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### "AUSCHWITZ. NOT LONG AGO. NOT FAR AWAY" **EXHIBITION OPENED AT THE REAGAN LIBRARY IN CALIFORNIA**

AROUND US A SEA SUMMARY OF THE **OF FIRE -**EXHIBITION AT **POLIN MUSEUM** 

EXPERT CONFERENCE ON THE GENOCIDE OF THE ROMA

**ART AND** LITERATURE OF THE HOLOCAUST IN THE SOVIET UNION

PARTNERSHIP **BETWEEN YAD VASHEM AND YESHIVA UNIVERSITY** 

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> PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN YAD VASHEM AND YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

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

Please do share information about this magazine with others, particularly via social media.

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## AROUND US A SEA OF FIRE

It's human to fear, it's human to suffer, it's human to oppose evil. In 2023, we invite you to an exhibition which we organize in cooperation with the Holocaust Research Center to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

The remaining inhabitants of the ghetto, approximately 50,000 "civilian" Jews spent many weeks hiding in shelters and bunkers. Against the despair, loneliness, starvation, thirst and fear, they fought for each and every "day, hour, minute." Their quiet resistance was just as important as the resistance of those with guns in their hands. They remained "invisible" for many days - they hid underground and thus refused to comply to German orders. It is precisely their story – the story of the "invisible" ones – that we want to retell in the exhibition.

#### In a bunker

We will show what a daily life in a bunker was like, the conditions in the shelters and hideouts, the people who shared them and how they coped with their daily routines and basic physiological needs. We will try to recreate the "physical" reality of being confined to a bunker: the darkness, the heat coming from burning buildings, the deficit of space and air, the sounds that were often the only way to find out what was happening on the ground level.

We will focus on the relations developing between the people who hid together, on their feelings and emotions. On one hand conflicts, fear, panic attacks, lack of hope, the feeling of being abandoned, of the world's indifference, of a life forsaken. On the other hand - the craving for love and intimacy, the urge to act and take responsibility for others. The lust for life, the will to save oneself and one's nearest and dearest, building a community whose members supported and protected one another were a way to oppose evil, too.

#### In the face of death

The exhibition will be devoted to the time in history and to the events that took place, and

yet it will touch upon the dilemmas, attitudes and feelings, it will pose questions that remain vital in today's world. How do we behave in the face of death? Where is the line between struggling to survive and surrendering? What do people feel when they are excluded from society and experience indifference or disdain? Many people in the ghetto described themselves as "drowning", devoid of any hope for a rescue. How do we oppose evil, how do we combat it? What is indifference and where does it lead us? Do we feel ashamed when we witness the suffering of others?

The exhibition will be based on the testimonies of Jews who hid in the bunkers both in the ghetto area and on the "Aryan" side. Since all the objects and keepsakes were destroyed and burnt, words acquire a special role in the exhibition. Not only do they convey the feelings and experiences of their authors, but they also constitute a unique testimony, often the only tangible trace left behind by those who perished in the ghetto.

In the exhibition we will show the negatives of Zbigniew Leszek Grzywaczewski's photos from the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising that have been recently discovered among the family keepsakes.

In early December 2022, after several decades, a photographic film was discovered amongst family keepsakes. It contains a set of photos taken during the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising by Zbigniew Leszek Grzywaczewski, a firefighter at the Warsaw Fire Brigade during the Second World War. The Germans sent the firefighters into the burning ghetto—their job was to ensure the fire did not spread to the houses on the "Aryan" side. It was then that 23-year-old firefighter took the photos. The images in the photos are often blurred, recorded in a rush, from a hidden location,



## "AUSCHWITZ. NOT LONG AGO. NOT FAR AWAY" EXHIBITION OPENED AT THE REAGAN LIBRARY IN CALIFORNIA

The exhibition 'Auschwitz. Not Long Ago. Not Far Away' created by the Museum and the Spanish company Musealia was opened at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in California's Simi Valley. More than 30,000 people purchased presale tickets, and the exhibition is expected to be the most attended in the library's history. The official opening ceremony on 23 March 2013 was hosted by CNN journalist Wolf Blitzer.

