

Commemoration of Kristallnacht 2024

The 86th anniversary of Kristallnacht was commemorated on Sunday 10 November at the Government House Ballroom in the presence of H.E. the Governor of WA, with Trevor Creewel, CCJWA Chair, as emcee. The many dignitaries attending included the Premier; the Leader of the Opposition; the Hon. Consul to the Federal Republic of Germany; CCJWA Presidents Rabbi Daniel Lieberman and Rev Dr Ian Tozer; and JCCWA President Geoff Midalia.

Guest speaker Mrs Darrilyn Dawson, in her keynote speech 'Our Children, Their Village, Our Future', asserted that each attendee had "a role in building a nurturing, positive environment that inspires those we inadvertently influence to respect both themselves and others". In referring to the "horrific event" that occurred on 7 October last year, she asserted the importance of not only remembering Kristallnacht, but of using the "tragic recent events as a catalyst to educate our children in understanding the past to ensure history does not repeat itself". Speaking of CCJWA, Mrs Dawson referred to the existence of such an entity as "critical in fostering understanding and respect for our differences" as well as "recognising and honouring our similarities."

Participants from three schools included musicians from Prendiville Catholic College, and readers from John Septimus Roe Anglican Community School, with Carmel Choir singing three songs, and four Carmel students providing moving accounts of how their Holocaust studies had impacted them personally.

Other highlights were Trevor Creewel's poignant cantillation of *El Malei Rachamim*; the lighting of the Candle of Hope by Xavier Bardill of JSR and Aaron Levine of Carmel; and the stirring Prayer for Peace spoken by Rev Marie Wilson. The *Exhortation*, delivered by Bishop Hans Christiansen, served as a reminder that since children learn by example, we have a responsibility to pursue peace, and to act justly, to safeguard our future world.

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Hon. Secretary, CCJWA