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EMORIA

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86TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEPORTATION OF THE FIRST POLES TO KL AUSCHWITZ. NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

LIBERATION:
GUSEN, EBENSEE,
MAUTHAUSEN,
MELK

WHEN NEUTRALITY
BECOMES
COMPLICITY:
LESSONS ON
MORAL COURAGE
FROM FASPE

DIGITAL
MAJDANEK

EUROPEAN
SITES OF
HOLOCAUST
MEMORY
(ESHEM)

TABLE OF CONTENT

86TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEPORTATION OF THE FIRST POLES
TO KL AUSCHWITZ - NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

LIBERATION: GUSEN, EBENSEE, MAUTHAUSEN, MELK

INTERNATIONAL FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN FOR THE ACQUISITION
AND PRESERVATION OF HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS

WHEN NEUTRALITY BECOMES COMPLICITY:
LESSONS ON MORAL COURAGE FROM FASPE

DIGITAL MAJDANEK

YAD VASHEM TO ESTABLISH
HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTER IN MUNICH

HAMPTON SCHOOL SECURES SECOND QUALITY MARK
FOR HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

EUROPEAN SITES OF HOLOCAUST MEMORY (ESHEM)

RETHINKING HOLOCAUST HISTORY
THROUGH GEOSPATIAL APPROACHES

EXPANDING THE FRONTIERS OF REMEMBRANCE

"MEMORY OF PLACE, PLACES OF MEMORY"

JEWISH CULTURAL HERITAGE 2026–2031

'HIERARCHS ON THE RUN. WHERE THE NAZIS ESCAPED,
WHO HELPED THEM AND WHO WELCOMED THEM' EXHIBITION

We invite all of you to work closely with us. We would be grateful to receive information about events, projects, publications, exhibitions, conferences or research that we should share with our readers. We also accept proposals for articles.

Paweł Sawicki, Editor-in-Chief

Our e-mail: memoria@auschwitz.org

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All editions: memoria.auschwitz.org

86TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEPORTATION OF THE FIRST POLES TO KL AUSCHWITZ. NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

June 14, 1940, is recognized as the date marking the beginning of the operation of the German Nazi concentration and extermination camp Auschwitz. On that day, the Germans deported a group of 728 Poles from the prison in Tarnów to Auschwitz. Among them were soldiers of the September Campaign, members of underground independence organizations, high school and university students, as well as a small group of Polish Jews. They were assigned camp numbers from 31 to 758.



The commemoration of the 86th anniversary of this event was held under the Honorary Patronage of the President of the Republic of Poland, Karol Nawrocki. By decision of the Polish Parliament, June 14 is observed as the National Day of Remembrance for Victims of German Nazi Concentration Camps and Extermination Camps.

The commemorative events held at the Memorial were attended by 13 Auschwitz Survivors, Minister of Culture and National Heritage Marta Cienkowska, as well as representatives of the President of the Republic of Poland, national and local authorities,



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The commemorative events held at the Memorial were attended by 13 Auschwitz Survivors, Minister of Culture and National Heritage Marta Cienkowska, as well as representatives of the President of the Republic of Poland, national and local authorities, the diplomatic corps, churches and religious communities, the Roma community, state institutions, associations and foundations, delegations of the organisers of the commemoration event, numerous institutions and civil society organisations, as well as all those wishing to honour the memory of the victims of the German Nazis.

In her address, Minister Marta Cienkowska said: "History shows that great tragedies do not begin with camps, barbed wire, or gas chambers. They begin much earlier. They begin with words that divide people into 'us' and 'them'. With acceptance of the language of contempt. With indifference to the exclusion of others. With the belief that someone else's dignity may be less important than our own," she said.

"That is precisely why remembrance remains a contemporary task. Not in order to compare the present with the past, but so that we do not lose the ability to recognize boundaries that must never be crossed. And I believe that remembrance is one of the foundations of a responsible society," added Minister Marta Cienkowska.

"Today, we bow our heads before all the victims of German Nazi concentration camps and extermination camps. The fullest expression of respect for the victims is not merely words of remembrance. It is a world in which one person is capable of standing up for another, a world in which no one remains indifferent to hatred. Because remembrance is important. But perhaps what matters even more is simply what we do with that remembrance," she emphasized.

A letter addressed to the participants in the commemoration by the President of the

Knowledge of a true industry of extermination organized on Polish soil by the German occupiers.”

“That is why, pursuant to a resolution of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland, each year we observe the National Day of Remembrance of the Victims of German Nazi Concentration Camps and Extermination Camps. In this way, we fulfill the sacred duty of honoring our murdered compatriots and fellow citizens and of recalling the truth about the perpetrators of these crimes and the responsibility for them. We also call upon the world never to forget the martyrdom of those who were murdered and never again to disregard attempts to spread ideologies and provoke wars driven by hatred, chauvinistic contempt, and aggressive imperial militarism,” wrote President Karol Nawrocki.

The Polish national anthem was played in front of Block 11. At the Death Wall in the courtyard of Block 11, participants in the commemoration laid wreaths and candles in memory of all the victims of the German Nazi concentration and extermination camp Auschwitz.

