tych \(http://webtv.bundestag.de/iptv/player/macros/v_f_514_de/od_player.html?singleton=true&content=475527\)](http://webtv.bundestag.de/iptv/player/macros/v_f_514_de/od_player.html?singleton=true&content=475527). [http://webtv.bundestag.de/iptv/player/macros/v_f_514_de/od_player.html?singleton=true&content=475527\)](http://webtv.bundestag.de/iptv/player/macros/v_f_514_de/od_player.html?singleton=true&content=475527)

On 27 January 1945, the advancing Soviet army entered the [Auschwitz-Birkenau \(http://www.auschwitz.org.pl\)](http://www.auschwitz.org.pl) extermination camp complex, [liberating \(http://www.ushmm.org/museum/exhibit/focus/auschwitz/\)](http://www.ushmm.org/museum/exhibit/focus/auschwitz/) more than 7000 remaining prisoners, for the

most part ill or dying. Days earlier, the SS had forced nearly 60,000 prisoners to evacuate the camp and embark on the infamous '**Death Marches**' (<http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/article.php?lang=en&ModuleId=10005162>) in which many thousands lost their lives. In 2005, the UN General Assembly designated 27 January as the **International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust** (<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2005/ga10413.doc.htm>), the day upon which, every year, the world would mark and remember the Holocaust and its victims. 65 years on from the liberation of Auschwitz, it is more important than ever to remind ourselves of the universal lessons of the Holocaust.

In 2010, the International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust will be marked by a number of national and international events. The UN itself will focus its 2010 events on the central theme "The Legacy of Survival", emphasizing the universal lessons that the survivors will pass on to succeeding generations. A series of **events** will take place in the week of 25 January 2010 at United Nations Headquarters in New York and at United Nations Information Centres around the world. Find out more **here** (<http://www.un.org/holocaustremembrance/2010/index.shtml>).

On national levels, the day will be marked by all manner of commemorative events and actions. So what are ITF member states doing to commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day? The following overview is based on information and links provided by member state delegations to the ITF.

[Austria](#) - [Belgium](#) - [Canada](#) - [Croatia](#) - [Czech Republic](#) - [Denmark](#) - [Estonia](#) - [Finland](#) - [France](#) - [Germany](#) - [Greece](#) - [Hungary](#) - [Israel](#) - [Italy](#) - [Latvia](#) - [Lithuania](#) - [Luxembourg](#) - [Norway](#) - [Poland](#) - [Romania](#) - [Slovakia](#) - [Spain](#) - [Sweden](#) - [Switzerland](#) - [United Kingdom](#) - [United States of America](#) - [Observer Country: Ukraine](#) - [Liaison Country: Serbia](#)

Austria

Since 1997, 5 May - the day upon which **Mauthausen Concentration camp** (<http://www.mauthausen-memorial.at/>) was liberated - has been designated as a "Memorial Day against Violence and Racism in Remembrance of the Victims of National Socialism" in Austria. This annual day of remembrance is given particular attention in schools, at national, municipal and local government levels. Every year a special joint session is also held in the Austrian parliament to commemorate the day. In 2010, a special project with school children is planned, in which the children will, between February and May, engage in projects dealing with the issues surrounding National Socialism. On 27 January, the Austrian President of the National Council, Barbara Prammer will attend the official commemoration ceremony in Auschwitz-Birkenau. Read her **statement** on Austria's ITF page.

Belgium

The national day of Holocaust remembrance in Belgium is 8 May. In 2010, a trip to Auschwitz-Birkenau organized by the **National Institute for War Disabled, War Veterans and Victims of War** (<http://www.veterans.be/welcome>) is planned on 27 January and will be led by the Defense Minister. About a hundred secondary school students will take part in this trip, as well as survivors and witnesses. The organization **Union des Déportés Juifs de Belgique - Filles et Fils de Déportés** (<http://home.scarlet.be/decalog/grair/events.htm>) has announced a ceremony to be held at Marcinelle cemetery on 26 January at 3pm and that a special commemoration will take place at the Grand Synagogue of Brussels on 31 January.

