

## Justice for Uncompensated Survivors Today Act (JUST Act) Report: Key Findings

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## Summary of Key Findings

- “The report reflects the importance the U.S. government places on finding a measure of justice for Holocaust victims, survivors, and their heirs and is intended to encourage reflection on best practices that might be employed to fulfill commitments countries took upon themselves by endorsing the Terezin Declaration.”
- “In 2009, the Terezin Declaration recognized the urgency of aiding needy Holocaust survivors. Ten years later, the imperative to ensure that survivors can live their final days with dignity is greater than ever.”

### Private Property

- “The report notes that a handful of the countries that endorsed the Terezin Declaration have yet to pass laws that facilitate the restitution of immovable property. In countries that have adopted such legislation, too many claimants face discrimination based on citizenship and residency or are otherwise unable to benefit due to overly complicated administrative barriers.”
- “Bureaucratic inertia has delayed the resolution of too many restitution claims; in the case of some countries, this inertia continues decades after submission of those claims.”

### Communal Property

- “Jewish communities throughout Europe continue to face challenges in recovering or receiving compensation for communal and religious properties confiscated, destroyed, or nationalized in the Holocaust or Communist eras.”
- “Over the last 75 years, the inability of many Jewish communities to regain ownership of the synagogues, schools, and community centers that once sustained religious and communal life has had far-reaching, negative effects, likely exacerbating the shrinking of Jewish communities in several European countries in the years after the devastation of the Holocaust.”

### Heirless Property

- “In a key determination, the Terezin Declaration recognized that the vast majority of Holocaust victims died heirless, with entire families wiped out, and highlighted the potential for Holocaust- era property to provide a basis for addressing the material necessities for needy survivors and to ensure ongoing education about the causes and consequences of the Holocaust.”
- “Participating countries in the 2009 Prague Conference considered that, given the unique circumstances of the Holocaust, it would be inappropriate for property rendered heirless by the extermination of Jews to revert to the state.”
- “Unfortunately, restitution or compensation for immovable private property with no living heirs has moved more slowly than any other aspect of Holocaust-era restitution over the last 10 years.”

### Art and Cultural Property

- “[T]here is much left to do to identify looted art and facilitate a fair solution for its return to rightful owners or their heirs.”
- “In most European countries, too many public and private art museums still do not conduct provenance research on their art collections, research that is essential to providing information about potential claims for Nazi-confiscated art.”

## Poland

**Background:** Of the approximately 3,300,000 Jews who lived in Poland prior to the Second World War, about 90% were killed in the Holocaust. 75 years after the Holocaust and over a quarter-century after the fall of the Iron Curtain, Polish Holocaust survivors and their families – as well as non-Jewish property owners from Poland – continue to wait for Poland to return or provide compensation for property plundered by the Germans and their collaborators during the Holocaust and/or nationalized by the Communist regime.

**Action Items:** Poland should pass comprehensive national legislation to provide restitution of, or compensation for, private property and establish a dedicated private claims process outside the court system. Poland should also speed up the process of reviewing the remaining communal property claims that were submitted almost 20 years ago.

### Key Report Findings:

#### Private Property

- “Poland, which had the largest European Jewish community before the outbreak of World War II (approximately 3.3 million), also has not yet enacted comprehensive legislation on national property restitution or compensation covering Holocaust confiscations. This makes Poland the only European Union member state with significant Holocaust-era property issues not to have done so.”
- In the absence of legislation, the Polish court system does not provide an alternative for most Holocaust survivors and their descendants: “Holocaust survivors and their descendants who are American citizens report that the processes required to reclaim their private real property through the Polish court system or through settlements with the national or local governments are lengthy, cumbersome, costly, and largely ineffective.”
- The 1960 U.S.-Poland indemnification agreement “did not cover those who were Polish citizens at the time their property was seized and only later became naturalized U.S. citizens; it therefore excluded most Polish Holocaust survivors and their families.”
- While Poland did pass laws for the “Bug River” (territory lost in the Second World War) and Warsaw, even in these laws Holocaust survivors struggle to seek compensation:
  - For the 2005 Bug River law: “Holocaust survivors, their families, and any others who did not retain their Polish citizenship were excluded.”
  - A 2015 law that permits the City of Warsaw to terminate postwar claims that have remained inactive particularly harms foreign citizens: “Some outside observers, as well as American citizen claimants and their lawyers, reported that the administration of the law makes it almost impossible for claimants successfully to reclaim their property. Specifically, some claimants have said that the law did not allow enough time to complete succession (inheritance) proceedings in Polish courts, which the law requires, despite the fact that in other circumstances Polish inheritance law recognizes heirs as determined under U.S. law.”