Minister Marta Cienkowska and Bishop Roman Pindel also visited the site where the first conserved postwar memorial markers have been placed. Until now, they had been located on authentic post-camp buildings or within the historic space of the former camp. The items placed there are a stone from Jerusalem, left at the Museum in 1992 by Israeli President Chaim Herzog, which had stood in front of Block 27, as well as two plaques from the mid-1990s from the wall of Block 15, dedicated to scouts imprisoned in Auschwitz and members of the Home Army active in the area around the camp. All remaining plaques previously placed on historic structures at the Memorial are expected to be moved to the new location later this year.

On 14 June, wreaths were also laid at the plaque commemorating the first transport on



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Organizer of the commemoration event:

- Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum

Coorganizers:

- St. Maximilian Center in Harmęże
- Cavalry Captain Witold Pilecki State University of Małopolska in Oświęcim

with

- Auschwitz Jewish Center Foundation
- Auschwitz Memento Association
- Center of Roma History and Culture
- Bielsko-Żywiec Diocesan Curia
- Castle Museum in Oświęcim
- Department of the Institute of National Remembrance (IPN) in Kraków
- Foundation for International Youth Meeting Center in Oświęcim
- Foundation for the Memory of Auschwitz-Birkenau Victims
- Foundation of Memory Sites Near Auschwitz-Birkenau
- Foundation Monument-Hospice for the Town of Oświęcim
- Jewish Center in Oświęcim
- Kraków Foundation Center for Information, Meeting, Dialogue, Education and Prayer in Oświęcim

LIBERATION: GUSEN, EBENSEE, MAUTHAUSEN, MELK

On 9 May, a commemorative ceremony marking the liberation of the Gusen subcamp was held at the former Gusen concentration camp. The focus was on shared international remembrance and responsibility for the future. Approximately 1,000 visitors took part.

Since 2023, the commemorative ceremony in Gusen has been organised in cooperation between the Gusen Memorial Committee and the Mauthausen Memorial. This cooperation has significantly strengthened remembrance work at the Gusen site and has contributed substantially to a deeper engagement with its history. Particular thanks are due to the survivors, relatives and initiatives that have upheld remembrance over many decades.

The commemorative event took place at the former roll call square in Gusen. Speeches by national and international representatives addressed, under the shared motto "We stand together", topics such as social cohesion and solidarity. They also underlined the significance of Gusen as part of the Mauthausen concentration camp system and the need to keep its history visible.

The project to expand and redesign the memorial site, led jointly by the Mauthausen Memorial and the Burghauptmannschaft Österreich, will make an important contribution to this effort. "We all have it in our hands to bring Gusen to life," said Barbara Glück, Director of the Mauthausen Memorial.

On the same day the international commemorative ceremony marking the 81st anniversary of the liberation of the concentration camp took place at the Ebensee Memorial. Numerous guests from Austria and abroad gathered to commemorate the victims of National Socialism and to send a message of remembrance and responsibility. The event was organised by the Ebensee Museum of Contemporary History.

In their welcoming remarks, Mayor Sabine Promberger and Stephan Matyus, Head of the Memorial Office of the Mauthausen Memorial, emphasised the importance of an active culture of remembrance. The declaration by the mayors of the Salzkammergut, "Together against right-wing extremism", was also presented. It stressed: "Where democracy dies, human rights are never safe."

At the centre of the ceremony were speeches by relatives and international representatives: Shimon Shahar, son of survivor Zvi Smitmaier; Aline Dreyer, representing the Belgian Amicale; and Gabriele Alberti, President of ANED Prato.

On 10 May, the International Commemoration and Liberation Ceremony marking the 81st anniversary of the liberation of the Mauthausen concentration camp took place at the Mauthausen Memorial.

Thousands of visitors, as well as international delegations, survivors, relatives, young people and representatives of numerous initiatives, gathered to commemorate the victims of National Socialism and to send a clear message against forgetting. The event was organised by the Mauthausen Committee Austria.

This year's ceremony focused on the theme "Perpetrators". At its centre was reflection on the many people who supported and enabled the National Socialist camp system, as



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INTERNATIONAL FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN FOR THE ACQUISITION AND PRESERVATION OF HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS

The Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation has launched the international fundraising campaign "Camp Mail – Purchase of Documents," aimed at acquiring and preserving original documents related to German Nazi concentration and extermination camps.

"The impetus for launching this initiative was an auction scheduled to take place in North Rhine-Westphalia in November 2025. More than 600 original documents originating from concentration camps, ghettos, and other sites of German crimes were put up for sale," said Wojciech Soczewica, CEO of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation. "Among them were postcards and letters sent by prisoners, camp administration documents, correspondence cards, and other authentic testimonies of the Holocaust. These materials are of invaluable importance for education about the crimes of the Second World War and could have ended up in private collections or been misused. International protests led to the suspension of the auction and contributed to safeguarding the dignity of the victims," he added. Thanks to the support of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, donors, and a financial guarantee provided by the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation, a significant portion of these materials was successfully acquired. The documents will be transferred to the Memorial, where they will be professionally preserved, archived, and made available to researchers and educators.

