

International Holocaust Memorial Day 2019

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Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great honour to be part of the Holocaust Memorial Day. My role is to introduce the award-winning film, we are about to see - Nicky's Family directed by Slovak director Matej Mináč and supported by the Slovak and Czech authorities.

You may have heard about the unbelievable and almost forgotten story of Sir Nicholas Winton, who almost alone by organizing transport to move children, mostly Jewish, from pre-Second World War Czechoslovakia to United Kingdom saved 669 children. Without his courage and dedication, these children would perish with their families.

The film Nicky's Family is more than recapitulating of this story and historic events. It shows the horrors of racism and social exclusion, loss of home, horrors of leaving loved ones to unknown and ultimately tragedy of separation of families with little or no chance of unite again.

We need to remember! Is remembering enough? Sir Nicholas Winton have said, "Perhaps it was possible to do more. But to that - more time was needed, much more help from other countries, much more money and much more organization.

In all European countries, individual people led by moral values did not stand by when Jews were persecuted. For example in Slovakia, the State of Israel recognized 595 Slovaks as Righteous among Nations.

And there are Righteous among Nations in Bulgaria too.

Not about everyone is a film made.

One of the messages of the film is that EVERYONE can, according to his or her possibilities stand against injustice, discrimination, hate, poverty.

We know that every little concession or even indifference, make the evil stronger.

In few days, representatives of 54 participating States of the Organization for Security and Europe and relevant NGOs will meet in Bratislava to tackle anti-Semitism and I hope new initiatives will come from the meeting.

In Conclusion, the story and the film provides great inspiration to remember and to act.

Thank you for your attention.

Sofia, January 30 2019