

## **Condemn All Racism on January 27**

The peak body of the Australian Jewish community is urging all Australians to reflect on racism and its horrific consequences on January 27, the day designated by the United Nations as the 'International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust'.

Grahame Leonard, the President of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry said today "The Nazis attempted to murder an entire people men, women and children as a result of an ideology of racial superiority. After a process of deprivation of human rights, dehumanisation and contempt, the instruments of a modern state were employed for the purposes of systematic murder.

"As we remember the victims of this unique evil, it is appropriate to voice our complete rejection of all manifestations of religious and racial prejudice, incitement, harassment and violence against communities," Leonard added.

This is the first annual International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, which is a result of United Nations General Assembly Resolution 60/7 of 1 November 2005.

Australia was one of the states which proposed the resolution, which established January 27, the day on which Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp was liberated in 1945, as the date for the international commemoration. The resolution also unequivocally condemned Holocaust denial.

"Australia's diplomatic efforts are a tribute to the farsighted bipartisan policies of our major political parties supporting multiculturalism and opposing racism. This event is a universal reminder of the dangers of bigotry and hatred," Leonard concluded.

**For further information or to arrange interviews, contact Grahame Leonard on 0411 462 242.**