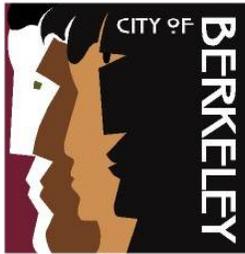


April 15, 2025



Igor Tregub, Councilmember District 4

Shoshana O’Keefe, Councilmember District 5

Mark Humbert, Councilmember District 8

Adena Ishii, Mayor

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmembers Igor Tregub (Co-Author), Shoshana O’Keefe (Co-Author), and Mark Humbert (Co-Author), and Mayor Adena Ishii (Co-Sponsor)

Subject: Resolution Commemorating April 24, 2025, as Berkeley Holocaust Remembrance Day

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution proclaiming April 24, 2025, as Holocaust Remembrance Day in the City of Berkeley, in memory of those who were murdered and in honor of the survivors as well as the rescuers and liberators; and committing to never forgetting the events of the Holocaust, actively working to combat antisemitism, racism, bigotry, and hatred in all forms, and promote human rights and dignity for all.

BACKGROUND

This year, the City of Berkeley will hold its 22nd Annual Holocaust Remembrance Day. The program will take place virtually on April 24, 2025.

The Holocaust was a crime of unimaginable inhumanity, in which six million Jews were targeted for persecution and death—alongside the Roma and Sinti peoples, individuals with mental illness and physical disabilities, members of the queer community, Slavs, Poles, and those who were part of anti-Nazi resistance networks across Europe.

Berkeley’s Annual Holocaust Remembrance Day honors the memory of those who were murdered and those who survived. It gives voice to survivors and their families and invites the broader Bay Area community to reflect on this horrific chapter in human history—so that we may learn from it and choose differently.

As false information about the Holocaust spreads, and as antisemitism^{1,2,3}, racism, and violence against historically targeted and oppressed communities continue to rise⁴, the importance of remembering becomes ever more urgent. Holocaust Remembrance Day offers a vital space to stand against antisemitism, bigotry, and hatred in all forms, to uphold human rights and dignity and reaffirm our resolve to never forget.

FISCAL IMPACTS

None.

CONTACT

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Councilmember Humbert, 510-981-7180, mhumbert@berkeleyca.gov

Attachments:

1. Resolution

¹ <https://www.adl.org/resources/press-release/us-antisemitic-incidents-skyrocketed-360-aftermath-attack-israel-according>

² <https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-bonta-releases-2023-hate-crime-report-highlights-continued>

³ <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2025-03-18%20Special%20Item%2001%202024%20Berkeley%20Police%20Department.pdf>; <https://bpd-transparency-initiative-berkeleypd.hub.arcgis.com/pages/current-trends>

⁴ <https://abcnews.go.com/US/hate-crimes-lgbtq-community-rise-fbi-data/story?id=113962673>

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

COMMEMORATING APRIL 24, 2025, AS BERKELEY HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

WHEREAS, the Holocaust was a crime of shocking inhumanity, targeting for persecution and death, six million Jews as well as the Roma and Sinti people, those with mental illness and physical disabilities, members of the Queer community, Slavs, Poles, and members of anti-Nazi networks from throughout Europe; and

WHEREAS, Holocaust Remembrance Day serves as an imperative reminder of the appalling crimes and atrocities of the Holocaust so that we may keep them in our memory and continue to condemn them for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, false information on the Holocaust continues to distort, deny, and trivialize the horrendous truth about what took place during the Nazi regimes; and

WHEREAS, in January 2024, the Anti-Defamation League reported skyrocketing antisemitic incidents in the U.S., having recorded a total of 3,291 antisemitic incidents in the prior three months, a 361-percent increase compared to the same period one year prior⁵; and

WHEREAS, anti-Jewish bias events in California rose from 189 in 2022 to 289 in 2023, an increase of 52.9%, according to the California Attorney General⁶; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Police Department reports that, since October of 2023, there has been an increase overall in the number of anti-Jewish hate incidents and that, in 2024, Anti-Jewish hate crimes made up 18.6% of overall hate crimes, the third-highest category and one of only three categories that are in the double digits⁷; and

WHEREAS, prejudice, violence and crimes against other communities that historically have been targeted, oppressed or disadvantaged have been rising in recent years⁸; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of Berkeley's Holocaust Remembrance Day is to come together as a community to remember the Holocaust, to honor survivors who chose to rebuild their lives in Berkeley and the Bay Area, and to reflect on the need to respect all people

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Berkeley City Council does hereby proclaim April 24, 2025, as Holocaust Remembrance Day in the City of Berkeley, in memory of those who were murdered and in honor of the survivors as well as the rescuers and liberators; and

⁵ <https://www.adl.org/resources/press-release/us-antisemitic-incidents-skyrocketed-360-aftermath-attack-israel-according>

⁶ <https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-bonta-releases-2023-hate-crime-report-highlights-continued>

⁷ <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2025-03-18%20Special%20Item%2001%202024%20Berkeley%20Police%20Department.pdf>; <https://bpd-transparency-initiative-berkeleypd.hub.arcgis.com/pages/current-trends>

⁸ <https://abcnews.go.com/US/hate-crimes-lgbtq-community-rise-fbi-data/story?id=113962673>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley is committed to never forgetting the events of the Holocaust, actively working to combat antisemitism, racism, bigotry, and hatred in all forms, and promote human rights and dignity for all.

DRAFT