Canada

Canada co-sponsored the United Nations (UN) General Assembly resolution on Holocaust Remembrance (A/RES/60/7), adopted on 1 November 2005. Canadian governments (federal, provincial/territorial) acknowledge 27 January. Federally, this day is marked with official statements by Jason Kenney, Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism, and by several provincial/territorial premiers. Minister

Jason Kenney will also participate in the 2010 commemoration ceremony to mark 27 January at Auschwitz. A number of events will be held by non-governmental organisations in Canada to mark the International Holocaust Remembrance day on 27 January this year. Find out more about these [here](#).

At the federal level, the Government of Canada commemorates Holocaust Memorial Day ("Yom Ha Shoah") which is determined in each year by the Jewish lunar calendar. In 2009 it was held on April 21. Events are held and statements are made across the country to commemorate this day. Canada has also officially declared 17 January as Raoul Wallenberg Day, designated for reflection on the evils of racism and hate and the profound impact that an individual who speaks out can have.

Croatia

27 January was established as the 'Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust and the Prevention of Crimes against Humanity' in the Republic of Croatia in 2003. All schools in Croatia commemorate this day through a variety of activities, including presentations, lectures, videos, films, student projects and visits to the [Jasenovac Concentration Camp Memorial Site \(http://www.jusp-jasenovac.hr\)](http://www.jusp-jasenovac.hr). In 2010, several day-long seminars marking Holocaust Remembrance Day will be organized for teachers of History, Religious Education, Ethics, Civics, Croatian and foreign languages.

Czech Republic

The Parliament of the Czech Republic declared 27 January the official Memorial Day of the Holocaust Victims and Prevention of Crimes against Humanity in 2004. The Czech Republic co-sponsored the UN resolution on the Holocaust remembrance in 2005, on the basis of which the UN General Assembly decided to designate 27 January the International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

In 2010, a commemorative event to mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day will take place in the Knights' Hall of the Senate of the Czech Republic. This event is traditionally held under the auspices of the President of the Senate and is attended by the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister, and the President of the Chamber of Deputies, Government Ministers and Members of the Parliament. The event is organised by the Senate in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture, the Foundation for Holocaust Victims, the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic and the Jewish Community in Prague. Regional and municipal authorities hold commemorative events in co-operation with respective local Jewish communities. The President of the Republic also supports a number of other commemorative events held by the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic and the Jewish Community in Prague. The Government as a whole and the respective ministries, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, the office of the Minister for Human Rights, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs provide their organisational and financial assistance to public benefit organisations and non-governmental entities involved in the commemorative events on 27 January, raising awareness about the significance of the date or generally promoting education and research about the Shoah and the [Samudaripen \(http://dosta.org/?q=node/37\)](http://dosta.org/?q=node/37). More information can be found [here](#).

Update [Photos of the Holocaust Remembrance Day event at the Senate](#)

Denmark

27 January is the official Danish commemoration day for victims of the Holocaust and other genocides. The purpose of Auschwitz Day is to further public debate and education on genocide. In 2010 commemorative events will be organized in six municipalities under the auspices of the Ministry of Education. There will be talks by survivors, lectures by historians, philosophers, psychiatrists, aid workers etc, and there will be film viewings, concerts, photo exhibitions as well as plays. In the weeks leading up to 27 January the Ministry of Education together with the [Danish Institute for International Studies \(http://www.diis.dk/sw152.asp\)](http://www.diis.dk/sw152.asp) offers a series of seminars for high school students across Denmark.

During the seminars students participate in workshops where genocides and genocidal violence from a variety of countries and time periods are discussed from different angles. In addition to the official events on 27 January a series of non-governmental activities are organized in relation to 27 January. Also organized in relation to the remembrance day are the launch of educational material or books focusing on the Holocaust and other genocides; independent seminars for primary schools; debates for the broader public; and teacher training seminars.

Estonia

On 27 January 2010, Estonia will commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day in an annual candle-lighting ceremony to be held at the memorial at the site of the Klooga death camp, established during the Nazi occupation. The ceremony is being organised in co-operation with the Estonian Jewish community. Traditionally the commemoration ceremony includes the participation of a member of the Estonian government, who will give a formal speech at the memorial. After the commemoration event at Klooga, there will be a commemorative concert in the Tallinn synagogue. The day will also be commemorated in schools, with educational materials published with the support of the ITF and Estonian Ministry of Education and Research are distributed to every school in the country. In January 2010, an exhibition entitled called "The Story of Anne Frank" is on display in the National Library of Estonia.

