

14. European Workshop

On dealing with the past of Auschwitz burdened by violence

Invitation to broaden perspectives

*2023 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.

Analysing 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

Friday, 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

Saturday, 12 August

THE CAMP

- 07:00 a.m. Eucharistic Mass
- 07:30 a.m. Breakfast
- 08:20 a.m. Walk to the Basic camp
- 09:00 a.m. Guided tour through the Basic camp of Auschwitz
- 12:45 p.m. Lunch
- 01:45 p.m. Departure by bus
- 02:00 p.m. Guided tour through Auschwitz – Birkenau
- 06:00 p.m. Supper
- 07:00 p.m. Exchange in small groups and plenary session

Sunday, 13 August

THE SURVIVORS

- 07:30 a.m. Eucharistic Mass
- 08:00 a.m. Breakfast
- Meeting the survivors
- 09:30 a.m. **Zdzislawa Wlodarczyk**
- 10.30 a.m. Coffee Break

10:50 a.m.	Grzegorz Tomaszewski
12:30 p.m.	Meeting in Plenary
01:00 p.m.	Lunch
02:15 p.m.	Departure by bus
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” - Erzbischof Dr em Ludwig Schick Reflections on the role of the Church in dealing with the past burdened by violence Discussion

Monday, 14 August

DEALING WITH HISTORY AS A CHALLENGE

08:00 a.m.	Breakfast
09:45 a.m.	Walk to the Basic camp
10:30 a.m.	Celebration of Eucharistic Mass on the occasion of the 82nd Anniversary of P. Kolbe’s death
01:00 p.m.	Lunch
02:00 p.m.	Transfer by bus “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 Robert Zurek, Poland <i>Director, Stiftung Kreisau für Europäische Verständigung</i> - Dr Jörg Lüer, Germany - N.N., Ukraine Discussion

Tuesday, 15 August

07:30 a.m.	Eucharistic Mass
08:00 a.m.	Breakfast
09:00 a.m.	Lectures by participants on World War II and Auschwitz as it is remembered in their countries (II) <i>- Kristi Leps, Estonia</i> <i>- Igljka Lutzkanova, Bulgaria</i> <i>- N.N., Bosnia and Herzegovina</i>
	Discussion
10:45 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

Wednesday, 16 August

07:15 a.m.	Breakfast
08:00 a.m.	Transfer by bus
	Spiritual reflection - Way of the Cross <i>- Rev Dr Manfred Deselaers,</i> <i>Centre for Dialogue and Prayer, Poland</i>
11:00 a.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