

To: ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local Members
From: Craig Smith, President, ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local (ETFO TVTL)
Date: January 27, 2025
Regarding: **International Holocaust Remembrance Day**

January 27 is the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust.

Here follows the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) statement regarding this day:

Every year around 27 January, UNESCO pays tribute to the memory of the victims of the Holocaust and reaffirms its unwavering commitment to counter antisemitism, racism, and other forms of intolerance that may lead to group-targeted violence.

The date marks the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz Birkenau German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp by Soviet troops on 27 January 1945. It was officially proclaimed, in November 2005, **International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust** by the United Nations General Assembly.

Every year, this symbolic date urges the international community to remember the 6 million Jews who were murdered alongside countless other victims of Nazi brutality. At a time when there are fewer and fewer direct witnesses of the Holocaust, marking the twilight of what historian Annette Wieviorka calls "the era of the witness", we must commit ourselves with ever greater gravity to the perpetuation of its memory.

27 January 2025 will mark the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz Birkenau German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp. Over one million people were murdered in this vast complex alone, most of them Jews.

Never forget.

For more information regarding this *Communiqué* please contact the Local office by phone at 519-474-3150, or by email at etfotvtl@etfothamesvalley.com