#### Communal Property

- “Bureaucracy, weak political will, and related issues have hindered resolution of Jewish communal property claims in many countries. In Poland, for example, approximately half of the 5,500 Jewish communal property claims filed under a 1997 restitution law remain unresolved, and approximately half of the adjudicated claims were rejected.”

## Heirless Property

- “Poland has not passed a law to address the significant amount of private property left heirless by the Holocaust. Instead, heirless property is governed by Polish inheritance law, which requires that such property be returned to the local municipality or national treasury.”

## Art and Cultural Property

- “There is no law in place covering the restitution of Jewish-owned cultural and religious movable property. Cultural institutions in Poland generally do not conduct provenance research on their own collections and, in the few cases where they have done so, did not make the findings publicly available.”
- Poland has not returned artworks and artifacts that originally belonged to foreign Jewish communities: “In particular, the Jewish community in Thessaloniki, Greece has requested the return of Nazi-looted ritual objects and artifacts.”

## Hungary

**Background:** Approximately 550,000 Hungarian Jews were killed during the Holocaust and Jews were systematically robbed of their every possession. In 2007, Hungary agreed to address the urgent needs of Holocaust survivors by providing an initial \$21 million down payment on heirless and unclaimed property, while government experts conducted research to identify property wrongfully taken from Jewish victims during the Holocaust.

**Action Items:** The Hungarian Government should negotiate with the WJRO to resolve outstanding Holocaust restitution issues, including heirless and unclaimed property.

### Key Report Findings:

- “[I]nternational experts say concerns remain in the area of immovable private and heirless property and with restitution of looted art”.

## Heirless Property

- “The Paris Peace Treaty of 1947, of which Hungary was a party, required heirless and otherwise unclaimed Jewish property to be returned to the Jewish community for “relief and rehabilitation” of Holocaust survivors and to help reinvigorate the Hungarian Jewish community. Partial implementation did not begin until the transition from Communism in 1989-1990. While the treaty specifically required Hungary to return heirless and unclaimed property, under Hungarian law, heirless property belongs to the state, not to the deceased’s community. In 1993, the Constitutional Court directed the Hungarian government to implement the Paris Peace Treaty.”
- “The WJRO negotiated with the Hungarian government in 2007 an interim \$21 million payment, as an advance on an expected, subsequent agreement providing more comprehensive compensation for property formerly owned by Jews that was confiscated or nationalized during the Holocaust era and which was heirless or unclaimed.”

## Private Property

- “Several laws from 1991 to 1992 dealt with the restitution of private property confiscated during World War II and/or subsequently nationalized by the Communist regime. However, claimants faced numerous procedural challenges, including: the problematic claims process for potential claimants of confiscated private property because no restitution of the items taken was possible; the small percentage of a property’s market value offered

as compensation; citizenship and residence requirements that limited compensation to those who were Hungarian citizens at the time the property was seized or on the date of the law was enacted, or foreign nationals with a primary residence in Hungary in December 1990; the narrow definition of “heirs;” limited archival access and privacy laws that made ownership documents difficult to obtain; limited worldwide notification of the claims process; slow processing of claims; and payment delays.”

### **Art and Cultural Property**

- “Hungary has done research on looted art in its possession, and there is a database held by the National Gallery. However, access to these sources is strictly classified, complicating efforts to return artworks and other cultural property.”
- “The largest unsettled case of stolen art during and after World War II is the Herzog collection.”
- “Nazis and Hungarian officials discovered and looted the collection. Some of the works ended up in the private collection of Adolf Eichmann; others were seized by the Soviets. However, a large number of them are in the possession of the Museum of Fine Arts, the Hungarian National Gallery, and other state-owned Hungarian museums.”

## **Romania**

**Background:** Approximately 725,000 Jews lived in pre-war Romania. It is estimated that over 300,000 Romanian Jews were murdered during the Holocaust, and only about 8,000-10,000 currently live in the country. While Romania has passed laws for private and communal property restitution, the process has been slow and claimants face continuing administrative difficulties. Further, Romania has not addressed heirless or unclaimed property.

**Action Items:** Romania should address problems that have delayed restitution of private property and Jewish communal property, using the Working Group with WJRO; pass legislation providing restitution of, or compensation for, heirless property; and make the application process for a monthly pension less burdensome for those Romanian Holocaust survivors living outside of Romania.

