



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education

JAN 17 2024

DepEd MEMORANDUM
No. **004**, s. 2024

**NATIONAL OBSERVANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL
HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY**

To: Undersecretaries
Assistant Secretaries
Minister, Basic, Higher and Technical Education, BARMM
Bureau and Service Directors
Regional Directors
Schools Division Superintendents
Public Elementary and Secondary School Heads
All Others Concerned

1. The International Day in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust is a memorial day observed internationally when the United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted Resolution 60/7 designating every January 27 as the International Holocaust Remembrance Day.
2. This resolution was adopted on November 1, 2005, after a special UN session was held earlier to mark the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps and the end of the Holocaust. The day is not just intended to commemorate the six million Jews who helplessly perished in the hands of Nazi Tyranny, but also to help educate future generations and inform the world of the horrors of the Holocaust, and genocide in general.
3. The Holocaust (1933–1945) was the systematic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of Six Million European Jews by the Nazi German regime and its allies and collaborators. The Nazi persecution of Jews became increasingly radical between 1933 and 1945. The Nazi Party promoted a particularly virulent form of racial antisemitism. It was central to the party's race-based worldview. The Nazis believed that the world was divided into distinct races and that some of these races were superior to others. They considered Germans to be members of the supposedly superior **Aryan** race. It ended in May 1945, when the Allied Powers defeated Nazi Germany in World War II.
4. The Philippines upholds a strong humanitarian tradition of providing succor for forcibly displaced individuals in need of protection. Long before the Philippines had formal immigration policies and became a State party to the 1951 Refugee Convention, Filipinos have embodied the spirit of compassion, solidarity, and humanity. This nation was among the first to spontaneously offer asylum to successive waves of refugees fleeing persecution. In 1934, under the admittance of President Manuel L. Quezon, Jewish refugees escaping Nazi persecution were able to find sanctuary in the Philippines before Filipinos and Jews alike experienced the brunt of the Second World War. He called on all Filipinos to welcome the refugees and instructed the government to assist them.

5. Considering the abovementioned, the activity aims to serve as a platform to give the public, specifically the learners, the opportunity to develop an awareness of the value of diversity in a pluralistic society; provide an avenue for DepEd to showcase the heroism and contributions of Filipinos, survivors and rescuers of the Holocaust; encourage teachers, learners and the public to promote social justice, respect for human rights and create awareness and expanded view of humanity and history; support learners in understanding the roots and ramifications of prejudice, racism, and stereotyping in the Philippines or in any society, foster critical thinking and identify danger signals to know when to take constructive action; and provide an avenue for the International Cooperation Office (ICO) and the Department of Education (DepEd) to establish partnerships with international stakeholders and develop cooperation and collaboration.

6. In this regard, DepEd, in coordination with the Office of the Vice President (OVP) and the Embassy of Israel in the Philippines will conduct the **International Holocaust Remembrance Day (IHRD)** with the UN-designated theme for 2024 as **Recognizing the Extraordinary Courage of Victims and Survivors of the Holocaust** on January 24, 2024.

7. The ICO shall serve as the overall coordinator and shall work in close coordination with the OVP and the Embassy of Israel to the Philippines.

8. Expenses for the materials and other expenses relative to exhibits shall be shouldered by the Embassy of Israel, while food relative to meetings in this undertaking shall be charged to DepEd - Building Partnership and Linkages Program (BPLP) Funds, subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

9. The commemoration of the IHRD activity will be regional hybrid: the in-person ceremony will be held in an identified school in Quezon City, National Capital Region (NCR) on **January 24, 2024** and the three other venues will be held simultaneously in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao on **January 26, 2024**, while teachers and student-participants from the different schools divisions all over the country, in compliance with the DepEd Policy on the no disruption-of-classes under DepEd Order No. 9, s. 2005, are encouraged to simultaneously participate through the conduct of a film screening on holocaust and candle lighting activities within their respective school premises.

10. For more information, all concerned may contact the **International Cooperation Office**, Ground Floor Teodora Alonzo Building, Department of Education Central Office, DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City through email at ico@deped.gov.ph and telephone no.: (02) 8637-6462.

11. Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.

By Authority of the Secretary:



ATTY. MICHAEL WESLEY T. POA
Undersecretary

Reference:

DepEd Order No. 9, s. 2005

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
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