



Statement by President Dr. Gordana Siljanovska-Davkova in front of the memorial to the Macedonian Jews in the Treblinka Memorial Complex

10 March 2026

Respected ladies and gentlemen,

It is indeed our national and human duty to be here today at this tragic place, on the eve of tomorrow's Holocaust Remembrance Day for the Macedonian Jews.

On March 11, 1943, the then Bulgarian fascist occupator authority forcibly gathered the Macedonian Jews from occupied Macedonia, put them into cattle cars and deported them here, to the Nazi extermination center "Treblinka", in occupied Poland.

The sole purpose of "Treblinka" was to eliminate the largest possible number of people, as many as 2,000 people at once, in the shortest possible time. Can a normal human mind in just 13 months, from July 1942 to August 1943, produce/cause the death of about 900,000 people, Jews? Among those killed were our 7,144 Macedonian Jews, as much as 98% of the total Macedonian Jewish population and one third of the total Macedonian victims in World War II. What an inestimable human loss, how many would there be today with their descendants?

The tragedy for us is greater and more painful, when it is known that anti-Semitism has never been a Macedonian characteristic, nor has there ever been fertile ground for it, or its manifestation. We have a centuries-old tradition of respect for diversity. The fact that the Macedonian Jews who escaped deportation immediately joined the national liberation and anti-fascist struggle of the Macedonian people is proof of our coexistence. This is borne out by the few Jews who escaped deportation and their descendants, as well as the relatives of the survivors present, who proudly represent the small, but for us extremely important Macedonian Jewish community.

Some 80 years later, we still ask ourselves: how could the evil of the Holocaust happen? How did the abyss of the moral vacuum appear in which mind, reason, conscience and humanity disappeared? Why did the deadly anti-Semitism virus spread from the perverted fascist and Nazi ideology? Can a person dehumanize himself to such an extent as to invent and implement an industrialized process of killing?

Standing above this abyss of evil, we believe and promise that we will not allow historical revisionism and falsification of the truth about the Holocaust of Macedonian Jews. Indeed, it is no coincidence that we have the Holocaust Fund of Macedonian Jews in Skopje, as the guardian of the three urns with ashes from Treblinka.

Let me reiterate, we promise that we will not allow the memory of the victims of the Holocaust to be erased and forgotten by anyone, ever!

Thank you.