

9 May 2019

Dear Chancellor Kurz,

It is with great pleasure that we received the news from his Excellency Peter Launsky-Tieffenthal about your government initiatives on fighting antisemitism and holocaust remembrance, that you unveiled as you marked the 8th May.

The European Jewish Association has repeatedly noted with alarm that the important lessons of the holocaust - the darkest of stains in Europe's history - were being lost on a younger generation whose education skimmed over, or simply omitted, this brutal chapter too easily.

We therefore wholeheartedly commend your support to give all secondary students in Austria the possibility to visit the Mauthausen memorial at least once in a lifetime. This is an initiative that other countries should adopt and we congratulate you on taking a significant lead on this.

We also congratulate your efforts on improving the curricula of Austrian students as well as your new archival agreement with Yad Vashem.

Chancellor, with these initiatives you do European Jewry a large service. In these turbulent and troubling times it is incumbent on all of us to ensure that the mistakes of the past are not only never repeated but that the memory and import of such acts are never forgotten. With a lack of awareness comes complacency, and it is in complacency that the fascist ideology finds its most fertile ground.

On behalf of our many members and Jews across Europe, we thank you for your commitments and send you blessings.

Yours gratefully,



Rabbi Menachem Margolin
Chairman