

COUNCIL MEMBER'S MOTION ON NOTICE

6. Recognizing January 27th as International Holocaust Remembrance Day

Submitted by Councillor Kirby-Yung

WHEREAS

1. In 2005, the U.N. General Assembly designated January 27 – the anniversary of the liberation of the largest Nazi concentration and death camp Auschwitz-Birkenau – as International Holocaust Remembrance Day (IHRD). 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of liberation.
2. The U.N. resolution that created IHRD rejects denial of the Holocaust and condemns discrimination and violence based on religion or ethnicity.
3. Canada offers refuge and new hope to immigrants, refugees and survivors, some of whom have escaped more recent genocides – and it is a place where people can learn from each other and share cultures.
4. IHRD has become a symbol of great importance to the broader and to Vancouver's Jewish community to commemorate and honour the victims of the Nazi era.
5. International Holocaust Remembrance Day is officially observed by the United Nations, countries including Canada, Italy and Germany, as well as many cities such as Calgary, Ottawa and Montreal.
6. Antisemitism is on the rise around the world, in Canada, and in Vancouver. Hatred has flourished in the digital age. It is more important than ever that the lessons learned and horrors of the Holocaust remain present in the public consciousness so they are never repeated.
7. As we reflect upon that dark period in history and remember the atrocities perpetrated during the Holocaust, Vancouver has the opportunity to join with Vancouver's Jewish community and Canadians from all walks of life in demonstrating our commitment to stand against antisemitism, hate and genocide.
8. Vancouver is home to the third largest Jewish community in Canada, and home to a significant number of Holocaust Survivors and their families.
9. By proclaiming January 27th as International Holocaust Remembrance Day, it will be an opportunity to create greater public understanding and awareness of this horrific period in history where over 6,000,000 innocent Jewish men, women and children were systematically murdered by the Nazi regime and its collaborators from 1933 to 1945.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council declare January 27th as International Holocaust Remembrance Day, adding it to its official observances calendar;

FURTHER THAT the City of Vancouver acknowledge this day with a proclamation.