### **Key Report Findings:**

#### **Communal Property**

- “During the Holocaust, the regime seized cemeteries, synagogues, schools, hospitals, and other types of Jewish communal or religious property. Under Romanian law, the Jewish community is entitled to receive compensation for buildings and land confiscated or nationalized between September 6, 1940, and December 22, 1989.”
- However the majority of communal properties have not been returned - “The Caritatea Foundation [a partnership of WJRO and the Federation of Jewish Communities in Romania] has obtained restitution or compensation for 40 percent of the communal properties it identified.”

#### **Private Property**

- “In Romania, Holocaust-era private property legislation exists, but the claims process has been difficult for U.S. and foreign citizen survivors and, in practice, has made it nearly impossible for people outside the country to qualify.”

## Heirless Property

- “The 1947 Treaty of Paris requires Romania to return heirless and unclaimed property to the Jewish community. Romania enacted legislation in 1948 (Law No. 113) designed to implement the Treaty by transferring property belonging to victims of racial or religious persecution to organizations that would benefit remaining members of the community.”
- “According to a 2016 report by the European Shoah Legacy Institute, the law ‘was never fully or meaningfully implemented.’”

## Pensions

- “Romanian and foreign citizens who were persecuted based on ethnic or religious criteria between 1940 and 1945 are entitled to a monthly pension.”
- However, “For survivors who left at a young age and do not speak Romanian, submission of the application and additional documents in Romanian creates barriers.”

## Latvia

**Background:** Approximately 95,000 Jews lived in Latvia prior to the Holocaust – only about 9,500 currently reside in the country. To date, Latvia has provided restitution for only a small number of Jewish communal properties.

**Action Items:** Latvia should pass legislation, introduced in June 2019, to address outstanding Jewish property claims, including remaining Jewish communal properties.

## Key Report Findings:

### Communal Property

- “From 1991 to 2016, Latvia returned some of the communal and religious property confiscated during the Holocaust and Communist eras, but the Latvian Council of Jewish Communities has identified approximately 265 such properties that still need to be returned.”
- “In mid-2019, the country’s new coalition government expressed a willingness to take up the remaining restitution issues, but as of October 2019, the parliament had not adopted the government’s draft legislation.”

### Private Property

- “Some individuals continue to try to pursue private property claims in the country, pointing to the obstacles they faced in meeting the short submission claims filing period. This is especially true for Latvians who fled the country after WWII and did not retain Latvian citizenship.”

## Lithuania

**Background:** During World War II, the Nazis and local collaborators annihilated over 90% of the 220,000 Jews in Lithuania. About 5,000 Jews currently live there. Lithuania has implemented a claims program for the restitution of, or compensation for, confiscated private property, but the program excluded most Lithuanian Jews living abroad. Lithuania enacted legislation providing for compensation for certain confiscated, formerly Jewish owned, communal property.

**Action Items:** Lithuania should address the exclusion of many Lithuanian Jewish survivors and their families from the private property restitution process.

## **Key Report Findings:**

### **Private Property**

- Lithuania “has more work to do regarding private property restitution, especially with regard to American citizens and others who did not maintain their Lithuanian citizenship.”
- “Currently, no mechanism exists to provide private property restitution for persons who were only able to prove or reclaim Lithuanian citizenship after 2001 or who have not regained their citizenship.”

### **Communal Property**

- “In 2011, Lithuania passed important legislation for communal property restitution.”
- “The foundation created by the 2011 law assists Lithuanian Holocaust survivors and supports the overall well-being of the country’s Jewish community.”

### **Heirless Property**

- “Lithuania has no law for the restitution of Holocaust-era heirless property.”

## **Croatia**

**Background:** Of the more than 25,000 Jews who lived in what is now Croatia before the Second World War, only around 6,000 survived the Holocaust. Currently, about 2,000 Jews live in Croatia.

**Action Items:** Croatia should pass legislation to address comprehensively restitution of private property, including for foreign citizens of Croatian descent. Croatia should provide restitution for the remaining Jewish communal properties. Croatia should establish a general fund or foundation for restitution to support the needs of aging Holocaust survivors, and other purposes.

## **Key Report Findings:**

- “Croatia does not have adequate legal mechanisms to address Holocaust-era property restitution, and the government generally has not demonstrated the political will to return property taken from Jews during the Holocaust and after WWII.”
- “The U.S. government has long advocated with the Croatian government for restitution of Jewish individual and communal property, and for Croatia to develop a mechanism to address issues related to Jewish property rendered heirless as a result of the Holocaust.”

