

Your excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen!

As a seventeen-year-old girl, I haven't had a lot of connection with the Holocaust before. I first met with it, when I read a book written by Ian Martell: the Beatrice and Vergilius. In this book the Holocaust was told in a really different way. I remember it was a big shock to read it. When I finished it I felt like I could understand one little part of the Holocaust, although it was just a book I read. If a book can cause such a big shock, I cannot imagine how hard it might be to live with the memory of it.

My second meeting with the Holocaust was more decisive. I'm really interested in history. I heard and learnt about this tragedy a lot, but it was always just like other tragical events of history. But then a woman, who survived the Roma Holocaust, came to our school, and she told us her story.

That was the moment, when I realized that it had happened in the reality with people who lived, and it's not just one more event you have to learn or to write a good essay about in history tests. The other surprising thing was to become aware of the fact that the Holocaust was unprecedented. Rita, the woman who came to us, lives even today. What history means

to me, is her past. With this knowledge I began to look upon the Holocaust in a really different way.

She said that she told us her story to prevent it from happening again. She told us: "you are the future". I have never thought that I could have any influence on things like this. But Rita was right. If I just care for this topic, it already counts. Now, I know that the Holocaust isn't just one part of history books, but it is also our common memory.

Rita also told us not to discriminate any people in the world and to let the others live. As a student, who goes to a catholic high school, I find it important not only to let live, but to make it with love and from heart.

Knowing the worst we can do the best, even if we are only seventeen years old and seem to have limited if any oppurtinities to do something againts bad things. But it's not always true.

That's why I'm so happy to be here and to take a little part in this ceremony of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, which reminds us of the horrors and lessons of the Holocaust. Thank you for your attention. Thank you for your invitation. God bless you! Shalom!