'In 1983, President Reagan spoke to Jewish Holocaust survivors and pledged that "we will never shut our eves, never refuse to acknowledge the truth, no matter how unpleasant." This exhibition is a testament to his promise,' said John Heubusch, Executive Director of the **Ronald Reagan Presidential** Foundation and Institute. 'Confronting the darkest moments in mankind's history is often difficult, but also profoundly moving and instructive. Our hope is that as many as possible make their own pledge to visit this exhibition,' he added.

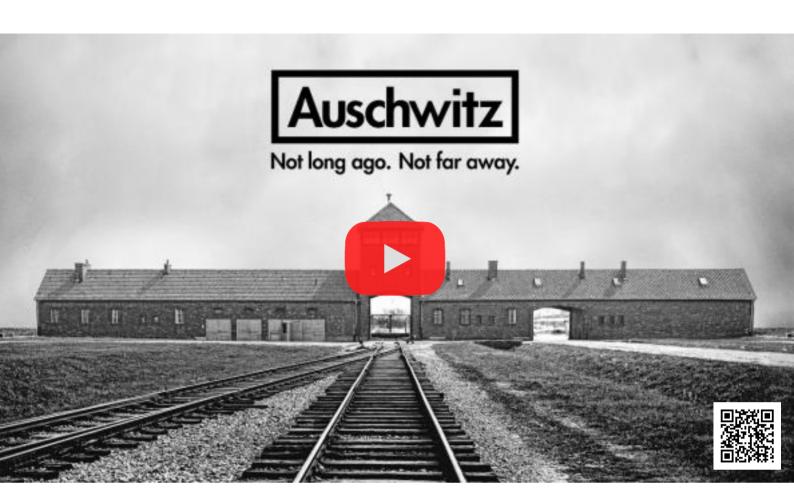
"Auschwitz. Not Long Ago. Not Far Away" depicts the successive stages of the development of Nazi ideology and describes the transformation of Oświęcim, an ordinary Polish town where Nazi Germany established the largest concentration camp and extermination center during the occupation, where approximately one million Jews and tens of thousands of people of other nationalities were murdered.

The victims of Auschwitz also included Poles, Roma and Sinti,

Soviet prisoners of war and other groups persecuted by Nazi ideology, such as people with disabilities, asocials, Jehovah's Witnesses and homosexuals. Furthermore, the exhibition includes objects portraying the world of the perpetrators - the SS men who created and managed this largest German Nazi concentration and extermination camp.

Underlining the importance of the exhibition, the director of the Auschwitz Memorial Dr. Piotr Cywiński said: 'We are approaching the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. In our world, the rhetoric of antisemitism and other ideologies of hatred is once again intensifying. Therefore, we must constantly remind ourselves of the evil that is possible when societies allow such hatred.'

In his opinion, the exhibition nowadays has a unique meaning as it does not only commemorate the past: 'Russia's barbaric invasion of sovereign Ukraine clearly shows how much the world needs historical memory to be a lasting and clear



Auschwitz; a gas mask used by the SS; and a lithograph depicting a prisoner's face by Pablo Picasso.

Additionally, the exhibition features individual objects on loan from more than 20 institutions. museums, and private collections worldwide, including Yad Vashem, the **United States** Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Wiener Library, and the **Buchenwald** Mauthausen and Sachsenhausen and Westerbork memorial sites.

A Model 2 freight car used during deportations of Jews to ghettos and extermination centers in Germanoccupied Poland can be in the library's main courtyard.

The presentation of the exhibition in Reagan Library was possible thanks to cooperation with World Heritage. 'I truly believe this is one of the most moving and essential exhibitions of our generation, and its tenure at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library speaks to this. Not only is it worth visiting, whether you are near or far, but it is worth returning to and considering deeply: this is not just an exhibition, but a story of horror and of survival,' said WHE President John Norman.

