

Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust and for the Prevention of Crimes against Humanity

Dates chosen by the member States

Countries	Chosen Dates	Historical reasons
Germany Croatia Estonia (with 25 March and 14 April) Spain Finland France United Kingdom Italy Liechtenstein Norway Czech Republic Sweden Switzerland	27 January	Late on the morning of 27 January 1945 , a first Red Army patrol liberated Auschwitz III, followed by Birkenau and Auschwitz I that afternoon. Some 7,000 prisoners welcomed the liberators. The dead and the dying lay everywhere. Even in the liberated camp, prisoners went on dying (of disease and malnutrition). Repatriating the survivors from the Soviet zone proved slow and difficult.
Austria	5 May	On 5 May 1945 , the 11th US Armoured Division liberated the concentration camp at Mauthausen in Austria. More than 15,000 bodies were found and buried in mass graves in the next few days. In the following weeks, a further 3,000 prisoners died of malnutrition, disease or exhaustion.
Belgium	8 May	On 8 May 1945 , Belgium was liberated from the Nazis. 8 May symbolises les “V-dagen” (V days), V being Sir Winston Churchill’s victory sign. V is also the first letter of the Dutch words <i>Vrede</i> (peace), <i>Vrijheid</i> (freedom) and <i>Verdraagzaamheid</i> (tolerance).
Bulgaria	10 March	On the night of 10 March 1943 , the Commission for Jewish Affairs released the 20,000 Bulgarian Jews who had been arrested for deportation. A week later, Dimitar Peshev and the 43 members of the Parliament drew up the <i>Declaration for the defence of the Bulgarian Jews</i> . All of this was done with the support of the public at large. King Boris III then persuaded the German authorities, and particularly Ribbentrop, not to deport the country’s Jews.
Greece	28 October	On 28 October 1940 , Greece joined the allies in their fight against the Axis forces. Other dates have also been chosen to commemorate the massacres perpetrated in various Greek towns: 2 June 1941 for the town of Kandanos 6 October 1941 for the towns of Drama and Doksato 17 October 1941 for the village of Kerdilia 13 December 1941 for the town of Kalavrita 5 April 1944 for the town of Klisoura 1 May 1944 for Kesariani (suburb of Athens) 6 June 1944 for the village of Diavates 10 June 1944 for the village of Distomo 17 August 1944 for Kokinia (suburb of Athens) 22 August 1944 for Rethimnon on the island of Crete
Hungary	16 April	On 16 April 1944 , the first Jewish Ghetto was established in the town of Munkach (eastern Hungary). Half-a-million Hungarian Jews died in the camps.
Lithuania	23 September	“ <i>Day of genocide of the Lithuanian Jews</i> ”. On 23 September 1943 , the Ghetto in Vilnius was liquidated, marking the start of the “final solution” in Lithuania.
Luxembourg	10 October	On 10 October 1941 , the occupying Nazis organised a plebiscite disguised as a population census. Three questions were not to be answered in Luxemburgish. To which the people answered «Dreimol letzeburgesch» (three times Luxemburgish). This was a

		psychological victory for the resistance. From then on, the Luxembourg people were openly united against oppression.
Netherlands	4 May	4 May 1945 is the day before the "Bvrijdingsdag" - 5 May 1945, when the Second World War ended.
Slovak Republic	9 September	On 9 September 1941 , the fascist Slovak government approved the "Jewish Codex", containing 270 amendments, which were used to exclude Jews from Slovak society.
Romania	21 January	21 January 1941 saw the start of a terrible campaign of persecution, directed at Romania's Jews.
Slovenia	9 May	On 9 May 1945 , the Slovene people were freed from Nazi occupation.