The Foundation emphasizes that these documents possess exceptional historical and moral value. They are not only sources of knowledge about the functioning of the German Nazi system of terror, but above all personal traces of the lives of the victims. Preserved correspondence, official forms, and everyday items help us better understand the experiences of prisoners and the scale of the Holocaust.

As the Foundation notes, during the implementation of the project it became apparent that there is a vast and alarming trade in original camp documents and memorabilia connected with victims of Nazi crimes. Such materials increasingly appear at auctions or enter private collections, where they may be permanently lost to scholarly research and historical education. In response, the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation launched a programme to acquire and safeguard such artefacts. Its purpose is not only to protect the documents themselves, but also to preserve the memory of the victims, counteract the commercialization of Holocaust testimonies, and ensure that these materials remain accessible to future generations.

"Objects and documents connected with the history of extermination centres and concentration camps are not only evidence of crimes against humanity that are not subject to any statute of limitations, but also powerful source materials for the work of historians and researchers. Every time a document relating to a particular individual passes into private hands, that victim is removed from the body of material that can be studied and

Herrn Peter Mogut, Radom, Bronistr. Nr. 4. w. 2.

Betr. Tadeusz Mogut, Gef. 219 K.L. Auschwitz U/S

Den uns durch die Postsparkasse zugekommenen Betrag von Zloty...⁵⁰... rücküberweisen wir Ihnen nach Abzug unserer Spesen gleichfalls durch die Postsparkasse, da lt. Anordnung der Devisenstelle Krakau ab 1.4.42. Unterstützungszahlungen an Insassen in Konzentrationslagern bis auf weiteres nicht mehr zulässig sind.

krakau, den 13.5.42

Creditanstalt-Bankverein
Filiale Krakau

Przekazana nam przez PKO wyżej wymienioną kwotę zwracamy W Panu/om/ i po potrąceniu naszych kosztów, również przez PKO, ponieważ przekazywanie zapomóg dla przebywających w obozach koncentracyjnych jest w myśl zarządzenia Devisenstelle Krakau od 1.4.42. aż do odwołania niedopuszczalne.

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Account details:

Account holder: Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation

IBAN: DE32 3506 0190 0020 0920 09

SWIFT/BIC: GENODED1DKD

Transfer reference: "Camp Mail – Purchase of Documents"

WHEN NEUTRALITY BECOMES COMPLICITY: LESSONS ON MORAL COURAGE FROM FASPE

Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics (FASPE) promotes ethical leadership for today's professionals through annual fellowships, ethical leadership trainings, and symposia, among other means. Each year, FASPE awards 80 to 90 fellowships to graduate students and early-career professionals in six fields: Business, Clergy & Religious Leaders, Design & Technology, Journalism, Law, and Medicine. Fellowships begin with immersive site-specific study in Germany and Poland, including at Auschwitz and other historically significant sites associated with Nazi-era professionals. While there, fellows study Nazi-era professionals' surprisingly mundane and familiar motivations and decision-making as a reflection-based framework to apply to ethical pitfalls in their own lives. We find that the power of place translates history into the present, creating urgency in ethical reflection.

Each month one of our fellows publishes a piece in *Memoria*. Their work reflects FASPE's unique approach to professional ethics and highlights the need for thoughtful ethical reflection today.

During my time as a FASPE Fellow, I found myself asking several questions I never thought I'd wrestle with so deeply. Questions sat with me, followed me, and disturbed me as I observed the documented atrocities on the trip. One of those questions was: am I watching, or am I witnessing?

We traveled through Germany and Poland, walking in places where history still breathes, in conference rooms where people designed and communicated evil, in corporate buildings where they bartered ethics, and in Auschwitz-Birkenau, where humanity itself seemed to collapse. That journey did not just leave me with knowledge. It left me with questions. Uncomfortable, probing questions that still sit with me.

Since then, I have come to the realization that watching is passive, standing by while life happens. Witnessing, on the other hand, carries weight. To witness is to be implicated, to acknowledge, to take responsibility for what my eyes have seen undeterred by possible ramifications.

And then there is the harder question: am I complicit, or am I courageous? In our FASPE sessions, we explored how ordinary professionals such as lawyers, doctors, and business leaders rationalized their complicity during the Nazi era. They did their jobs, claimed moral neutrality, and let ambition guide them down a slippery slope. Visiting Auschwitz-Birkenau made that history real: I walked through rooms of shoes, glasses, prayer shawls, prosthetic legs—everyday items stripped from people before their lives were taken. I thought not only about the victims but also about the bystanders. The guards. The sympathizers. The ones who knew and said nothing. Were they watching? Or were they witnessing, choosing complicity? What would I have done?

