

13. European Workshop

On dealing with the past of Auschwitz burdened by violence

Invitation to broaden perspectives

*2022 August 11 – 16,
Centre for Dialogue and Prayer
Oswiecim, Poland*



Since 2010 the Maximilian-Kolbe-Foundation organizes an annual workshop on dealing with the past of Auschwitz burdened by violence. Within the framework of the workshop 30 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 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 intends 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. The workshop intends to give an impulse for the work of the participants in their individual contexts.

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. The joint and self-critical reflection on the role of the Church when dealing with a past burdened by violence is an indispensable component of our work.

Program

Thursday, 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 Kacorzuk**
Vice-Director Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial

Friday, 12 August THE CAMP

- 07:15 a.m. Eucharistic Mass
- 07:45 a.m. Breakfast
- 08:25 a.m. Guided tour through the Basic camp of 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

Saturday, 13 August THE SURVIVORS

- 07:30 a.m. Eucharistic Mass
- 08:00 a.m. Breakfast
- Meeting the survivors
Video (ZOOM) conference with survivors
- 09:30 a.m. - **Marian Turski**
- 10:30 a.m. Coffee Break
- 10:50 a.m. - **Krystyna Budnicka**
- 12:30 a.m. Meeting in Plenary

01:00 p.m.	Lunch
02:30 p.m.	Visit of Marian Kolodziej exhibition in Harmeze - Rev Dr Manfred Deselaers <i>Centre for Dialogue and Prayer, Poland</i>
04:30 p.m.	Coffee break
05:00 p.m.	Meeting in Plenary
06:00 p.m.	Supper
07:00 p.m.	“Remembrance, truth and temptation” - Bishop Dr. Joseph-Marie Ndi-Okalla, Cameroon Reflections on the role of the Church in dealing with the past burdened by violence Discussion

Sunday, 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 81 th Anniversary of P. Kolbe’s death
01:00 p.m.	Lunch
02:15 p.m.	“Where am I” Extended guided tour to Oswiecim (Old Marketplace, Jewish Centre, Maximilian Kolbe church, Living in Oswiecim after WWII) - Dr. Piotr Setkiewicz, Museum Auschwitz
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 (I) - Dr Jörg Lüer, Germany Vice-president Maximilian-Kolbe-Foundation - Dr Robert Zurek, Poland Director, Foundation Kreisau für europäische Verständigung Discussion

Monday, 15 August

07:30 a.m.	Eucharistic Mass
08:30 a.m.	Breakfast
09:30 a.m.	Lectures by participants on World War II and Auschwitz as it is remembered in their countries (II) - Dr Iryna Starovyit, Ukraine Researcher, Catholic University of Lviv

- **Dr Gints Apals, Latvia,**
Researcher and Head of Museum of the Occupation of Latvian

Discussion

10:30 a.m. Coffee break

11:00 a.m. **OPEN SPACE 1**

01:00 p.m. Lunch

03:00 p.m. **OPEN SPACE 2**

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

Tuesday, 16 August

07:15 a.m. Breakfast

08:15 a.m. **Spiritual reflection - Way of the Cross**
- **Rev Dr Manfred Deselaers,**
Centre for Dialogue and Prayer, Poland

10:30 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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Auswärtiges Amt