

UNITED STATES
HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
MUSEUM

100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW Washington, DC 20024-2126 T 202.488.0400 F 202.488.2690 ushmm.org

March 23, 2015

The Honorable Nikki Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley:

The U.S. Congress established the Days of Remembrance as America's annual commemoration of the Holocaust and mandated that the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum lead our nation in these observances. This year Holocaust remembrance week is April 12-19. The Museum encourages civic, military, religious, and educational institutions from across the country to hold ceremonies and other events, and we invite you to join us in marking this important observance.

Your personal leadership is critical to our national commitment to remember this history and educate our citizens about the consequences of unchecked hatred. In addition to commemorating the Days of Remembrance with special programs, we hope you will also issue a *Days of Remembrance Proclamation* for distribution to the citizens of South Carolina. A sample is enclosed for your consideration. Please send your proclamation to proclamations@ushmm.org. Proclamations will be included in the Museum's institutional archives.

Please visit the Museum's website at <http://www.ushmm.org/remember> for ready-to-use resources for organizing civic, military and interfaith programs, as well as an opportunity for communities to post information about their 2015 commemorations to a national map, and learn about other observances nationwide. In addition, the Museum has created a DVD of *Video Resources for Holocaust Commemorations*. A copy is enclosed.

Thank you for your partnership with us in this important mission.

Sincerely,



Tom A. Bernstein
Chairman



Sara J. Bloomfield
Director

Enclosures

National Days of Remembrance

PROCLAMATIONS FOR GOVERNORS

The reading of an official proclamation from a mayor or governor may be included in a Days of Remembrance commemoration. A request, along with this sample proclamation, should be sent to the governor's office several weeks before the observance. Inviting the governor to the commemoration is also appropriate.

The language suggested here is based on messages and proclamations sent to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Days of Remembrance program by public officials. Actual wording is the prerogative of the official who issues the document.

Sample Civic Proclamation for the Days of Remembrance

Sunday, April 12, through Sunday, April 19, 2015

DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE

Whereas, the Holocaust was the state-sponsored, systematic persecution and annihilation of European Jewry by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945—six million Jews were murdered; Roma (Gypsies), people with disabilities, and Poles were also targeted for destruction or decimation for racial, ethnic, or national reasons; and millions more, including homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, Soviet prisoners of war, and political dissidents, also suffered grievous oppression and death under Nazi tyranny; and

Whereas, the history of the Holocaust offers an opportunity to reflect on the moral responsibilities of individuals, societies, and governments; and

Whereas, we the people of the State of _____ should always remember the terrible events of the Holocaust and remain vigilant against hatred, persecution, and tyranny; and

Whereas, we the people of the State of _____ should actively rededicate ourselves to the principles of individual freedom in a just society; and

Whereas, the Days of Remembrance have been set aside for the people of the State of _____ to remember the victims of the Holocaust as well as to reflect on the need for respect of all peoples; and

Whereas, pursuant to an Act of Congress (Public Law 96-388, October 7, 1980), the United States Holocaust Memorial Council designates the Days of Remembrance of the victims of the Holocaust to be Sunday, April 12, through Sunday, April 19, 2015, including the Day of Remembrance known as Yom Hashoah, April 16, 2015;

Now, therefore, I _____, Governor of the State of _____, do hereby proclaim the week of Sunday, April 12, through Sunday, April 19, 2015, as Days of Remembrance in memory of the victims of the Holocaust and in honor of the survivors as well as the rescuers and liberators, and further proclaim that we, as citizens of the State of _____, should work to promote human dignity and confront hate whenever and wherever it occurs.