April 30, 2014

I send solemn greetings to all those attending the Federal Inter-Agency Holocaust Remembrance Program.

As we commemorate the Days of Remembrance, we honor the millions of innocent men, women, and children who tragically lost their lives in the Holocaust. We remember the selfless individuals whose courageous acts of kindness saved lives and reflected the best of humanity, even in the face of the worst of it. We draw strength from the resilience of survivors who carried on. And we unite in reaffirming that such senseless violence has no place in our world and that such brutality must never happen again.

These somber days call on us not only to reflect on this atrocity more than 60 years ago, but also to act in our time. They challenge us to consider our Nation’s response to the Holocaust so we may better recognize and react to injustice and discrimination today. They remind us that we are never powerless. We must always reject hatred in whatever form it takes.

As you gather for the Federal Inter-Agency Holocaust Remembrance Program, let us promise to keep alive forever the memory of those taken before their time. Let us carry forward their spirit by creating a more just, tolerant, and peaceful future.