**Concept Note**

*Documentary film screening with the exhibition on the life of Joe Veselsky*

29 April 2025, 13:00 – 15:00 CET

**“Extraordinary Joe”**



**Date and Venue:** 29 April 2025, 13:00 – 15:00 CET, *in person*, Palace of Nations, E40-Building, room XXV

**Registration:** to entry the Palais des Nations via Peace Gate the online registration is obligatory through INDICO: <https://indico.un.org/event/1016383/>

**Proposer:** Permanent Mission of Slovakia (further “PM SK”) to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva.

**Background:** Antisemitism is unfortunately omnipresent in our lives and showing concrete signs of dangerous rise. Talking about the past, teach about the tragic events, describe numerous personal stories form an integral part of complex awareness raising about the holocaust. Knowing better our common history is indispensable prerequisite to learn from it and help us to effectively prevent any forms of intolerance, hate or even violence.

This event has the ambition to support the work of international community in combating antisemitism.

The PM SK plans to continue presenting successful athletes who were persecuted during World War II because of their Jewish origin. The event, the screening of a documentary film associated with the exhibition, will be held in the context of the fight against racism and all forms of intolerance and discrimination.

**Objectives of the event:**

To pay tribute to Jozef “Joe” Veselsky (1918), born in Slovakia, the oldest living participant of the Slovak National Uprising (further “SNU”), who emigrated in 1948 and nowadays lives in Ireland. However, he still maintains intensive contacts with Slovakia. The 28-minute-long documentary captures his fascinating story of how he survived the Holocaust and became a top table tennis player who had a reputation in sports circles as an encouraging person who broke down prejudices and rejected discrimination.

The organization of the event represents a confirmation of the attention that the Slovak Republic has been paying to the fight against anti-Semitism and intolerance for a long time. With this event, PM of Slovakia, in cooperation with the, the World Jewish Congress (further “WJC”) and the Swaythling Club International (further “SCI”), plans to raise awareness of the prominent athlete Joe Veselsky, the only living founder of SCI, the director of the most famous Irish football club, Shamrock Rovers, and Vice President of UCD Dublin. The documentary film directed by Martin Mózer entitled "Extraordinary Joe" presents the life of Joe Veselsky, whose parents and his brother perished in the concentration camp in Auschwitz.

Joe Veselsky is the holder of several awards: in 2007 he received a high state award from the President of the Slovak Republic - Order of the White Double Cross III. class, the Slovak Union of Anti-Fascist Fighters awarded him with a diploma of the 1st degree M.R. Štefánik and in 2018 the Minister of Foreign Affairs awarded him a diploma in Dublin. The goal of the event is to point out the pernicious influence of Nazi ideology in sports.

In cooperation with Martin Mózer, editor of the TV JOJ, WJC and SCI, the PM SK will present an exhibition consisting of 7 information panels about the life and work of Joe Veselsky associated with the presentation of some of his personal belongings.

**Programme of the event:**

1. opening remarks – PM SK, SCI
2. documentary film screening
3. presentation by Mr. Martin Mózer and commented viewing of the exhibition
4. informal discussions - questions and answers
5. cocktail hosted by PM SK

*Co-sponsors:* WJC, SCI

**Participants:** This event should bring together representatives of diplomatic missions, academic and sports circles in Geneva.

**Curator:**

M.A. Martin Mózer, is a television journalist and filmmaker.

“Since 2002 he has been working as a chief editor for Slovakian news channel TV JOJ, where he covered all the major events abroad. He made a television documentary, Forgotten Children's Express, which is the story about The Ten boys of Bratislava fleeing Nazi persecution. He is the director of the Exhibition and documentary dedicated to Aron Grünhut – Rescuer of the Jews and human rights defender. He also covered the story of the famous wrestler David Unreich who stand against Hitler's totalitarian regime, he also directed the documentary about the outstanding rabbi Chasam Sofer's family."

**ANNOTATION OF THE PRESENTATION:**

The exhibition commemorates the life journey of Joe Veselsky (1918) the oldest survivor of the Holocaust, successful table tennis player and the only living founder of SCI.

   