### **Private property**

- “Most Holocaust survivors and heirs have not been able to file private property claims under Croatia’s restitution law because of citizenship restrictions and other procedural hurdles, and there is a general lack of political will to address the issue.”
- The government estimated 345 resolved or pending Jewish private property claims. However: “The WJRO stated its research showed government figures represented only a very small percentage of properties seized during the Holocaust era; the organization’s research found that there were 2,161 seized private real property units in Zagreb alone.”

### **Communal Property**

- “Jewish communities throughout Europe continue to face challenges in recovering or receiving compensation for communal and religious properties confiscated, destroyed, or nationalized in the Holocaust or Communist eras. In Croatia, for instance, restitution

efforts for such properties have been complicated by the fact that many buildings were used for communal rather than religious purposes or were owned by a legal entity that was separate from the official Jewish community.”

- “In a 2019 report submitted to the European Parliament, the Jewish Community of Zagreb estimated that Croatia had returned no more than 2 percent of the value of Jewish communal and private property seized during the Holocaust.”

### **Heirless Property**

- “Many private properties seized in Croatia during the Holocaust era have no heirs, and Croatia has no mechanism to resolve heirless property issues. In April 2019, the U.S. government and WJRO proposed that Croatia establish a foundation to support Holocaust survivors, funded by a fraction of the proceeds from sales of these heirless properties. However, as of October 2019, Croatia had not formally responded to this proposal.”

### **Art and Cultural Property**

- “Croatia has taken some positive steps in provenance research, although not on restitution of looted art.”
- “According to the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference) and local sources, a significant amount of art held in state-owned museums – and an indeterminate amount in private holdings – is of unknown origin, and Ustasha or Nazis may have confiscated it from Jews during WWII.”

## **Netherlands**

**Background:** In 2005, the Dutch National Railway (NS) officially apologized for its role in deporting over 107,000 Dutch Jews to the transit camp Westerbork, before being transported to other concentration and extermination camps, including Auschwitz, Vught, Amersfoort, and Sobibor. Of those transported, 95% were murdered, only about 5,200 survived.

**Action Items:** NS should implement its own advisory committee’s recommendation to provide, in consultation with the World Jewish Restitution Organization and Dutch Jewish community, a “collective expression” for more than 100,000 Jews who were exterminated after being transported on NS trains during the Holocaust.

### **Key Report Findings:**

#### **Dutch National Railways**

- “Dutch Railways announced in 2019 that it will pay individual compensation for damages to roughly 5,000-6,000 Holocaust survivors and their surviving spouses and children for the company’s role in transporting victims to the Westerbork transit camp during the war, but the company has not taken steps to recognize the suffering of those who perished.”
- “An independent committee recommended NS also work with organizations representing Jews, Roma, and Sinti on an appropriate way to recognize the suffering of those who did not survive and had no surviving partner or child. The Central Jewish Council stated, ‘Justice is done to the survivors and next of kin with compensation in three categories. However, 80 percent of the Dutch Jews did not survive WWII and NS owes them too.’”

## Art and Cultural Property

- “The Netherlands, which had done exemplary provenance research and restitution, recently adopted a “balancing test” that gives its museums the right to retain Nazi-confiscated artworks if their interests outweigh those of representatives of families from whom the Nazis confiscated the art.”

## Luxembourg

**Background:** At the time the Nazis invaded Luxembourg in 1940, approximately 3,900 Jews lived in the country – approximately 75 percent of whom were non-citizens. After the Holocaust, these non-citizens were largely excluded from the restitution process. In 2019, the Prime Minister established a Working Group on Outstanding Restitution Issues with WJRO and the Consistoire Israelite.

**Action Items:** Luxembourg should provide restitution or compensation for property not returned, including heirless property.

### Key Report Findings:

#### Private Property and Dormant Bank Accounts

- “[E]xisting restitution and compensation laws only cover Luxembourg Jews or Jews from countries covered by reciprocity agreements. Given that more than 70 percent of Luxembourg’s pre- WWII Jewish population was non-citizens of Luxembourg, with only a small fraction coming from countries covered by reciprocity agreements, Jewish community groups state that more than two-thirds of Luxembourg’s Jewish population was not compensated, especially with regard to wrongfully seized or transferred assets.”
- “The WJRO and Jewish community have argued that additional research and access to bank archives is needed to shed light on the issue of dormant accounts.”
- “The government acknowledges there are unaddressed restitution issues. In February 2019, the prime minister agreed to the creation of a Working Group on Outstanding Holocaust Asset Issues encompassing representatives of the Luxembourg government, the WJRO, and the Luxembourg Jewish community.”

