

- Ambra Laurenzi, President of the International Committee of Ravensbrück
- Survivors of Ravensbrück concentration camp
- Dr. Insa Eschebach, Director of the Ravensbrück Memorial
- Ladies and gentlemen,

“Every single day there stretched into eternity”: with these haunting words, a prisoner described her ordeal in Ravensbrück.

75 years ago, on 30 April 1945, the unfathomable suffering came to an end. The Red Army liberated the largest women’s concentration camp. Nobody will ever be able to forget this time; prisoners have suffered and will suffer from it for the rest of their lives. At Ravensbrück, more than 130,000 women, girls, children, but also 20,000 men were incarcerated. Tens of thousands were murdered; they died of hunger, disease or as victims of medical experiments. Robbed of their lives.

People who survived terror and torture there are watching us at this moment. My warmest welcome to you. For your commitment to the work of remembrance and reconciliation, I thank you sincerely.

Today, we remember the victims and also the survivors. It is our responsibility to remember the most abominable crime humans have ever committed against other humans. We seek to keep this alive in the consciousness of our society – and especially in that of our young people.

Authentic sites, such as Ravensbrück, are so very important to keep our memories from fading. Today, once again, it is important to be vigilant. Right-wing extremism poses one of the greatest threats of our times. Decades have passed since the Shoah, and yet, Jews in Germany are fearful once again. This grieves me deeply.

We are forever indebted to the victims of the National Socialists atrocities. We must preserve the victims’ legacy anew every day. By standing up for democracy and freedom and against nationalism and racism.

The millions who died in concentration camps and the survivors will continue to spread the message: "Never again!".