

**First Regular Session
Seventy-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R21-1022.01 Alana Rosen x2606

HJR21-1010

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Michaelson Jenet and Soper,

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Gardner and Moreno,

House Committees

Senate Committees

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 21-1010

101 CONCERNING THE COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLOCAUST.

1 WHEREAS, The genesis of genocide begins not with violence but
2 with words; and

3 WHEREAS, Prejudice, bigotry, bias, and racism have been the
4 cause of conflict, war, and mass atrocities throughout human history; and

5 WHEREAS, The Holocaust was the systematic, bureaucratic,
6 state-sponsored persecution and murder of Jews by the Nazi regime and
7 its collaborators; and

8 WHEREAS, The Nazis, who came to power in Germany in
9 January 1933, asserted that Germans were racially superior and that Jews
10 and others were inferior and an alien threat to the so-called German racial
11 community; and

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

1 WHEREAS, Hitler used anti-Semitism as a political weapon to
2 gain popular support, blaming Jews for all of Germany's problems,
3 including the country's defeat in World War I, the economic depression,
4 and the Bolshevik threat of communism; it made little difference that
5 Hitler's accusations were blatantly contradictory and his so-called facts
6 were fabricated; and

7 WHEREAS, Between 1933 and 1945, Nazi Germany and its
8 collaborators murdered 6 million Jews (two out of every three Jews who
9 lived throughout Europe), 1.5 million of whom were children, as well as
10 5 million other civilians, including Sinti, Roma, people with intellectual
11 or developmental disabilities, gay men, Jehovah's Witnesses, Soviet
12 prisoners of war, and political dissidents; and

13 WHEREAS, We recall that in the aftermath of war, Israel, a close
14 ally and friend of the United States, became a refuge for many survivors
15 who endured the ravages of the Holocaust; and

16 WHEREAS, We gratefully acknowledge the more than 26,500
17 non-Jews who, at great risk to themselves, saved Jews during the
18 Holocaust from extermination and have been designated Righteous
19 Among the Nations by Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance
20 Center; and

21 WHEREAS, Today, as we mourn the loss of those who were killed
22 and consider the terrible experiences of those who suffered and lived
23 through the Holocaust, we note that anti-Semitic acts are not a thing of
24 the past: According to the Anti-Defamation League, in Colorado, the
25 number of reported anti-Semitic incidents has doubled since 2018, with
26 over 60 reported incidents of anti-Semitism in both 2019 and 2020;
27 nationally, anti-Semitic incidents remain at a historically high level, with
28 well over half of Jewish Americans experiencing or directly witnessing
29 some form of anti-Semitic incident; and globally, there has also been an
30 increase in anti-Semitic incidents, and some Jews feel more isolated and
31 vulnerable as a result; and

32 WHEREAS, We must also acknowledge that ethnic cleansing,
33 genocide, terrorism, crimes against humanity, and wars on civilian
34 populations are not relics of the past; and

35 WHEREAS, Regretfully, the phrase "Never Again" has become

1 "Yet Again", as we see today and in the recent past with so much brutality
2 in places like Myanmar, Syria, Iraq, Nigeria, Bosnia, Cambodia, Rwanda,
3 the Central African Republic, the Sudan, and the South Sudan; and

4 WHEREAS, Today, while we remember the Holocaust, we focus
5 our attention on the passing of Holocaust survivors who provided
6 firsthand accounts of the terrors they endured, leaving their children and
7 grandchildren as the last generations to know the stories of the Holocaust
8 directly from those who lived through it; and

9 WHEREAS, While we are fortunate that several organizations in
10 Colorado are dedicated to retelling the stories of the Holocaust and other
11 genocides, it is not enough; far too many people, including most students,
12 need more opportunities to learn about these atrocities so they are not
13 repeated; and

14 WHEREAS, It is our responsibility to bear witness to the truth of
15 the horrors of the Holocaust, its many lessons, and to prevent hateful
16 words from building up like the bricks that built Auschwitz; now,
17 therefore,

18 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-third*
19 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:*

20 That we, the members of the General Assembly:

- 21 (1) Commemorate the Holocaust;
- 22 (2) Promote anti-bias, bullying prevention, and Holocaust and
23 genocide education programs in school districts and universities to
24 prevent anti-Semitic incidents that target Jewish students because of their
25 actual or perceived support of the state of Israel; and

26 (3) Declare that the people of Colorado should understand the
27 power of words, remember the great injustices of the past, and commit to
28 preventing such atrocities in the future.

29 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
30 to the Jewish Community Relations Council of JEWISHcolorado; the
31 Mountain States Regional Office of the Anti-Defamation League; the
32 Colorado Coalition for Genocide Awareness and Action; the Holocaust
33 Awareness Institute at the University of Denver's Center for Judaic

1 Studies; the Interfaith Alliance of Colorado; the Mizel Museum; the
2 Denver Parks and Recreation Department's Babi Yar Park; the Mountain
3 States Regional Office of the Jewish National Fund; the United States
4 Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.; and the University of
5 Colorado Program in Jewish Studies.