

# Summary

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## **UN Secretary-General: Message on the occasion of the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust (27 January 2019)**

On the occasion of the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, UN Secretary-General António Guterres has pointed out that as we honour the memory of the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust, the world witnesses an alarming increase in anti-Semitism. In fact, we see intolerance entering mainstream politics - targeting minorities, Muslims, migrants and refugees, and exploiting the anger and anxiety of a changing world. In this connection, the Secretary-General has called for unity in the fight for universal values and build a world of equality for all.

## **UNIC / Holocaust Remembrance Day**

The annual International Holocaust Remembrance Day was established by the United Nations in 2005 and has been observed on 27 January ever since 2006. On the occasion of the Day, an exhibition titled "Shoah – How Was It Humanly Possible" (brought to Yekaterinburg by Yad Vashem and the Embassy of Israel to Russia) was unveiled on the premises of the Yeltsin Center in Ekaterinburg. The exhibit, which was supported by UNIC Moscow and the Russian Jewish Congress, told the story of how the Jewish population of Europe lived before and after WWII and of what horrors they had to endure during the Holocaust.

## **WHO / International Day for Ear and Hearing**

On the occasion of the International Day for Ear and Hearing, the WHO representative office in the Russian Federation and the National Research Centre for Audiology and Hearing Rehabilitation held a joint press conference under the slogan "Check your hearing!". Hearing loss is a global issue which eventually undermines both national economy and social aspects of people's lives. Dr. Melita Vujnovi, the WHO representative in the Russian Federation, stressed that hearing loss could be prevented by simple measures that everyone could take. Within the framework of the conference, a new free application hearWHO, designed for an easier hearing test, was demonstrated.

## **WHO / Innovative policies for healthy and dignified ageing**

On 26-27 February 2019, a special event organized by the WHO Regional Office for Europe and the WHO representative office in the Russian Federation brought together experts from more than 30 countries, who discussed the current state of implementation of European and global strategies on ageing and health. Today most European countries have incorporated healthy ageing issues and related strategies into their national policies in order to find more effective ways of their resolution. In Russia, one of the bodies that handles such issues is the "Healthy Cities, Districts and Towns" association, which is part of the WHO European "Healthy Cities" network.

## **UNAIDS / "Straight talk" project: Broadcasting live against HIV-related discrimination**

On 28 February 2019, UNAIDS hosted a live broadcast of the "Truth be told" programme co-organized by Odnoklassniki, Russia's major social network. As part of the 2019 Zero Discrimination Day, Russian seasoned journalist Vladimir Pozner, along with healthcare experts, HIV-affected people and activists, discussed what needs to be changed in order to ensure the universal right for decent and active life regardless of HIV status. One of the major conclusions made was that stigma could only be eliminated via awareness-raising measures intended for both affected and non-affected communities.

## **UNAIDS / All it takes is stamina and strong hope for success**

On the eve of Zero Discrimination Day, Russian Olympic champion Alexei Yagudin conducted a figure-skating master class for children and families affected by the HIV-infection. The activity was supported by the staff of the Regional Office of UNAIDS for Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Zero Discrimination Day testifies to UN's aspiration to win the ongoing battle against all types of prejudice that impede the promotion of decent life for every human being on our Planet Earth. Some countries still impose limitations on HIV-positive people, jeopardizing their right for free movement. Kazakhstan, for one, has since the beginning of 2019 walked down the path of resolving this issue by providing access to antiretroviral therapy to all HIV-infected people regardless of their citizenship.

## **ILO / Future of work: Decent work for all**

On 4-5 February 2019, an international forum titled "The Future of Work: Decent Work for All" was held at the Toratau Congress Hall in Ufa, Republic of Bashkortostan, Russian Federation. The forum was dedicated to the 100th anniversaries of the ILO and the Republic of Bashkortostan. The ultimate goal set before the meeting was to discuss challenges facing industrial relationships and to focus on the principles shaping the future of work. The forum was also aimed to help exchange views and experiences in the field of promoting social dialogue.

## **UNIC / International Women's Day marked by the UN Team in Russia**

On 5 March 2019, UNIC Moscow, on behalf of the UN Team and the Programme Office of the Council of Europe in Russia, organized a gala evening dedicated to the International Women's Day. Opening the event, UNIC Director Vladimir Kuznetsov reminded the audience about the history of the Day. Petr Sich, Head of the CE Programme Office in Russia, Pyotr Ilyichev, Director of the Department of International Organizations at the Russian Foreign Ministry, Tatiana Potiaeva, Human Rights Ombudsman in Moscow, and Melita Vujnovi, Head of the WHO Representative Office in Russia, also took the floor. A message of Human Rights Ombudsman in Russia Tatiana Moskalkova, was read out by Lyubov Filipp, head of the Department for Protection of Political Rights at the Ombudsman's Office. Ms. Moskalkova singled out, among other things, the importance of joint projects and, in particular, implementation of the National Strategy for Women.

## **UNESCO IITE / Artificial intelligence for sustainable development**

On 4-8 January 2019, the Mobile Learning Week at UNESCO headquarters in Paris was held. An extensive programme of the Week included a lot of activities, with the most significant one being a conference titled "Principles for AI: Towards a Humanistic Approach?". The Week also included a special session on "Artificial Intelligence and Inclusion: Why It Matters", which was attended by some Russian representatives, including Maxim Mikhalev (ABBYY 3A) and Svetlana Botkina (cultural and sports rehabilitation complex of the All-Russian Society of the Blind). As part of the Week, UNESCO IITE showcased its work – particularly, the online training course, in Russian, on the media and information literacy for teachers.

## **UNHCR / Vanno Noupech: "Openness, respect for local specifics and a sense of humor are paramount for maintaining harmonious working relations"**

Mr. Vanno Noupech was appointed head of the UNHCR Office in Moscow not long ago. He notes in an interview that migration, especially when it comes to the post-Soviet space, still tops his office's agenda. In particular, Mr. Noupech has called for more in-depth cooperation with the Russian Federation on this issue, stressing that, although new challenges keep emerging, ways for their settlement, including, for example, a closer cooperation, remain the same.