Update: **Statement** delivered by the Estonian Minister of Culture Laine Jänes on Holocaust Remembrance Day, 27 Jan 2010

Finland

In Finland 27 January is the official commemoration day for victims of the Holocaust and other genocides. In 2010 several events were organized to mark the day, including a teacher's seminar, academic conferences, and a commemoration event on the evening of the 27th January. Read more [here](#).

France

The **Mémorial de la Shoah** (<http://www.memorialdelashoah.org/>) in France has organized a series of events to mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day in 2010, including concerts, conferences, lectures, film projections and memorial ceremonies. A remembrance ceremony has been organised at UNESCO in association with the Memorial de la Shoah. The two organisations have also cooperated on a new **publication** examining Holocaust education in sub-Saharan Africa, released to coincide with Holocaust Remembrance Day 2010. Abroad, the Memorial de la Shoah have organised exhibitions in Geneva, Brussels and Tunis.

Germany

Germany officially commemorates the Holocaust on 27 January. The day is called "Memorial Day for the Victims of the National-Socialist Regime." It was introduced by President Roman Herzog in 1996. The focus is on remembering all the victims of the Nazi crimes. The official commemorative ceremony takes place in the German Parliament in Berlin, in the presence of the President, the government, representatives of the federal states and the president of the federal constitutional court. The parliament traditionally invites a wide range of institutions and groups to attend the ceremony. The central commemorative event is complemented with events that take place on authentic sites and on the local level, with a view to involving young people, schools and local groups.

Greece

Commemorative events for the 27 January Holocaust Memorial Day are organized throughout Greece by Prefectures in collaboration with Jewish communities. In Athens a wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of Unknown Soldier has been organized, as well as a ceremony at the Athens Synagogue, where the main

speaker will be the Minister of Education, Lifelong learning and Religious Affairs. In Thessaloniki, a commemorative event will take place at the Holocaust Memorial, organized by the Prefecture and the President of the Jewish Community of Thessaloniki. Further commemoration events have been organized by the Prefecture and the Jewish communities in the cities of Larissa and Volos. On 25 January 2010, a study on the looting of monetary gold of the Jews during the Nazi occupation of Greece will be presented at the amphitheatre "Yannos Kranidiotis" of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Hungary

At the 65th anniversary of liberating Auschwitz, the **Holocaust Memorial Center** (<http://www.hdke.hu/index.php?changelang=eng>) will introduce the publication entitled **Each/Other** (in Hungarian), which provides an overview about the most interesting tolerance projects which help cultures to communicate with each other. Representatives of international organisations and Budapest embassies who helped to prepare the brochure are invited to the event. To present the importance of these projects, Eleni Tsakopoulos Kounalakis - the Ambassador of the United States, Pierre Goimond- the Ambassador of Canada, René Roudaut - the Ambassador of France and Jaromír Plisek - the Ambassador of the Czech Republic will offer their projects in person for the Hungarian youth.

Italy

27 January is commemorated through a series of events in Italy, including an official address by the President of the republic. The Committee for the Holocaust Memorial Day has coordinated a 'Day of Memory Programme' which will include a range of events such as a memorial ceremony in the Parliament, the opening of a documentary exhibition on Auschwitz, and a prize ceremony for young winners of the annual competition organized jointly by the Ministry of National Education and the Union of Jewish Communities. International Holocaust Memorial Day 2010 will also mark the inauguration of an international **Masters in Holocaust Studies, Remembrance and Education** (<http://host.uniroma3.it/master/didatticashoah/>). Two inauguration events are planned; one held at the **Ministry of National Education** and another at the **Provincia di Roma**. A further series of Day of Memory initiatives will be held in cities across the country, including Milan, Turin, Bologna, Florence, Padua, Rome, Genoa and Ancona. Read more about these **here**.

