



נשיא המדינה  
رئيس الدولة  
THE PRESIDENT

Jerusalem, May 02, 2024

Dear Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to salute you as you pool resources of strength and courage and prepare to embark upon this year's Marches of Life throughout so many cities worldwide.

Regretfully, the importance of the Holocaust as a critical, active teacher in our present has become painfully clear in recent months. The terrifying developments in Israel -- the barbaric October 7<sup>th</sup> massacres, the slaughter, torture and abduction of our people, and the subsequent Iranian missile attack on our civilian population -- have brought to the doorstep of the present some of the darkest moments of the past. But it has not stopped there. The eruption of vicious anti-Semitism throughout the modern, civilized world, and the prevalence of voices that deny Israel's right to self-defense, and even its very right to exist, are shocking and deeply painful. They underscore the glaring and immediate need for clear, compelling and mass-scale voices that remind humanity of the perils of hatred, and reject it, roundly and completely.

I am hopeful that the bold decision to visibly stand on the side of justice, and the enormous goodwill that is evident in the Marches of life, will offer a powerful counter-voice to hate. And revitalize the clear moral stance that supports Israel and the Jewish people at this time of terror and enormous grief.

I am certain that your March will leave an indelible imprint upon each of the participants, and continue to inspire our collective, sacred labor of Holocaust memory and education. I am further hopeful that the Marches offer you an opportunity to raise your voices on behalf of our innocent hostages, who, unbelievably, remain in the grips of a murderous terror organization in Gaza.

Refusal to bow to hatred, refusal to forget the searing lessons of the past, and refusal to ever be silent again, is the moral call of the present and the guarantor of a brighter, gentler and kinder future for our children.

I convey my sincerest gratitude to each of you.

Sincerely,

*with Shalom!*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'I Herzog'.

**Isaac Herzog**  
**President of the State of Israel**