But then I remember the story of the little Polish girl who buried apples for the prisoners to find. She was not powerful, not armed, not in control of the system. But she witnessed. She



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So no, I'm not different by nature. My difference must be chosen, even deliberately cultivated, in the moment: noticing, naming, and acting. That's the seed of courage. In that sense, I appreciate those sessions during the fellowship when we paused to reflect, notice, name, and act—building my moral agency.

What happens to my moral compass if I keep seeing wrongdoing and still remain silent? Silence is not neutral; it edits me. If I keep quiet long enough, my compass does not just "freeze." It recalibrates to the room.

Ann Tenbrunsel and David Messick call this ethical fading—the ethical dimensions of a choice fade from view as I reframe it as "business," "policy," or "efficiency."⁵ I preserve my self-image while my actions drift. That is the danger: I can be wrong and still feel right.

Albert Bandura describes moral disengagement: how we soothe ourselves by sanitizing language ("collateral damage"), diffusing responsibility ("everyone signed off"), minimizing harm, or blaming or dehumanizing the target.⁶ The more I repeat these moves, the less my conscience enters the equation.

There is also the slippery slope. Tiny compromises teach my brain that the new line is fine; next time the line moves again. Studies show dishonesty can escalate gradually as our emotional alarm dulls with repetition like a dimmer switch on our consciences.⁷

Put plainly: repeated silence becomes a workshop where my better self is slowly re-engineered into a comfortable self. And that's why small acts matter. When I speak up, help, or dissent, I keep my compass calibrated. The little Polish girl hiding apples was not "fixing



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The Time-Travel Test. In five years, when the heat has cooled, will I be proud I did this, or will I explain it away as "context"? If future-me winces, present-me should pause.

The Audience-of-One Test. Could I explain this choice to a younger version of me who still believed the honor code I signed in my second year of college: "I will not lie, steal, or cheat, nor tolerate those who do"? If that kid looks confused, I need to re-align.

And because I'm human, and therefore could be biased, I invite others into the loop:

Circle of Advisors. Two or three truth-tellers with the right to blow the siren. If I notice I'm only calling comforters, that's a sign I'm shopping for rationalizations, not wisdom.

Pre-commitments. My red lines written in calm times: "I will not target the vulnerable," "I will not falsify numbers," and "I will not retaliate against dissent." Pre-commitments beat adrenaline.

Micro-bravery. A script I can actually say under pressure: "I'm not comfortable with this as stated," "can we add a 'human impact' line to the slide," "before we green light this, can we hear one dissenter?" Small sentences that keep my courage muscles active.

The Good / Right / Fitting check.

Good (utilitarian): does this minimize harm and maximize human well-being?

Right (principled): would this be acceptable as a universal rule?

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Notes

- ¹ Arendt, H. (1963). *Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil*. Viking Press.
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- ⁶ Bandura, A. (1999). Moral disengagement in the perpetration of inhumanities. *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, 3(3), 193–209.
- ⁷ Welsh, D. T., Ordóñez, L. D., Snyder, D. G., & Christian, M. S. (2015). The slippery slope: How small ethical transgressions pave the way for larger future transgressions. *Journal of Applied Psychology*, 100(1), 114–127.
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- ⁹ Festinger, L. (1957). *A Theory of Cognitive Dissonance*. Stanford University Press.

FASPE

Fellowships at
Auschwitz
for the Study of
Professional Ethics

WATCH A SHORT FILM ABOUT FASPE



DIGITAL MAJDANEK

We are launching a website providing access to historical materials related to the German concentration camp KL Lublin and the extermination camps in Bełżec and Sobibór.

Thanks to this platform, researchers, historians, families of victims, and internet users from around the world will be able to freely browse valuable documents and photographs. By making them available online, we aim to significantly broaden access to these materials and thus increase awareness of the history of the camps and the realities of the German occupation.

The database, which initially contains detailed information about 300 objects, will be continuously expanded with further documents and photographs. Ultimately, the photographic collection will also include lesser-known materials or those not previously published. The platform will also feature digital representations of post-camp artefacts, while the collection is complemented by information about testimonies of witnesses and former prisoners of Majdanek held in the Museum archive. Each object has its own detailed description, placing it within a broader historical context.

THE DOLL FROM MAJDANEK

A prisoner doll made by unknown female prisoners. It is dressed in a striped dress sewn from original camp fabric and a striped jacket with the camp number "1108".

THE WATCH FROM SOBIBÓR

A round pocket watch with a plastic crystal, preserved separately. The brass casing features decorative vertical grooves and a floral motif. At the top, a round winding crown is mounted on a horizontal base decorated with a symmetrical ornament. The dial is round, cream-coloured, and covered with a rhomboid chequered texture. The numerals are large and slightly slanted. Below the "12", in an oval border, is the company name: "LANCO" (the company existed from 1873 to 1973). The hour hands are missing. At the bottom, in a circle, there is a minute counter with one surviving hand, currently immobile. The back casing of the watch is missing, revealing the mechanism, which bears the markings: "15 RUBIS / LANCO" and, below, the letters "F / A" and "S / R" separated by a vertical arrow pointing upwards.

SS MUG

A mug probably used in the SS canteen or barracks. Made of thick white porcelain stoneware.

