

HOBART HEBREW CONGREGATION OBSERVANCE OF YOM HASHOAH
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
HOBART SYNAGOGUE, WEDNESDAY 27 APRIL 2022

Good evening and thank you for your invitation to join in your observance of *Yom HaShoah*.

We gather together in this historic Hobart Synagogue for the solemn commemoration of *Yom Hashoah Ve-Hagevurah*, the day of remembrance of the Holocaust and Heroism.

We remember and acknowledge all the six million Jews who perished during the deliberate horrific Nazi program to annihilate Jews and other groups from Europe during the Second World War. We also remember millions of other victims of Nazi persecution.

The date of Nisan 27 was selected for *Yom Hashoah* in a resolution passed by the Israel Knesset in 1951.

This day marks the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising in Poland. The date was proclaimed to align with the Israeli educational campaign to recognize and emphasise that the Jewish people had mounted resistance against the Nazi regime and oppressors.

The Jewish people mounted passive resistance; they maintained their dignity and identity in appalling conditions; they organized active resistance in Ghetto uprisings; and they contributed to partisan organisations fighting and, eventually, defeating the Third Reich across Europe.

On this day, with congregations throughout the world, we commemorate and honour those who lost their lives and also those whose lives were irrevocably shattered by their Holocaust experiences.

We also acknowledge that “vilification” of Jews is arguably the oldest continuous form of hate speech in recorded human history’.¹ We also acknowledge and support the continuing efforts of the member nations of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) to promote Holocaust education, research and remembrance around the world.

On this day of Yom Hashoah, we remember the Holocaust. We remember the Heroism of all those who resisted and defeated the Nazi regime. Thank you.

¹ Sackville, R. Undated. *Anti-Semitism, hate speech and Pt IIA of the Racial Discrimination Act*.