Update Read Professor David Meghnagi's inauguration speech '**The Memory of the Trauma of the Shoah in the Building of a European Identity**'.

Israel

On Monday, January 25, 2010 a new exhibition, "**Architecture of Murder: The Auschwitz-Birkenau Blueprints** (http://www1.yadvashem.org/yv/en/exhibitions/auschwitz_architecture/index.asp)" will open at **Yad Vashem** (<http://www.yadvashem.org/>) in Jerusalem. On display will be original architectural blueprints of Auschwitz-Birkenau, given to Yad Vashem for safekeeping by the German newspaper Bild, published by Axel-Springer. Marking the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz and International Holocaust Remembrance Day on January 27, the opening will take place as part of a special symposium in the presence of dozens of members of the diplomatic corps - representing some 80 countries - and Auschwitz survivors, and with the participation of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The Prime Minister, Minister of Education Gideon Saar, Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat, Holocaust survivor Ruth Bondy, Prof. Shlomo Avineri, Prof. Moshe Halbertal, Bild Editor Kai Diekmann, Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum Director Dr. Piotr Cywinski, Historical Advisor to the exhibition Dr. Daniel Uziel, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Council Rabbi Israel Meir Lau and Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate Avner Shalev will address the participants. A traveling version of the exhibition will open at the United Nations in New York in advance of International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

The official day of commemoration for Holocaust victims in Latvia is 4 July. The choice of date commemorates the burning of the synagogue on Gogola Street in Riga in 1941, and the death of those victims that were locked inside the synagogue. The official commemoration event, which is attended by ambassadors and government officials, includes an opening address by the president of Latvia, followed by speeches by a high-ranking government official. A number of other groups and organisations are involved in the event, such as the museum "Jews in Latvia"; the Latvian Jewish Community; the Association of Latvian and Estonian Jews (based in Israel); the Jewish Survivors of Latvia (based in the US); the Center for Judaic Studies of the University of Latvia; Rabbis of the Riga Synagogue; the Riga Jewish School; the Latvian Jewish Religious Community Shamir; the Latvian Council of Jewish Communities" the Society for Research on Jewish Communities (Israel); the Latvian Council of Christians and Jews; the Latvian Academy of Sciences; and the Commission of the Historians of Latvia established under the auspices of the Latvian President.

Lithuania

Events to commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day in 2010 will take place in 13 cities throughout Lithuania. A conference about the meaning of the 27th of January is planned in Panevezys, organized by Panevezys Jewish Community. Another conference, "Kaunas' streets remember them" on Jewish historical and cultural heritage will take place in Public Institution Kaunas Julijanava Catholic Secondary School. The conference organizers are the teachers of the Tolerance Educational Centre established in this School. Among the other commemorative efforts throughout the country are theatrical performances, film showings, exhibitions and school events. See [here](#) for more information.

Luxembourg

Official national commemoration of the 'Journée de la Mémoire' in Luxembourg will take place on February 2, 2010 and will involve pupils of various secondary schools together with their teachers. In addition to this national event, the different secondary schools may themselves organize events for their pupils, such as visits to concentration camps, exhibitions and the theatre.

Norway

International Holocaust Memorial Day and the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz will be commemorated on the 27 January 2010 in Norwegian schools, museums and at memorial sites throughout the country. Norway's Minister of Justice, Mr. Knut Storberget will address a commemorative event in Oslo, and other high level officials will address commemorative events at Falstad and Risør. In addition, Norway's Minister of Education, Ms. Kristin Halvorsen will present the annual Benjamin Prize to a school that has distinguished itself in working against racism and discrimination. The Prize was named the Benjamin Prize after a 15 year old Norwegian boy who was the victim of a racially motivated murder in 2001. A number of non-governmental organisations are also holding commemorative events throughout the country. Find out more about these [here](#).

