

# Press Release

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### 27 January - Holocaust Remembrance Day

***Statement by Spain's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation, Miguel Ángel Moratinos, Chairman-in-office of the Committee of Ministers, Lluís Maria De Puig, President of the Parliamentary Assembly, and Terry Davis, Secretary General of the Council of Europe***

Strasbourg, 26.01.2009 - "The Holocaust is one of the darkest periods in the history of Europe. It will stay engraved forever in the memory of humankind. The International Holocaust Remembrance Day is an occasion to pay tribute to the victims and to reinforce our campaign against the racist hatred which motivated the Holocaust.

An essential part of this campaign is to teach younger generations about the Holocaust. This is a difficult and delicate task for teachers and for parents. How do we explain human suffering on such horrific scale? How do we explain that, only a lifetime ago, millions of human beings were killed by other human beings? How do we talk about such an unspeakable crime? Yet we must do so, and we will do so, because future generations must know about the past in order to protect themselves from a similar fate in future.

That is why the Council of Europe has developed a wide range of educational tools and works closely with the Task Force for International Co-operation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance, and Research (ITF). We encourage teachers, parents and all those who work with young people to make full use of these tools for the sake of the victims of the past, and for the sake of the future of all of us."

\* \* \*

In 2002, the European Ministers of Education decided to set up a "Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust and for the prevention of crimes against humanity". This day has since been celebrated annually on 27 January and the idea has been taken up by the United Nations which has declared it an international day of remembrance.

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