

STATEMENT
BY THE SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

28 January 2020

Vilnius

On 27 January, we mark the International Holocaust Remembrance Day, pay tribute to the victims of the Holocaust and attest to the history as it was.

The Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania,

having regard to:

- the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly Resolution of 20 April 2016 on renewed commitment in the fight against anti-Semitism in Europe;
- the European Parliament resolution of 1 June 2017 on combating anti-Semitism;
- the Council of the European Union Declaration of 6 December 2018 on the fight against anti-Semitism and the development of a common security approach to better protect Jewish communities and institutions in Europe;

noting that the report based on the survey carried out in 2018 by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights in 12 EU Member States representing more than 96 % of the EU's Jewish population showed increasing levels of anti-Semitism. About 90 % of respondents believed that anti-Semitism was on the rise in their country;

strongly believing that the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania enshrines the value of national concord promoted by the people of Lithuania on the Lithuanian soil;

stresses that people of Jewish origin have the right to a life free from hatred and fear for their security;

recalling that the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania has designated the year 2020 as the Year of the Vilna Gaon and the History of the Jews of Lithuania in 2020;

welcomes the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on unanimously approving at its meeting of 24 January 2018 the definition of anti-Semitism adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance in Bucharest on 26 May 2016 as a useful reference tool for assisting judicial and law enforcement authorities in detecting and prosecuting anti-Semitic attacks in a more efficient and effective manner; and **proposes** that the definition be enshrined in the relevant legislation of the Republic of Lithuania;

considers that all EU Member States should fully and correctly transpose, into national law, the EU legislation aimed at protecting the memory of the victims and combating racism and antisemitism;

notes that effective measures to prevent and combat anti-Semitism include increased education and awareness-raising on the Holocaust and its unique nature. In order to prevent any manifestations of anti-Semitism, it is essential for Member States to engage with a wide range of stakeholders, in particular Jewish communities and civil society organisations;

declares that the members of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania as the representatives of the country note that Lithuania does not support any attempts to interpret the historical memory of the Holocaust and distances itself from any initiatives that are inconsistent with the internationally recognised definitions of the Holocaust and anti-Semitism;

having regard to the specific documents adopted by the parliaments of the European Union and the European states on combating various forms of anti-Semitism, **condemns** all manifestations of anti-Semitism and **calls on** the Lithuanian authorities to actively prevent this negative phenomenon by raising tolerance and paying due attention to education;

proposes that the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania adopts, at its immediate session, a resolution on combating anti-Semitism and preserving the Lithuanian Jewish heritage, which reflects the provisions set out in this Statement.