

Declaration of the Government of the Slovak Republic on the 80th anniversary of the so-called Jewish Code

The Government of the Slovak Republic as the highest body of the executive branch in the Slovak Republic – respecting the principles of freedom, democracy and legality – feels today a moral obligation to publicly express the sorrow over the crimes committed by the then-state power, in particular over the disgraceful directive adopted on September 9, 1941, restricting fundamental human rights and freedoms of the citizens of the Jewish origin. Based on the “racial origin”, it disqualified Jews from human and civil rights protection, barred them from accessing education and freely succeed in the society. An extensive part of the Code was composed of “aryanization” norms used by the state to reach their property.

We condemn the behavior of the then-state power and express our profound remorse over the tragedy that affected innocent victims. In the time of a sad 80th anniversary of the adoption of the Directive Nr. 198/1941 on the Legal Status of Jews, we are filled with self-reproach for the crimes committed against our fellow citizens that culminated in deportations to death camps. This tragic historic experience resonates in our society until these days. At the same time, we pay respect to those who – risking their live or freedom – stood up and resisted against the persecution of the Jewish citizens, we express our belief that only a pluralistic democratic society is able to guarantee the observance of human and civil rights.

We hold this declaration as a commitment of a free and democratic Slovakia that a legislation shall never again be misused to a murdering of citizens.

Bratislava, September 8, 2021