

2015 Northern Ireland Holocaust Commemoration

27 January 2015

Belfast, NORTHERN IRELAND: Holocaust Memorial Day is the International Day of Remembrance for the victims of the Holocaust and genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. The theme for 2015, chosen by the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, is “Keeping the Message Alive” and marks the 70th Anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

The commemoration was arranged by The Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister (OFMdFM) and held at Belfast’s iconic Titanic Building.

The Lord Mayor of Belfast – Cllr. Nichola Mallon welcomed the packed auditorium of dignitaries and special guests. Junior Minister Jonathan Bell MLA providing the address with Head – Education, Holocaust Educational Trust Alex Maws delivering the keynote speech.



(L-R): Jonathan Bell MLA – OFMdFM Junior Minister and Maris Steinberg - Belfast Jewish Community lighting a candle of Remembrance



(L-R): Dr Christopher Stange – Consulate for St. Vincent and the Grenadines to Northern Ireland; Joseph Ricketts – African Caribbean Support Organisation Northern Ireland (ACSONI); Colin Flinn – Northern Ireland Council for Refugee and Asylum Seekers (NICRAS)

Local broadcaster Paul Clark was Master of Ceremonies with the “Statement of Commitment” from the Declaration of the Stockholm Forum 2000 read by children from the Belfast Youth Forum. Music and poetry was performed in Hebrew and English.

The ceremony concluded by lighting the Candle of Remembrance and a Hebrew prayer for the Repose of Souls of the Departed sung by Cantor Schulman and read in English by Marshall Taylor. **ENDS**

Notes for Editor:

- Holocaust Memorial Day in Northern Ireland was initiated in 2000 to remember the victims and survivors of the Holocaust and to raise awareness and understanding of the events of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides as a continuing issue for all humanity.

- The date, 27 January, was chosen as it was the date of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp in 1945.
- The Declaration of the Stockholm Forum on Holocaust Education was signed by 44 governments from around the world.
- St Vincent and the Grenadines and Israel established Diplomatic relations in 1981.