#### Heirless Property

- “Luxembourg has not passed legislation specifically to address Holocaust-era heirless property.”

## Moldova

**Background:** Prior to the Holocaust, approximately 275,000 Jews lived throughout present-day Moldova. Between 45,000 and 60,000 Jews were exterminated in the territory, while over 100,000 more were killed after being deported to concentration camps.

**Action Items:** Moldova should pass comprehensive legislation to provide restitution of, or compensation for, confiscated property, including Jewish communal property.

## **Key Report Findings:**

### **Communal Property**

- “The country does not have laws on restitution of communal property or Holocaust-era heirless property.”
- “Despite recent progress in addressing longstanding issues important to the Jewish community in Moldova, the government has not enacted comprehensive restitution legislation for communal or private property confiscated during the Holocaust nor arranged for proper financial compensation to the Jewish community.”

### **Private Property**

- Moldova’s 1992 Law on the Rehabilitation of Victims of Political Reprisals “specifically refers to private property restoration for victims of the Soviet regime but makes no mention of Holocaust-era property confiscations.”

## **Slovenia**

**Background:** Prior to the Holocaust, approximately 1,300 Jews lived in Slovenia – only about 130 Jewish people currently reside in the country.

**Action Items:** Slovenia should address the exclusion of foreign citizens and Holocaust-era seizures from its Denationalization Law, including Slovenian Jews who fled the Nazis or who immigrated to Israel after the war. Slovenia should provide restitution of, or compensation for, heirless and unclaimed Jewish property

## **Key Report Findings:**

### **Private Property**

- “Private property restitution provisions included in the Denationalization Act of 1991 required claimants to have had Yugoslav citizenship at the time their property was confiscated, and with some exceptions, it generally excluded property confiscated before 1945.”
- “Slovenians who emigrated to Israel between 1948 and 1950 were pressured to renounce their Yugoslav citizenship and forfeit their property to the state as a prerequisite to leaving the country.”
- “As a result, Slovenian Jewish Holocaust survivors and descendants of those who perished were largely unable to benefit from the law’s property restitution procedures.”
- “NGOs and advocacy groups report that the government has not made sufficient progress on the resolution of Holocaust-era claims. These reports come from former citizens who were required to renounce Yugoslav citizenship as a condition for emigrating and Holocaust survivors from Yugoslavia and their heirs who did not return and thus never had Yugoslav citizenship.”

### **Heirless Property**

- “[M]ost Holocaust-era property claims in the country are categorized as heirless property for which there is no provision in the law for restitution or compensation.
- “In 2018, the World Jewish Restitution Organization (WJRO) and the Ministry of Justice agreed to launch a joint research project to establish the scope and value of heirless properties in the country. The research teams expected to complete the study by the end of 2019.”

## Belgium

**Background:** The National Railway Company of Belgium (NMBS/SNCB) deported Jews on 28 convoys from Mechelen to extermination camps during the Holocaust - approximately 95 percent of the over 25,000 Jews who were on these convoys perished

**Action Items:** The Belgian government should open an investigation into the role of the railway, and, after completion of the investigation, consider establishing a program to provide compensation and include a recognition of the thousands of Jews who perished.

### Key Report Findings:

#### National Railway

- “[T]he Belgian House of Representatives passed a resolution calling for the federal government to launch a thorough survey” on “the role of the Belgian railway in transporting Jews and other victims to concentration camps” during the Holocaust.
- “As the federal government was in caretaker status as of late 2019, it will be up to the next government to act on this issue.”

## Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Background:** Prior to the Holocaust, approximately 14,000 Jews lived in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including 12,000 in Sarajevo. After World War II, approximately 2,000 returned, and today, about 1,000 Jewish people reside in the country.

**Action Items:** Bosnia should pass legislation for the restitution of, or compensation for, immovable communal or private property, as well as heirless property, wrongfully seized during the Holocaust era.

### Key Report Findings:

- “At the state level, there has been a lack of political will to adopt a law on restitution.”