The mug is cylindrical in shape and has a capacity of approximately 0.5 litres. It is made of thick porcelain stoneware. The rim is slightly rounded. The handle is cut away, in the form of a large loop. In the lower part of the vessel, around the base, there is an indented raised section. On the bottom are dark green marks: the inscription "VICTORIA" with a crown above it, and below it the inscription "Waffen SS". The inventory number has been applied in black marker to the lower part of the vessel.



Lalka w ubraniu ...



Pejcz ze stalowego drutu



Kubek Waffen SS



Element biżuterii – broszki



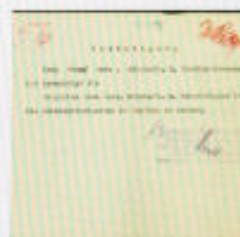
Identyfikator obozowy z numerem więźniarskim księdm...



Czapka więźniarska



Przykrywka drewniana z paczki adr...



Zaświadczenie upra...

Thanks to this platform, researchers, historians, families of victims, and internet users from around the world will be able to freely browse valuable documents and photographs. By making them available online, we aim to significantly broaden access to these materials and thus increase awareness of the history of the camps and the realities of the German occupation.

The database, which initially contains detailed information about 300 objects, will be continuously expanded with further documents and photographs. Ultimately, the photographic collection will also include lesser-known materials or those not previously published. The platform will also feature digital representations of post-camp artefacts, while the collection is complemented by information about testimonies of witnesses and former prisoners of Majdanek held in the Museum archive. Each object has its own detailed description, placing it within a broader

YAD VASHEM TO ESTABLISH HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTER IN MUNICH

Yad Vashem will establish a Holocaust Education Center in Munich, Germany, strengthening its global outreach to advance Holocaust education and remembrance, at a time of growing distortion and rising antisemitism worldwide. The center's location was chosen after an extensive nationwide survey and rigorous field research, with support from the German government.

This new Education Center, Yad Vashem's first outside Israel, will be established at Karolinenplatz in central Munich, Bavaria. Munich was chosen for its strategic location and educational landscape, making it an ideal base for Holocaust education. Together with Yad Vashem's expertise in remembrance, documentation, and teaching, the center is designed to have the greatest possible educational reach and impact. While located in Munich, it is intended to serve as a national platform for audiences across Germany and neighboring countries.

Yad Vashem will also offer to open an extension of its Education Center in Leipzig, Saxony, which will feature interactive learning spaces and will reach out to educators throughout the region and in neighboring countries. In addition, Yad Vashem will broaden its long-standing educational partnership with North Rhine-Westphalia to start the process of developing the Yad Vashem Holocaust Education Center into a nationwide cooperation model.

Yad Vashem Chairman Dani Dayan said: "As we move further from the era of living survivor testimony, historically grounded Holocaust education is more important than ever. Through this Education Center, Yad Vashem will bring to Germany its unique educational approach at a critical juncture of growing Holocaust distortion, denial, and antisemitism. The choice of Munich, the birthplace of the Nazi Party, carries deep symbolic significance and reflects the importance of confronting this history where it began. Working together with our German partners, this center will help ensure that the truth of the Holocaust is preserved and passed on to future generations."

Federal Education Minister Karin Prien: "The Yad Vashem educational center in Germany is entering its next phase. The aim is to strengthen Holocaust education and remembrance, and to combat antisemitism across Germany and Europe. Knowledge of the past is essential to preventing such evil in the future. Many young people in Germany still know too little about the Shoah - the systematic murder of millions of Jews under National Socialism. The Free State of Bavaria, and Minister-President Markus Söder personally, have for decades demonstrated a strong commitment to Jewish life in Germany and to the fight against antisemitism.

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Yad Vashem's educational expertise helps convey the perspective of the victims more effectively through innovative formats, and to train multipliers nationwide. The federal government will continue to support the establishment of the center and assist Yad Vashem in organizational and legal matters. In addition, pilot projects are being funded to enable the educational center to have an immediate impact. I would also like to extend special thanks to Michael Kretschmer and Hendrik Wüst. Through their strong support for their states' applications, the Minister-Presidents of Saxony and North Rhine-Westphalia have demonstrated that remembrance and the fight against antisemitism are national responsibilities. With an additional site in Leipzig, Yad Vashem will from the outset work conceptually for the entire country."

HAMPTON SCHOOL SECURES SECOND QUALITY MARK FOR HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

We are delighted to announce that Hampton School has been successfully reaccredited with the UCL Centre for Holocaust Education Quality Mark, recognising its sustained excellence and continued innovation in Holocaust teaching and learning.

The reaccreditation follows a rigorous review process that highlighted Hampton's deeply research informed curriculum, exceptional classroom practice, and the intellectual and ethical maturity shown by its students. Hampton first became a UCL Beacon School in 2015–16 and achieved its initial Quality Mark in 2022. This second award confirms the school's position as a national leader in Holocaust education.

