

The **Terezin Declaration** is a non-binding declaration that issued by 47 countries^[a] on June 2009, agreeing on measures to right economic wrongs that accompanied the [Holocaust](#) against the Jews and other victims of Nazi persecution in Europe. It is neither a treaty nor legally binding international agreement^[1] The *Holocaust Era Assets Conference* took place in [Terezín](#), Czech Republic, the site of the [Theresienstadt Ghetto](#).^{[2][3]} A year later 43 of the signatories (excluding [Belarus](#), [Malta](#), [Russia](#) and [Poland](#)) endorsed a companion document, the *2010 Guidelines and Best Practices for the Restitution and Compensation of Immovable (Real) Property*, which set best practices for immovable property. According to the guidelines restitution of the property itself (*in rem*) is preferred, however when that is not possible payment or substitute property that is "genuinely fair and adequate" is possible.^{[2][4]} The declaration has no legal power and doesn't define how countries involved should act to fulfill it^[5].

During the [Holocaust](#), plunder of Jewish property took place in an organized and comprehensive scale. Following the war, while some Jews received their property back, this tended to be the exception. People who held on to plundered property considered it their own and resented survivors who came back to claim their property. While many countries passed laws on restitution, in many case these were in effect in name only, and in Eastern Europe were often in effect only for a few years. The Terezin declaration was passed in 2009 as a result of what US ambassador [Stuart E. Eizenstat](#) termed "the unfinished business of World War II".^[4]

In addition to restitution to survivors and heirs, the Terezin Declaration states that in some states heirless property (which devolved to the state) could serve as a basis for addressing the material necessities of needy Holocaust (Shoah) survivors and to ensure ongoing education about the Holocaust (Shoah), its causes and consequences.^{[4][6]}

The [Justice for Uncompensated Survivors Today \(JUST\) Act of 2017](#), requires the [United States Department of State](#) to report to congress on steps that the signatories of the Terezin Declaration have taken to compensate [Holocaust](#) survivors and their heirs for assets seized by Nazi Germany and post-war communist governments.^{[7][8]}