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Yeshiva University
Office of the President



From the desk of
Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman

My Dear Friends,

Being present in Auschwitz on Yom Hashoah this past week brought new perspective of the horrors of the Holocaust. The assembly line nature of this factory of death is the most heinous example of evil in human history. During this time of turmoil on college campuses, it was particularly poignant to lead the delegation of university presidents on the March of the Living to both bear witness and reaffirm our commitment to tell the story.



For my remarks at Auschwitz [click here](#) or on the image above. For my address at the

March of the Living dinner [click here](#)

With all my previous knowledge of the Holocaust, I still found myself surprised at the inhumanity. In the same way, I was also surprised by the hope that was represented on that day. The thousands of students from around the world, which included many future students of YU and many in groups led by YU alumni, was an astonishing living expression that Am Yisrael Chai is not simply a statement of belief but a testament of our reality. As we transition this week to commemorating the founding of the state of Israel, our history has taught us that throughout every challenge we will always rise. Even when the times look bleak, the future of the Jewish people is still bright. As I walked from the shadow of the valley of death, I did not fear evil, for God is with us throughout our lives and throughout our history. This is the promise and power of the Jewish people. Now and forever.

Am Yisrael Chai,



Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman
President, Yeshiva University



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