Research informed, conceptually rich curriculum

The review commended the school's significant deepening of its Holocaust curriculum since 2022. Drawing extensively on UCL research into students' misconceptions, the History department has redesigned its scheme of work to pre-empt common misunderstandings and strengthen disciplinary thinking. Inspectors praised the curriculum's conceptual spine – evidence, interpretation, continuity and change, similarity and difference – and its integration of cutting edge historiography, including the Holocaust in the East, gendered experiences, collaboration, and The Ravine.

The report noted that Hampton's curriculum 'acts as a bridge between emergent historical scholarship and classroom practice,' enabling students to challenge assumptions, interrogate sources and develop nuanced understandings of responsibility, motivation and human behaviour.

Exceptional teaching and student engagement

The observed lesson was 'exceptional in both planning and delivery,' showcasing expert questioning, adaptive teaching, trauma aware practice and the Centre's signature 'slow reveal' pedagogy. Students demonstrated sophisticated historical literacy, emotional intelligence and critical thinking, with reviewers noting their ability to analyse multilingual sources, challenge misconceptions and articulate complex ideas with precision.

Student voice was a particular strength. Hampton pupils were praised for their empathy, intellectual curiosity and civic awareness, with the review describing them as 'living evidence of a curriculum that cultivates knowledge, criticality and ethical maturity.'

A whole school commitment

The reaccreditation also recognised the school's strong leadership and collaborative culture. Lead Teacher Mr Andy Lawrence, SLT Lead Mr Mark Nicholson, and colleagues Mrs Holly Partridge and Mrs Sarah Willcox were commended for their expertise, humility and shared pedagogical vision. Holocaust education at Hampton is reinforced across RS, Geography, PSHE and enrichment, creating a coherent, layered learning experience.



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EUROPEAN SITES OF HOLOCAUST MEMORY (ESHM)

European Commission's Initiative connecting Holocaust Sites across Europe and beyond

As the last witnesses of the Holocaust pass away, the responsibility for preserving its memory is undergoing a profound transformation. Given the dispersed nature of the Shoah and the vast legacy of violence inscribed across the landscapes of Europe and beyond, there is an urgent need for a coordinated and future-oriented approach.

European Sites of Holocaust Memory (ESHM), officially launched in January 2026, is a network responding to this exact need: connecting people and organisations that safeguard historical Holocaust sites across Europe to strengthen their role in research, education, and commemoration.

ESHM is a European Commission initiative and part of the EU Strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life (2021-2030). The project is implemented by an international consortium led by GOPA PACE in partnership with the Zapomniane Foundation, the FestivALT Association, the Urban Memory Foundation, and GOPA Com.

ESHM's first year of activity, 2025, has been dedicated, among other things, to gathering the voices of stakeholders to map the needs of the diverse custodians of Holocaust sites – including institutions, NGOs, and informal groups – as well as to better understand their most pressing challenges and identify inspiring practices from across the field.

In early February 2026, ESHM launched its first Call for Membership. The results will be announced soon, and the first Members will be officially welcomed into the network during the ESHM Ceremony and Conference held in Brussels this November.

Looking ahead, ESHM plans to further expand its activities through capacity-building workshops and other opportunities for collaboration and knowledge exchange.

As an initiative that does not operate in isolation, ESHM is already collaborating with organisations such as the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI), and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA). ESHM continues to seek new partnerships and collaborations, while also encouraging additional Holocaust sites to join the network – a second Call for Membership is planned for late 2026/early 2027.

Everyone interested in ESHM's work is invited to subscribe to its newsletter, "Imprints," which – alongside the official website – remains the primary channel of communication with stakeholders and the public.



ESHM

European Sites
of Holocaust Memory

RETHINKING HOLOCAUST HISTORY THROUGH GEOSPATIAL APPROACHES

From May 18th until May 19th 2026, a transnational EHRI-ERIC Workshop “Rethinking Holocaust History through Geospatial Approaches” was held in Prague. It was led by the Masaryk Institute and Archives of the Czech Academy of Sciences (EHRI-CZ) in cooperation with the Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance (EHRI-AT). The workshop combined theoretical presentations with practical hands-on sessions.

Among the workshop’s participants were researchers and archivists from Austria, Croatia, Czechia, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Poland, the United Kingdom and the United States. The workshop therefore actively encouraged and welcomed participants from countries outside the EHRI national nodes, notably France, Greece, Italy, and the USA. The workshop demonstrated the growing importance of GIS-based and spatial approaches in Holocaust research.

The workshop opened with a keynote by Anne Knowles, who reflected on the possibilities and challenges of spatially representing the Holocaust. She emphasized the importance of moving beyond a focus on a limited number of well-known sites and instead considering the broader geography of persecution, displacement, and survival. Her remarks provided a conceptual framework for many of the subsequent discussions.

The first panel “GIS Perspectives on Ghettos and Camps” highlighted how spatial analysis can reveal patterns of persecution, confinement, mobility and survival that are less visible in traditional historical narratives.

The next panel “Mapping Persecution: HGIS Approaches to the Holocaust” explored the spatial dimensions of economic persecution, memory landscapes, and the transformation of archival and testimonial sources into geospatial data by highlighting different HGIS projects.