#### Communal Property

- “[T]here is not yet a state-level law on restitution. Due to the lack of such a legal framework for property restitution, the Jewish Community of BiH does not have a legal mechanism to formally request the return of its property. Furthermore, the governments of BiH’s two sub-state entities – the Federation and Republika Srpska (RS) – have made no meaningful attempts to resolve this matter.”
- “Local politicians often dole out seized properties as political favors, primarily to the ethnic or religious majority populations in their areas.”
- “Due to both the small size of the Jewish population and its lack of political influence, the *ad hoc* system of limited, in-kind restitution of personal and/or communal property has excluded the Jewish community.”

#### Private Property

- “[I]ndividual real property claims are waiting for the legal framework to be established before deciding how to pursue their claims.”

## Bulgaria

### Key Report Findings:

- “Bulgaria has no restitution legislation for confiscated heirless property but is a party to the Paris Peace Treaty of 1947, which calls for the return of unclaimed and heirless Jewish property.”

## North Macedonia

**Background:** Approximately 8,000 Jews lived in North Macedonia prior to the Holocaust – less than 10 percent survived. Only about 200 Jews live in the country today. North Macedonia’s 2000 Denationalization Law addresses private, communal and heirless property, but excluded people who are now citizens of other countries.

**Action Items:** North Macedonia should address the exclusion of foreign citizens from the private property restitution process.

### Key Report Findings:

- “The Jewish community reported no outstanding claims for immovable property in North Macedonia, although they added that foreign citizens can still seek compensation in civil proceedings.”
- However, the WJRO has “expressed concern that the 2000 Denationalization Law excluded claimants and heirs who were no longer citizens, including Holocaust survivors and their families who now live in the United States or other countries.” “The WJRO subsequently estimated that there were approximately 100 outstanding claims”.

## Russia

### Key Report Findings:

- “Russia endorsed the Terezin Declaration in 2009, but due to a lack of data, it is difficult to assess the degree to which Russia has implemented restitution laws.”

### Private Property

- “There are no known laws or special mechanisms enabling the return of, or compensation for, private property or heirless property confiscated or nationalized during the Holocaust era.”

### Communal Property

- “Despite having the requisite legal framework in place for return of religious property, restitution of such property to the Jewish community has been slow in practice and few claims have been submitted.”

### Art and Cultural Property

- “Russia, meanwhile, has essentially nationalized most art and cultural property taken by the Soviet Trophy Brigades, which sent valuables back to Russia from occupied territories (including Germany) in 1945. Despite having enacted a law based upon the 1998 Washington Principles on Nazi-Confiscated Art, Russia has done little to conduct provenance research or to retribute or compensate for art recovered at the end of WWII that had been confiscated by the Nazis from Jewish and non-Jewish victims.”

## Serbia

**Background:** Approximately 35,000 Jews lived in Serbia before the Holocaust – about 85% were murdered. Today only between 600 and 3,000 Jews are estimated to live in the country.

**Action Items:** Serbia should continue to implement legislation providing restitution and/or compensation for heirless Jewish property taken during the Holocaust.

### Key Report Findings:

#### Heirless Property

- “In February 2016, Serbia became the first country following the 2009 Terezin Declaration to pass a law aimed at returning unclaimed and heirless Jewish property taken during the Holocaust and/or subsequently nationalized during communist rule.” “Most stakeholders in the Jewish community report general satisfaction with government responsiveness and facilitation in claims processing under the law.”

#### Communal Property

- “The 2006 law regulates the return of communal religious property of churches and other religious communities in the country confiscated after March 1945, thereby excluding properties taken during World War II.”

#### Private Property

- “The 2011 law provided for the return of private property, with a two-year window for filing claims.” However, the WJRO noted “that the two-year period to file claims was insufficient because it did not take into account the difficulties for elderly Holocaust victims or their descendants, both in Serbia and throughout the world, to become aware of the opportunity to submit claims, obtain all required documents, and secure needed assistance for submitting claims.”

## Ukraine

### Key Report Findings:

#### Private and Heirless Property

- “Ukraine has no specific legislation regarding the restitution of Holocaust-era private property or heirless property, and the new government has not announced any plans to introduce such legislation.”
- “Citizens and non-citizens can file claims in court, but the Department of State is not aware of any ongoing or successful cases.”

#### Communal Property

- There is no law that regulates the restitution of communal property, other than the 1991 Law on the Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations and a number of government decrees, under which “religious organizations are eligible for restitution of property nationalized during the Soviet Period”. Even then, “only places of worship and religious artifacts immediately necessary for religious services are subject to restitution.”