

MARTYRS' AND HEROES' COMMEMORATION
(*YAD VA-SHEM*) LAW, 5713—1953*

1. There is hereby established in Jerusalem a Remembrance Authority, "*Yad Va-Shem*"¹⁾, to commemorate —

Remembran
Authority
"*Yad Va-
Shem*".

- 1) the six million members of the Jewish people who died a martyr's death at the hands of the Nazis and their collaborators;
- 2) the Jewish families which were wiped out by the oppressor;
- 3) the communities, synagogues, movements and organisations, and the public, cultural, educational, religious and benevolent institutions, which were destroyed in a heinous attempt to erase the name and culture of Israel from under the skies;
- 4) the fortitude of Jews who gave their lives for their people in holiness and purity;
- 5) the heroism of Jewish servicemen, and of underground fighters in towns, villages and forests, who staked their lives in the battle against the Nazi oppressor and his collaborators;
- 6) the heroic stand of the besieged and fighters of the ghettos, who rose and kindled the flame of revolt to save the honour of their people;
- 7) the sublime, persistent struggle of the masses of the House of Israel, on the threshold of destruction, for their human dignity and Jewish culture;
- 8) the unceasing efforts of the besieged to reach Eretz-Israel in spite of all obstacles, and the devotion and heroism of brothers who went forth to rescue and liberate the survivors;
- 9) the high-minded Gentiles who jeopardised their lives to save Jews.

2. The task of *Yad Va-Shem* is to gather in to the homeland material regarding all those members of the Jewish people who laid down their lives, who fought and rebelled against the Nazi enemy and his collaborators, and to perpetuate their memory and that of the communities, organisations and institutions which were destroyed because they were Jewish; for this purpose, *Yad Va-Shem* shall be competent —

Function
powers of
Ya-Shem.

* Passed by the Knesset on the 8th Elul, 5713 (19th August, 1953) and published in *Sefer Ha-Chukkim* No. 132 of the 17th Elul, 5713 (28th August, 1953), p. 144; the Bill was published in *Hatsa'ot Chok* No. 161 of the 9th Nisan, 5713 (25th March, 1953), p. 170.

1) *Yad Va-Shem* = lasting memorial (literally: "a monument and a name"; see Isaiah LVI,5).

- 1) to establish memorial projects, on its own initiative and under its direction;
- 2) to collect, examine and publish all testimony of the disaster and heroism, and to bring home its lesson to the people;
- 3) firmly to establish in Israel and among the whole people the day appointed by the Knesset as the memorial day for the disaster and heroism, and to promote a custom of joint remembrance of the heroes and victims;
- 4) to confer upon the members of the Jewish people who perished in the days of the disaster and the resistance the commemorative citizenship of the State of Israel, as a token of their having been gathered to their people;
- 5) to approve and give guidance to projects concerned with perpetuating the memory of the victims and heroes of the disaster, or to cooperate with such projects;
- 6) to represent Israel on international projects aimed at perpetuating the memory of the victims of the Nazi and of those who fell in the war against them;
- 7) to do any other act required for carrying out its task.

Yad Va-Shem
— a corporate
body.

3. *Yad Va-Shem* is a corporate body, entitled to enter into contracts, acquire, hold and dispose of property, and be a party to any legal or other proceeding.

Governing
bodies of
Yad Va-Shem.

4. The governing bodies of *Yad Va-Shem* shall be a Council and an Executive.

Budget of
Yad Va-Shem.

5. The contribution of the Treasury towards the establishment and maintenance of *Yad Va-Shem* shall be fixed in the State Budget; *Yad Va-Shem* shall operate under its own budget, the revenue for which shall be derived from the said contribution and from material contributions of national and public institutions and organisations, from its own projects and services and donations, and from such moneys and other material resources as it may raise with the approval of the Government.

Statutes of
Yad Va-Shem.

6. The member of the Government empowered by it to implement this Law (hereinafter: "the Minister") shall, with the approval of the Government, enact the statutes of *Yad Va-Shem*, which shall come into force on the day of their publication in *Reshumot*.

Provisions of
statutes.

7. The statutes shall lay down —

- 1) the composition, mode of establishment and powers of the Council and the procedure for convening it;
- 2) the composition, mode of establishment, powers and working methods of the Executive;
- 3) the methods and procedure for the summoning of conferences and conventions;
- 4) conditions for the receipt of commemorative citizenship, and the procedure for the grant thereof;
- 5) the means of commemorating the participation of Jewish soldiers and underground fighters and inmates of the besieged ghettos in the battles against the Nazi oppressor and his collaborators;
- 6) the procedure for the preparation and approval of the budget, and provisions as to equipment and the administration of moneys;
- 7) such other provisions as the Minister may decide to be necessary for the maintenance of *Yad Va-Shem* as a remembrance authority.

8. The Minister may make regulations as to any matter relating to the implementation of this Law. Regulations.

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Acting Prime Minister

BEN-ZION DINUR
Minister of Education and Culture

YITZCHAK BEN-ZVI
President of the State