Poland

In order to commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day, international Ceremonies marking the 65th Anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau will be held at Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum and in Cracow. In attendance will be the President of the Republic of Poland, Mr. Lech Kaczynski; the Prime Minister of the Polish Government, Mr. Donald Tusk; numerous Members of the Polish Parliament; the Prime Minister of the Israeli Government, Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu; high representatives of the Russian Federation (names to be announced); the President of the European Jewish Congress, Mr. Moshe Kantor; Chairman of the European Parliament, Mr. Jerzy Buzek; numerous Members of the European Parliament and Members of national parliaments of most European countries. The commemoration events will include

a conference featuring ITF Member States' Ministers of Education. As usual, video footage of the ceremonies will be aired by all public and private television channels.

Romania

In order to commemorate International Holocaust Memorial Day in Romania, the Italian Cultural Institute and the Jewish Community of Bucharest will organize together with the Chair in Hebrew Studies of the University of Bucharest a colloquium entitled "Holocaust: Memory for the Future", to be held at Bucharest's Great Synagogue, which serves as the Holocaust Museum of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Romania. The colloquium will be followed by Radu Gabrea's film "Gruber's Journey", an adaptation of Curzion Malaparte's book "Kaputt", which depicts the Iasi Pogrom of 1941. The Italian Cultural Institute will also organize a klezmer concert in Iasi and a piano concert in Cluj. The "Elie Wiesel" National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania will organize an exhibition of paintings produced in a special art camp held at Borsec in the summer of 2009 under an international project designed to promote the representation of the Holocaust in arts. Other events may be organized throughout the country by local authorities and NGOs.

Slovakia

In 2001 Slovakia designated 9 September as the national 'Memorial Day for Victims of the Holocaust and of Racial Violence'. On this day in 1941, the so-called Jewish Code, consisting of 290 repressive laws, was passed, initiating the process of Jewish deportations which resulted in the killings of over 70,000 Slovak Jews. A number of commemoration events occur on or around this date, including an official wreath-laying ceremony at the memorial of the victims of the Holocaust in Bratislava, a minute of silence observed in schools and parliament, and other cultural and education events. The 27 January is also marked as an international day of remembrance, with statements by the ministry of foreign affairs, the awarding ceremony of Righteous Among the Nations, the attendance by high level Slovak officials at the commemoration ceremony at Auschwitz, and by various memorial events at Slovak diplomatic missions around the world.

Spain

In 2004 the Spanish Government instituted 27 January as the *Official Day for Holocaust Remembrance and Prevention of Crimes against Humanity* in Spain. The main annual commemorative event is at the Complutense University in Madrid, and attended by high-level politicians from several Ministries. Representatives of the main Spanish institutions participate in the ceremony, among them the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate. Organizations from the Jewish community and the Roma institutions, together with representatives of various embassies, also participate. In 2010 the official commemoration event will be chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Education, Minister of Culture, and Secretary of State for Justice. Although Jewish victims remain the focus of commemoration, other groups of victims will also be honored, such as Roma people, or Spanish deported people to Nazi concentration camps. Public institutional events will be organized by several Autonomous Regions (Madrid, Barcelona and Asturias among others) and also by local institutions. For the first time, a specific pedagogical DVD has been created to be shown in schools on 27 January. The central topic of official commemoration events this year will deal with Memorial Sites and the urgent need to preserve Auschwitz. More precisely, it will insist on the correlation between the gradual disappearance of witnesses and the increase in significance of the Memorial Sites. One of the key speakers will be the Spanish Ombudsman, whose grandmother perished in Auschwitz. Information regarding the commemoration events of 27 January is available on the websites of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and of **Casa Sefarad-Israel** (<http://www.casasefarad-israel.es>).

Sweden

In order to mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day in Sweden an annual official ceremony, arranged by the **Living History Forum (<http://www.levandehistoria.se/english>)**, will be held at the Raoul Wallenberg Square, in the presence of the Ministers of Culture and Finance, members of State and political parties, foreign embassies, survivors and the public. A specially produced exhibit on the Swedish persons decorated as Righteous Among the Nations will be shown at the square. A commemoration ceremony will also take place at the Parliament exclusively for members of Parliament. Throughout the country, ceremonies and programmes are being held at well over 70 sites, not including everything that goes on in schools. Most activities are arranged by members of the living history Forum's special Holocaust Memorial-network.