Day two saw the panel “Geospatial Approaches to Holocaust Narratives” dealing with literature and testimonies. Using survivor testimonies and personal narratives, the panel explored innovative ways of connecting microhistorical perspectives with larger geographical and historical processes by integrating individual experiences.

A hands-on element “Tools, Infrastructure and New Approaches” offered three parallel sessions, focusing on the EHRI Geospatial Repository, GIS in Historical Research and and Atlas of Holocaust Literature in Łódź. The three hands-on sessions were led by representatives of three different EHRI nodes – Israel, Poland, and Czechia – further demonstrating the transnational cooperation fostered within EHRI-ERIC.



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EXPANDING THE FRONTIERS OF REMEMBRANCE

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) has concluded its first Plenary under Argentina's Presidency, held in Buenos Aires from 1 – 4 June.

The Plenary brought together Heads of Delegation, experts, and international partners from across the IHRA to advance cooperation on Holocaust remembrance, remembrance of the genocide of the Roma – across education, research and related policy initiatives, and countering antisemitism.

Under the theme "Expanding the Frontiers of Remembrance," the Argentine Presidency marks a historic milestone for the Alliance. A full member of the IHRA for more than two decades, Argentina is the first South American country to chair the organization and host its Plenary meetings.

Javier Milei, President of Argentina, attended the opening ceremony at the start of the week, where he welcomed delegates to Buenos Aires and highlighted Argentina's commitment to Holocaust remembrance and combating antisemitism.



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“Argentina is honored to be the first Latin American country to chair the IHRA. Throughout this Presidency, we seek to strengthen remembrance, confront antisemitism, and expand this cause across our entire region.”

A common theme across the opening ceremony was the responsibility to ensure that the memory of the Holocaust and the genocide of the Roma continues to be carried forward for future generations. IHRA Secretary General Michaela Küchler emphasized that “remembrance does not preserve itself. It must be researched, recorded and passed forward.”

Argentine Foreign Minister Pablo Quirno similarly highlighted the need to extend remembrance beyond traditional commemorative spaces, observing that “memory cannot remain confined to commemorations, archives, or anniversaries. It must travel across generations, institutions, borders, and cultures.”

Ahead of the Plenary week, the Argentine presidency also marked the tenth anniversary of the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism with a conference entitled “Ten Years of the IHRA Working Definition – A Catalyst for Action Against Antisemitism – The Case of Argentina”.

The panels through the day explored the practical use of the Working Definition across sectors from universities to civil society, as well as its adoption and application in Argentina and across Latin America.

Opening the conference, IHRA Chair Marcelo Mindlin highlighted Argentina’s experience in translating the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism into practical action across government and civil society.

“First, we have had an anti-discrimination law since 1988. Furthermore, since the state’s adoption of the Working Definition of Antisemitism in 2020, many sectors of the Argentine

"MEMORY OF PLACE, PLACES OF MEMORY"

At the Warsaw headquarters of the Institute, we summed up several months of intensive work by 39 project groups from across Poland. The guest of honour at the event was Andrzej Poczobut.

Since February, project participants have been discovering, researching, and documenting selected histories connected with local places of memory. On 12 June, the hall of the Pilecki Institute turned into a project fair. Pupils from primary and secondary schools, members of non-governmental organisations, as well as independent researchers presented their work.

Some reached new, previously unknown sources; others focused on popularising little-known aspects of local history. Participants' stands were visited by experts in the popularisation of history, who spoke with the authors of the projects and shared their experience.

"These people, who went through the experience of fighting both totalitarianisms, can no longer tell their story. What remains after them is memory. And that is precisely why, if we want to be remembered, we should remember those who came before us," Andrzej Poczobut told those gathered at the ceremonial gala.

Andrzej Poczobut's visit during the final of the nationwide historical and educational project "Memory of Place, Places of Memory" also had exceptionally important and symbolic meaning for him personally.

"I believe that these places of memory will be important not only to you, but also to those to whom you will tell this history. Thank you very much for what you are doing," he said to the participants of the final gala.

Andrzej Poczobut admitted that Witold Pilecki is an important figure for him: "It was precisely their example [the generation of Witold Pilecki, which struggled against two totalitarianisms] that gave me strength. Thanks to them, I was able to get through all the experiences that befell me and become who I am today," said Andrzej Poczobut.

Although the project "Memory of Place, Places of Memory" is not a competition, the meeting concluded with a voluntary vote by participants for the most interesting initiative. The largest number of votes went to the "Searchers of Historical Traces" from Zgorzelec, who chose as the subject of their project the German transit camp for Jews in Prędocice.

To restore the memory of this forgotten place, they had to face many difficulties, including independently determining the exact location of the former camp. Our warm congratulations!



Fot. Jan Sochaczewski / Instytut Pileckiego

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JEWISH CULTURAL HERITAGE 2026–2031

POLIN Museum has launched the third edition of the “Jewish Cultural Heritage” project, whose aim is to protect and popularise Jewish heritage. The project emphasises historical and cultural education as important tools in combating antisemitism and prejudice, as well as in building a democratic society based on respect and openness.



