



Speech for International Holocaust Remembrance Day 2026

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Co-MC, Josh Korpus

I speak for many in my generation, the Holocaust to us isn't just history - it's inheritance. For some, this inheritance comprises trauma and incomprehensible testimonies of horror. For others it is recollections of strength, courage and survival. My inheritance is a responsibility.

A responsibility not only to remember, but to act. To speak when silence is easier. Because in reality... what other option do I have?

My generation is set to inherit the world, with its rampant hatred, irreconcilable differences and historical wounds. These fractures run deep on our streets, online and in lecture and school classrooms. We all remember the drill. The kippah comes off, the Jewish star goes behind, for some it's the quick switch from Hebrew to English. Jews, young or old, find ourselves making decisions, based in fear to protect ourselves.

I often ask myself... why revisit the darkest time in Jewish history when we're just trying to get through today? Just to get off the bus, finish a lecture, and make it home without a microaggression or worse.

But to look back, to pause, remember and act is to stop reliving the same fears over and over and start creating a world where we don't have to.

This is because the Holocaust is not only a Jewish story. It's a human story too.

As youth, we have already begun to make decisions that will shape the world. While we move forward in the hope of never returning to humanity's darkest moments, we must remain alert to the social conditions that enabled the Holocaust, and accept that they are not relics of the past, but realities we still face today.

That is why, to me, generational legacy of the Holocaust is of the utmost importance, because this legacy belongs to all of us, and so does the responsibility it demands.