Switzerland

International Holocaust Remembrance Day events have been planned by a number of non-governmental organizations in Switzerland. In Geneva, **CICAD (<http://www.cicad.ch>)** (Coordination intercommunautaire contre l'antisémitisme et la diffamation) have organized a ceremony honoring Holocaust survivors, entitled 'To feel the indescribable' (ressentir l'indicible) and including an exhibition opening and the screening of a documentary film. In Zurich the association **TAMACH (<http://www.tamach.org/>)** (Swiss Psychosocial Centre for Holocaust Survivors and their Families) has organized a ceremony to award the 'Dr. Bigler/Bergheimer-Preis' to the Association Contact point for Holocaust Survivors in Switzerland. Also in Zurich, school classes will meet two Holocaust survivors at the **Swiss Archives of Contemporary History (<http://www.infoclio.ch/de/node/8027>)**. A number of other remembrance events will be taking place in schools around the country.

United Kingdom

Hundreds of events are being planned to mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day 2010 throughout the UK. These events range from small, ceremonial events by ex-Service organisations, to large scale public events which are open to all. The **Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (<http://www.hmd.org.uk/>)** organises the official national commemoration event on 27 January, which will this year be taking place in The Guildhall in the City of London. The event programme includes music, film, testimony and a challenge to join The Legacy of Hope - the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust's theme for International Holocaust Remembrance Day 2010. The event will be followed by a large scale candle lighting and short reception. International Holocaust Remembrance Day 2010 will also see a public programme of events taking place throughout London - this includes a workshop for young people, focussing on the story of Cambodian survivor Denise Affonco, a lecture on Liberation, dance performances and film showings. A further event is planned at the **Imperial War Museum (<http://london.iwm.org.uk/server/show/nav.24085>)**, which houses a permanent Holocaust exhibition. The **Association of Jewish Refugees (<http://www.ajr.org.uk/>)** (AJR) has organised the launch of Tony Grenville's book, **Jewish Refugees from Germany and Austria in Britain (<http://www.ajr.org.uk/index.cfm/section.frontpage/article.413>)** to coincide with Holocaust Remembrance Day, which will be marked by a ceremony at Belsize Square synagogue, in North London.

United States of America

President Obama **delivers remarks (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/photos-and-video/video/president-obama-65th-anniversary-liberation-auschwitz-and-birkenau>)** commemorating the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz and Birkenau in a taped message for the ceremony in Krakow, Poland, and Auschwitz-Birkenau. The ceremony brought together Polish officials, Holocaust survivors, and European and world leaders, including Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu. For a text version of the remarks see **here (<http://blog.taragana.com/politics/2010/01/27/text-of-the-videotaped-message-from-president-barack-obama-for-the-ceremony-commemorating-the-65th-anniversary-of-the-liberation-of-auschwitz-birkenau-15469/>)**.

***Update* Liaison Country: Serbia**

In order to commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day the Government of the Republic of Serbia, in cooperation with the Federation of the Jewish Communities of Serbia and numerous educational, artistic and scientific institutions and NGOs organized press conferences, commemorative ceremonies as well as different educational and artistic public events. For more information see [here](#).

***Update*: Ukraine**

The Ukrainian Center for Holocaust Studies under the support of the Embassy of Israel in Ukraine held on 27 January 2010 the annual roundtable meeting "Ukrainian Society and Holocaust Commemoration: Educational Perspective", devoted to the International Holocaust Commemoration Day marked annually according to the UN resolution #60/7. It was on this day in 1945 that the Soviet army liberated the Nazi death camp Auschwitz, located on Polish territories, where about one million Jews from all over Europe had been murdered. Among the participants of the commemoration meeting were teachers, students, pupils, scholars and journalists. The opening ceremony was attended by the Ambassadors or representatives of the Embassies of Israel, the USA, Germany, France, the UN Mission in Ukraine, as well as the Ukrainian Ministry of Education and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The broad range of topics discussed included issues and perspectives on Holocaust education and research in modern Ukraine, historical memory about the Holocaust, the place of the Holocaust and other tragedies of the 20th century in educational processes and state curricula.

For more on the history of Holocaust Remembrance Day, see a [speech](#) given by ITF's Academic Advisor, Dina Porat, at the ITF plenary meeting in December 2009.

