

Distinguished Speakers and Participants of the Hungarian – Jewish Women’s Lives International Conference,
Distinguished Excellencies, Lady and Mr Ambassadors, Honourable Representatives of the Diplomatic Corps,
Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Guests,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome the participants of the HUNGARIAN-JEWISH WOMEN’S LIVES international conference who have met in Budapest to act jointly in order to promote commemoration, reconciliation and exemplary conduct.

This unique conference of women has taken place in the framework of the Hungarian Holocaust Commemoration Year 2014. I would like to thank the organisers and let me also say thanks to all the participants for embracing and representing this mission and that here and now we have the opportunity to give voice to some further thoughts about it.

‘Everywhere where you find a human footprint, there I am the Almighty.’ This is how Tamás Raj, rabbi quoted the Talmud in one of his teachings. Thus according to the faith of Israel God went together with them to the exile, accompanying them also there. As a Christian person my thinking is also similar. When in misery, or when being persecuted, our Lord is with us, accompanies us.

The horrors of World War II, the terror of the holocaust are the tragedies of both man and mankind. The series of monstrous evil deeds struck all of us, because in honesty and humaneness all of us are agreed and as such, are equal in rank with the other person or people.

Our country, Hungary lost not only the victims but rather more than them. She lost the survivors and the descendants as well. Therefore Jewish – Hungarian coexistence that we are parts of despite of all atrocities can have a revival; it can only be restored by unconditional empathy and discreet conduct.

It is my intention to take a part in this.

In the recent few years I have also come closer to getting better acquainted with the lives of Jewish people and those of Jewish women.

Since 2006 I have been a member of the Hungarian Israeli Friendship Group of the Inter - Parliamentary Union. The IPU founded in 1889, is an organisation promoting cooperation between or among the Parliaments of Sovereign States.

Due to my official position, in the last year I had the pleasure to pay a visit to the Knesset, the Parliament of Israel. In Jerusalem I met Madame Gila Gamliel, deputy speaker of the Knesset and Mr. Tzachi Hanegbi, chairman of the Israeli – Hungarian Friendship Group of the Knesset.

In the Yad Vashem Museum I visited the Hall of Remembrance, set light to the flame for commemoration and bowed to the victims. At the end of January of this year representing Hungary in the Delegation of International Parliamentary Representatives, I participated in the official commemoration organised on the occasion of the 69th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau camps as part of the International Memorial Day of the victims of the Holocaust.

Dear Guests,

It is not possible to speak about the Hungarian Jewish Women's Lives without recalling the endurance and struggles of women in the period of disaster whereby they supported the survival of families.

It was only the women's persistent strength and will to live that always collected the bits of disintegrated families, brought about a revival to the community, gave a chance to survival and thereby fulfilled the order continuance.

Whenever there has been a way or an opportunity for them, women have always desired eminence and have been keen on beauty and good qualities and to make the World become acquainted with these features. This is how some of them became highly recognised, famous and successful also in the areas of sciences and arts.

The lady commemorated by this conference was also an artist in her kind. She was the Grand Lady of making scents. Judith Müller believed in joint work and shared success. She believed in ancient knowledge and in passing it on... She researched on and used the ancient secrets of the Bible, the secret of scriptural oils, herbs and flowers. This is how the first Israeli national scent was invented, that is the Bat Sheba perfume and the King David Men's Cologne were created.

Judith, the herald of beauty, elegance, smile and love, and as the queen of perfumes and scents, has done rather a lot to strengthen women's self-confidence. She was committed to make women become elegant and attractive like the rose of Hebron as they are so lucky indeed, that God, the Almighty has presented them with the gift of beauty.

However this gift of beauty is not there for its own sake.

Now I would like to conclude my address by recalling Coco Chanel's thought:
'If you want to become more beautiful, you will have to begin it in your heart and soul,
Because before doing so, no beauty preparation shall be effective.'

Now welcome, and have an enjoyable, good time here!

Thank you for your kind attention.