Activities within the framework of the JCH project will be implemented over a five-year period, from 2026 to 2031. During this time, POLIN Museum will carry out 9,500 events, educational activities, and social initiatives, reaching more than 11.5 million recipients in Poland and abroad. This undertaking is made possible thanks to partnerships and support from the Norwegian Financial Mechanism and the state budget.

In the new edition of the “Jewish Cultural Heritage” programme, POLIN Museum is continuing and strengthening its existing educational and social activities. Innovative educational programmes will be developed as part of the project. The Museum also plans further digitisation and the provision of access to resources in order to ensure access to verified and reliable information and historical sources. Another element of the project is support for people involved in protecting and popularising Jewish heritage in small towns. The event inaugurating the project, with the participation of Minister of Culture and National Heritage Marta Cienkowska and the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway to Poland, Øystein Bø, was held at POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews.

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"This is an exceptional project, both on the scale of Poland and Europe, and an extremely important one, devoted to the protection, documentation, and dissemination of Jewish heritage, implemented thanks to funds from the Norwegian Financial Mechanism under the 'Culture' programme," said Marta Cienkowska, Minister of Culture and National Heritage,

Nine areas of activity

The third edition of the "Jewish Cultural Heritage" project consists of nine areas of targeted action:

Education for the future – workshops, classes, and on-site and online programmes for children, young people, families, and groups at risk of exclusion;

Daffodils Campaign – a nationwide social and educational campaign addressed to schools, libraries, and the general public;

Inclusive education – conferences and seminars for teachers, educators, and specialists working with various social groups;

Building relationships and understanding – cultural and public programmes for residents of Warsaw and audiences across Poland;

Understanding the past – digitisation and provision of access to documentation and collections, in cooperation with the Jewish Historical Institute;

Museum locally – support for leaders and institutions in smaller towns, in cooperation with the Forum for Dialogue Foundation;

Museum for young people – new educational tools and online activities aimed at teenagers and young adults;

Development of the core exhibition – updating educational content related to the exhibition "1000 Years of the History of Polish Jews";

Across borders – workshops and seminars carried out jointly with partners from Norway.

Project partners

The project leader is POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews. The partners in Poland are the Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute and the Forum for Dialogue Foundation.

'HIERARCHS ON THE RUN. WHERE THE NAZIS ESCAPED, WHO HELPED THEM AND WHO WELCOMED THEM' EXHIBITION

Until the end of August, the MEB-Jewish Museum of Bologna is hosting an exhibition entitled 'Hierarchs on the Run. Where the Nazis escaped, who helped them and who welcomed them', curated by Ivan Orsini, Emanuele Ottolenghi, and Francesca Panozzo.

The end of Nazism didn't coincide with the end of its hierarchs. Some were captured and put on trial in Nuremberg. In the chaos which followed the collapse of Nazi Germany, though, many of those responsible for the extermination of Jews and of war crimes simply went back home, where they lived undisturbed for a long time. Others, after finding a temporary refuge in Europe, managed to flee. They were often helped by support networks which got them fake documents to emigrate.

Among the many destinations chosen by members of various rank in the Nazi nomenclature, among which prominent figures such as Adolf Eichmann and his vice, Alois Brunner, along with soldiers, bureaucrats, scientists, and tormentors of every rank and background, Latin America and the Middle East stand out. Here, regimes partially inspired by Nazi-fascism welcomed them in, granted them asylum, and recruited them in the ranks of their bureaucracy, propaganda, and armed forces.

Many passed through Italy. Here, some high-ranking clergymen of the Catholic Church, such as bishop Alois Hudal, having chaos as their accomplice, helped them flee towards Latin America, where clerical-reactionary regimes such as that of Juan Perón in Argentina, didn't hesitate to welcome them, give them new identities, or, like in the case of Johann von Leers, a scholar, member of the SS later an employee of Goebbels' ministry of propaganda, allow them to continue their career of ruthless antisemitic propaganda.

In the meanwhile, in the Middle East, where the conflict between Jews and Arabs on the future of the British Mandate in Palestine already raged, Arab governments and Palestinian militias welcomed the fleeing hierarchs, enrolling them both to strengthen the war effort and, later, to help the new nationalist regimes to consolidate their power and launch a ruthless campaign of antisemitic propaganda against first the Jewish settlement and later the newborn Jewish state.

In the exhibition, we will tell you their stories, their routes, and the complicity which made their escape easier. Furthermore, the exhibition features an in-depth analysis of women and their role within the Third Reich; a section dedicated to the so-called

GERARCHI INFUGA ➤

DOVE
SCAPPARONO
I NAZISTI
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E CHI LI
ACCOLSE

25 GENNAIO
31 AGOSTO
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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Paweł Sawicki

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Agnieszka Juskowiak-Sawicka

EDITED BY

Bartosz Bartyzel
Marek Lach
Łukasz Lipiński

CONTACT

memoria@auschwitz.org

