

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, the Holocaust was the state-sponsored, systematic persecution and annihilation of European Jewry by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945; and

**WHEREAS**, Jews were the primary victims—six million were murdered; also Gypsies, Poles, and the disabled were targeted for destruction or decimation for racial, ethnic, or national reasons; and

**WHEREAS**, millions more, including homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, Soviet prisoners of war, and political dissidents also suffered grievous oppression and death under Nazi tyranny; and

**WHEREAS**, the history of the Holocaust offers an opportunity to reflect on the moral responsibilities of individuals, societies, and government; and

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of Washington State should actively rededicate ourselves to the principles of individual freedom in a just society; and

**WHEREAS**, the Days of Remembrance have been set aside for the citizens of the state of Washington to remember the terrible events of the Holocaust and remain vigilant against hatred, persecution, and tyranny;

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Christine O. Gregoire, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim April 19-26, 2009, as

### *Days of Remembrance*

including April 21, 2009, as

### *International Day of Remembrance – Yom Hashoah*

in Washington State, in memory of the victims of the Holocaust and in honor of the survivors, as well as the rescuers and liberators.

Signed this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2009

Governor Christine O. Gregoire

