

11. European Workshop

On dealing with the past of Auschwitz burdened by violence

Invitation to broaden perspectives

*2020 August 11 – 16,
Centre for Dialogue and Prayer
Oswiecim, Poland*



Within the framework of the workshop 25 representatives of different European societies are invited to enter a joint process of learning on dealing with the experience of violence and its consequences in the exemplary analysis of the present significance of Auschwitz.

Analyzing Auschwitz and its consequences – beyond the concrete case – gets an exemplary meaning for dealing with violence experience and its after-effects in general. Auschwitz stands for experiences having a lasting effect on the identity of our civilization. Europe has been marked and hurt by the experience of violence in the 20th century. Auschwitz and the connected experiences symbolized by Auschwitz are playing an important role in this context. This is also shown in the different forms, contents, functions and ways Auschwitz is remembered by different European societies. These differences which are based on varying historical experience and contexts have great impact on the relationships within societies as well as between nations.

The workshop wants to invite the participants to jointly visualize the experiences made in connection with Auschwitz and to reflect on the different perspectives and contexts of experience and interpretation contributed by the participants. It is essential to make these differences visible and to make them comprehensible to one another and to oneself so that the negative impact of the history of violence might be overcome.

In addition to the joint learning efforts of the participants, the project aims at giving a concrete testimony of the Church's efforts to achieve a treatment of the history of violence aiming at reconciliation, at solidarity with the survivors, at respect for the sufferings of the victims which is marked by an understanding and the responsibility for the tense after-effects of this history.

Finally, the workshop is meant to give an impulse for the work of the participants in their individual contexts. The joint reflection on the role of the Church when dealing with a past burdened by violence is an indispensable component of our path.

Program

Tuesday, 11 August

THE GROUP

- Arrival until 03:00 p.m.
- 03:30 p.m. Introduction into the aims and the programme of the Workshop
- **Dr Jörg Lüer**
Vice-president Maximilian-Kolbe-Foundation, Germany
- **Marta Titaniec**
Polish Council for Jewish-Christian-Relations, Poland
- Detailed introduction of the participants
- 06:00 p.m. Dinner
- 07:00 p.m. “Dealing with violent burdened past as a challenge”
- **Andrzej Kacorzyk**
Vice Director Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial

Wednesday, 12 August

THE CAMP

- 07:30 a.m. Eucharistic Mass
- 08:00 a.m. Breakfast
- 08:45 a.m. Guided tour through the basic camp Auschwitz
- 12:45 p.m. Lunch
- 01:45 p.m. Guided tour through Auschwitz – Birkenau
- 06:00 p.m. Supper
- 07:00 p.m. Exchange in small groups and plenary session

Thursday, 13 August

THE SURVIVORS

- 07:30 a.m. Eucharistic Mass
- 08:00 a.m. Breakfast
- 09:00 a.m. Visit of Kolodziej exhibition
- **Rev Dr Manfred Deselaers**
Centre for Dialogue and Prayer, Poland
- 11:30 p.m. Meeting in Plenary
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch
- 02:00 p.m. Guided tour to Oswiecim (Old Marketplace, Jewish Centre, Maximilian Kolbe church, Living in Oswiecim after WWII)

06:00 p.m.	Supper
07:00 p.m.	“Remembrance, truth and temptation” <i>Archbishop Prof Dr Ludwig Schick, Bamberg</i>

Friday, 14 August

DEALING WITH HISTORY AS A CHALLENGE

08:00 a.m.	Breakfast
10:30 a.m.	Celebration of Eucharistic Mass on the occasion of the 79 th Anniversary of P. Kolbe’s death
01:00 p.m.	Lunch
02:00 p.m.	Visit to the national exhibitions
04:00 p.m.	Coffee break
04:30 p.m.	Lectures by participants on World War II and Auschwitz as it is remembered in their countries (I) - <i>Dr Urszula Pekala, Poland</i> - <i>Dr Jörg Lüer, Germany</i> <i>Discussion</i>
06:00 p.m.	Supper
07:00 p.m.	Lectures by participants on World War II and Auschwitz as it is remembered in their countries (II) - <i>N.N., Baltic States.</i> - <i>Hrystyna Rutar, Ukraine.</i> <i>Discussion</i>

Saturday, 15 August

07:30 a.m.	Eucharistic Mass
08:00 a.m.	Breakfast
09:00 a.m.	OPEN SPACE 1
10:30 a.m.	Coffee break
11:00 a.m.	OPEN SPACE 2
01:00 p.m.	Lunch
03:00 p.m.	OPEN SPACE 3
04:30 p.m.	Coffee break

05:00 p.m. Plenary session
Report from the **OPEN SPACE**, discussion

07:00 p.m. Dinner – Celebration - Music

Sunday, 16 August

07:30 a.m. Eucharistic Mass

08:00 a.m. Breakfast

08:45 a.m. **Spiritual reflection - Way of the Cross**
- *Rev Dr Manfred Deselaers,*
Centre for Dialogue and Prayer, Poland

11:30 p.m. Feedback and reflection on the workshop

12:00 p.m. Lunch

End and departures of the participants

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Languages at the conference: **English, Polish and German**

Location of the workshop:

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