

NATAŠA PIRC MUSAR

Message from the President of the Republic of Slovenia, Nataša Pirc Musar, on the occasion of International Holocaust Remembrance Day

Presidential Palace, 27 January 2024

This year marks 79 years since the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp, where more than one million people died in unimaginable conditions. Since 2005, this day is designated as International Holocaust Remembrance Day, commemorating the victims of the Holocaust: the more than six million Jews killed and the survivors who were scarred for life. Innocent people who did not want war and did not want anyone to die, but who were nevertheless cut down by the dagger of hatred directed also towards other groups of people.

10 December last year marked three quarters of a century since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – a legal holy grail that would protect people and their dignity from the atrocities committed until then. Yet the world is currently witnessing the most conflicts since World War II. It is unacceptable and unfair that innocent people, who only want peace, continue to suffer the most from these conflicts. Such trampling on humanity and blatant disregard for humanitarian law is also deeply disrespectful to all the victims and survivors of the Holocaust and wars, whose message is simple and clear: never again war.

I will always believe that there are more good people in the world than those who spread evil among us in different ways. That there are more of us who believe in human freedom, mutual respect, human dignity, the rule of law and human rights, and democracy.

Our guiding principle in doing so should be the wise words of Anne Frank, who wrote, "How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."