

# MARCH OF LIFE

## 2021



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# MARCH OF LIFE

DURING COVID-19

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- We are in the midst of one of the greatest social upheavals in history.
- If we want to take responsibility for the future, we must not allow the lethargy of the lockdown to take us captive.
- In a time of uncertainty, people are looking for points of orientation and support to guide them.

# MARCH OF LIFE DURING COVID-19

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- The message of March of Life "Remembering. Reconciliation. A Statement Against Antisemitism and for Israel" is one of the key elements of a society, which can be used to build a better future.
- The year 2021 is also called a "year of decision". Every decision is a challenge to accept our responsibility.
- Therefore, we have chosen the global theme for the March of Life around Yom Ha Shoa on April 9, 2021: **Together for a Better Future without Antisemitism and Hatred of Jews!**

# ANTISEMITISM

DURING COVID-19

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# ANTISEMITISM DURING COVID-19

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- Crises always provide us with two options:  
Paranoia or metanoia (hysteria or inner change).
- Conspiracy ideologies and downplaying the Nazi era
- Conspiracy ideologies always have an antisemitic operating system.
- "Collective responsibility" means taking a stand in private life as well as in public.

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***“COVID-19 has made it all worse, inhibitions continue to drop, people are trying to rewrite history and to trivialize it.”***

Pinchas Goldschmidt

(President of the Conference of European Rabbis)



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***On the occasion of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day, he called for remembering the victims of the Shoah and to “recognize” conspiracy theories and “to oppose them with reason, passion and determination”!***

Frank-Walter Steinmeier

(President of the Republic of Germany)

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***“Antisemitism is not an opinion,  
but a crime!”***

Michael Kretschmer

(Minister President of Saxony)

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***“There is no vaccine against antisemitism!”***

Norbert Lammert

(Chairman of the Conservative Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation)

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***“Our collective responsibility remains!”***

Wolfgang Schäuble

(President of the German Parliament)

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***“If you want to get to the root of the hatred of Jews, you have to reach to where it hurts – the middle of society!”***

Charlotte Knobloch

(President of the Israelite Community Munich)

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***“There is a pandemic that cannot be fought by a vaccine. It is called antisemitism. It has been raging for about 2000 years...!”***

Reuven Rivlin

(President of the State of Israel)

# WHY IT IS ESSENTIAL TO HAVE A MARCH OF LIFE

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# 12 REASONS WHY IT IS ESSENTIAL TO HAVE A MARCH OF LIFE

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1. Because antisemitism and hatred of Jews have increased dramatically during the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Because Jews all over the world feel threatened and abandoned.
3. Because the actions taken so far by the state, the church and individual initiatives have not yet brought about change.
4. Because March of Life combines collective responsibility and individual initiative in a meaningful way.



# WHY IT IS ESSENTIAL TO HAVE A MARCH OF LIFE

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5. Because the March of Life can provide orientation and values in a time of fears of an uncertain future.
6. Because it awakens responsibility for the history of the Holocaust through living remembrance and passes it on to the following generations.
7. Because the March for Life directly addresses the root of antisemitism in the family and breaks the "Veil of Silence" over it.

# WHY IT IS ESSENTIAL TO HAVE A MARCH OF LIFE

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8. Because the March of Life promotes the Jewish-Christian cooperation.
9. Because the March of Life combines “Remembering” – “Reconciliation” – and “Standing with Israel” with the vision of the spiritual renewal of the nation.
10. Because the March of Life wants to be a joint, unmistakable voice of friendship with Israel.
11. Because the March of Life focuses on the centrality of Israel's election.

# WHY IT IS ESSENTIAL TO HAVE A MARCH OF LIFE

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12. Because through Marches of Life, through public events and activities, people actively stand up for a better future without antisemitism and hatred of Jews.

# IMPORTANT QUESTIONS DURING COVID-19

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- 1. How can I keep the March of Life vision alive in my country in the midst of my many challenges and programs?**
  - Study the history of antisemitism in your country (memorial days?)
  - Study the anti-Jewish history of your church/denomination.
  - Study Jewish life in your country and actively build relationships.

