

15th European Workshop

On dealing with the past of Auschwitz burdened by violence.

Invitation to broaden perspectives.

*2024 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

| Sunday, 11 August | THE GROUP |
|--------------------------|--|
| | Arrival until 03:00 p.m. |
| 04:00 p.m. | Introduction into the aims and the programme of the Workshop - Dr Jörg Lüer <i>Vice-president Maximilian-Kolbe-Foundation, Germany</i> - Marta Titaniec <i>Polish Council for Jewish-Christian-Relations, Poland</i> |
| | Detailed introduction of the participants |
| 06:00 p.m. | Dinner |
| 07:00 p.m. | "Dealing with violent burdened past as a challenge". - Bartosz Bartyzel (tbc) <i>Press Spokesperson and Head of the Press Office of the Auschwitz Museum</i> |
| Monday, 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 |

Tuesday, 13 August**THE SURVIVORS**

| | |
|------------|--|
| 07:30 a.m. | Eucharistic Mass |
| 08:00 a.m. | Breakfast |
| | Meeting the survivors |
| 09:30 a.m. | - Zdzisława Włodarczyk (tbc) |
| 10.30 a.m. | Coffee Break |
| 10:50 a.m. | - Grzegorz Tomaszewski (tbc) |
| 12:30 a.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. | "Reconciliation from the Church's Perspective" - Prof Dr Ludwig Schick, (tbc) <i>Archbishop em. of Diocese Bamberg, President of the Board of Trustees Maximilian-Kolbe-Foundation</i> The role of the Church in dealing with the past burdened by violence. Discussion |

Wednesday, 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 83rd Anniversary of P. Kolbe's death |
| 01:00 p.m. | Lunch |

| | |
|------------|---|
| 02:00 p.m. | Transfer by bus |
| | <p>"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</p> |
| 06:00 p.m. | Supper |
| 07:00 p.m. | <p>Lectures by participants on World War II and Auschwitz as it is remembered in their countries (I)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr Robert Zurek, Poland Director, Foundation Kreisau für europäische Verständigung - Dr Jörg Lüer, Germany Vice-President, Maximilian-Kolbe-Stiftung - N.N., Ukraine <p>Discussion</p> |

Thursday, 15 August

| | |
|------------|---|
| 07:30 a.m. | Eucharistic Mass |
| 08:00 a.m. | Breakfast |
| 09:00 a.m. | <p>Lectures by participants on World War II and Auschwitz as it is remembered in their countries (II)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - N.N., ... - N.N., ... - N.N., ... <p>Discussion</p> |
| 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

Friday, 16 August

- 07:15 a.m. Breakfast
- 08:00 a.m. Transfer by bus
- Spiritual reflection - Way of the Cross**
- **Rev Dr Manfred Deselaers,**
Centre for Dialogue and Prayer, Poland
- 11:00 a.m. Feedback and reflection on the workshop
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch
- End and departures of the participants.

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

Location of the workshop:

Krakowska Fundacja
Centrum Dialogu i Modlitwy w Oświęcimiu
1 M. Kolbego St.
32-602 Oświęcim
phone: +48 (33) 843 10 00
phone: +48 (33) 843 08 88
fax: +48 (33) 843 10 01
Education Department: education@cdim.pl
Reception: reception@cdim.pl Homepage: www.cdim.pl

This 15. European Workshop on the topic „Dealing with the past of Auschwitz burdened by violence“ is organized by the Maximilian-Kolbe-Foundation.

The workshop is financially supported by Renovabis and the German Foreign Ministry (tbc)