# IMPORTANT QUESTIONS DURING COVID-19

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- 1. How can I keep the March of Life vision alive in my country in the midst of my many challenges and programs?**
  - Study the many resources on the "Veil of Silence" on the March of Life and Veil of Silence websites.
  - Find like-minded friends to talk to, plan with, pray with.

# IMPORTANT QUESTIONS DURING COVID-19

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## **2. How can I keep spreading the idea of March of Life during COVID-19?**

- Don't let the “lock down” prevent you from using your opportunities.
- Observe memorial days, political observances, or Jewish holidays.
- You can make a difference by informing, educating and making statements in the church/congregation and in society.

# IMPORTANT QUESTIONS DURING COVID-19

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## **2. How can I keep spreading the idea of March of Life during COVID-19?**

- Plan to actively do your part at March of Life events.
- Plan an online “Veil of Silence” conference with Jobst Bittner and other speakers to raise awareness and mobilize.



# IMPORTANT QUESTIONS DURING COVID-19

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## **3. What effect can I have without the support of a church/congregation?**

- Very much – remember: One person taking action makes all the difference!
- Become a March of Life Ambassador!
- Receive encouragement and information from the March of Life network of relationships!

# IMPORTANT QUESTIONS DURING COVID-19

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## **3. What effect can I have without the support of a church/congregation?**

- Gather friends and like-minded people and initiate regular March of Life friends meetings, where you can discuss this - also online, if you like.
- Invite a March of Life staff member from Germany and a Holocaust survivor from Israel to speak to you online.

# IMPORTANT QUESTIONS DURING COVID-19

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## **4. How do I build a network of relationships?**

- The “lock down” offers a wealth of opportunities – use them actively!
- Build online contacts via Zoom, WhatsApp, Israel forums.
- Gather friends of Israel, mobilize them with your story of how you worked through your own family history, and inform them about March of Life.
- Use the prayer information and build a prayer network.

# IMPORTANT QUESTIONS DURING COVID-19

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## **5. How do I establish meaningful contacts with the Jewish community?**

- Find out about Jewish life in your city/country.
- Treat Jewish life with the respect and appreciation due to the election of the Jewish people as “the elder brother”.
- Take an active stand for Jewish life and against antisemitism.
- Build reliable relationships and friendships as someone willing to learn.

# WHY AN ANNUAL MARCH OF LIFE?

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- Because antisemitism and hatred of Jews are not short-term phenomena
- Because change comes only through continuity.

# WHY “MARCH OF LIFE” ON THE STREETS?

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- Because the voice against antisemitism and against hatred of Jews must be heard in public and must be relayed via the media.
- Because on our own we cannot achieve much – but together with tens of thousands in other cities and nations we are part of a movement.
- Because to walk together in God's ways means to ask for God's blessing and to spread the Kingdom of God on the streets: “Blessed is he who fears the Lord and walks in his ways!”

# WHY A MARCH OF LIFE CAN BE CONTROVERSIAL

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- Because March of Life identifies with Jewish life and with Israel.
- Because this puts March of Life at odds with the spirit of the age and mainstream Western thinking.
- Because March of Life with its call to work through the past and for public repentance can be a valuable instrument for change in a nation.
- Because March of Life encourages churches and denominations to work through “Christian antisemitism” and promotes change in theology and attitude towards the fact that Israel is chosen.

# HOW DO I MULTIPLY THE MARCH OF LIFE IN A NATION?

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- Annual national March of Life days and conferences
- Organize a national “Veil of Silence” conference
- Organize of a March of Life tour with roundtables, worship services and seminars throughout the country



# THE LEVELS OF PRAYER

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**Level 1:** Regular 24/7 prayer in Tübingen for all organizers

**Level 2:** Prayer Newsletter and Prayer Network of the March of Life – Moni Krause

*Write to [info@marchoflife.org](mailto:info@marchoflife.org) to register*

**Level 3:** Establish a regular prayer group on site.

**Level 4:** Prayer calls via ZOOM in the nations – coordinated by the national directors

Suggestion: 1st Monday of every month.