More information about the exhibition and tickets: www. ReaganLibrary. com/ Auschwitz.

Previously, the exhibition "Auschwitz.





## **OVERVIEW OF MEMORIAL MUSEUMS IN GERMANY BUILDS NETWORK**

Memorial museums play an important role in preserving history and educating future generations about past atrocities. They provide information about the crimes committed by the Nazi regime, commemorate various victim groups, and honor the memory of survivors.

As memorial museums are relied on diversity of memorial museums in more and more to support democratic values and counter right-wing populist narratives, it's more important than ever that they are supported and form part of a strong network.

Gedenkstättenforum overview now links almost 300 memorial museums. This overview of memorial museums, created by the Gedenkstättenforum as a department of the Topography of Terror, is one example of how this network can be strengthened. This survey, originally co-funded by an IHRA Grant, has now been revised and expanded.

In the overview, the details for around 300 memorial museums and documentation sites in Germany are listed, as well as around 450 other memorial museums worldwide that deal with the victims of Nazi persecution and the Second World War. These readily accessible lists allow researchers and museum professionals to build connections and provide opportunities to collaborate outside of their usual network.

The website also contains a multimedia Pageflow, showing the

Germany. Using audio and visual storytelling, this resource explores the development of memorial museums, reflections from visitors to various sites, and some of the changes that these sites have gone through in the almost 80 years since the crimes were committed.

If you're looking for memorial museums dealing with a particular theme or victim group, these can be found via the historical crime complexes, under categories such as "Concentration Camps," "Euthanasia," "Jewish History," and "Resistance."

The website also includes a media page, where you'll find daily updates on German media coverage on the topics of memorial museums for Nazi victims, culture of remembrance and history, rightwing extremism, and related topics.

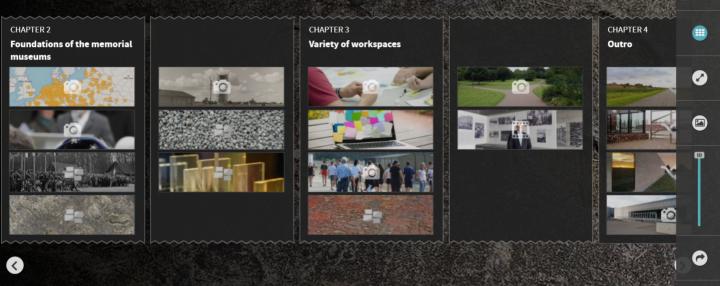
Memorial museums are crucial for promoting remembrance, understanding historical events, and ensuring that such atrocities are not repeated in the future. With more tools that foster community and collaboration, we are able to tackle these issues together.

## Development of memorial museums

The road to the achievement of Germany's diverse memorial landscape was long and difficult. International prisoner associations, civic initiatives and state actions have shaped its development to varying degrees.



### Overview



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Almost all sites have changed over the years, sometimes as part of a longer process, in other cases more quickly.

The following are exemplary varieties of change:



Preservation of historical sites



Development and overbuilding of a site



**Rediscovery and redesign** 

## THE NEW KITCHEN BUILDING HAS BEEN INCORPORATED INTO THE STUTTHOF MEMORIAL

The Stutthof Museum has concluded the acquisition of the New Kitchen building in Stutthof. It is one of the infrastructure facilities of the German Nazi concentration camp Stutthof that remained outside the premises of the Museum after its establishment. A deed to this effect was signed on 20 March.

The history of the New Kitchen building begins with the German decision to transform the Stutthof camp into a concentration camp. Expansion plans envisaged the erection of a camp kitchen building that could cater for over 100,000 prisoners. Work began in mid-1943 and was concluded in 1944. A vast assembly area was to extend right in front of the New Kitchen building.

Despite the completion of the construction work, the New Kitchen never served its initially intended purpose. The building served as a storehouse, and from August 1944, it was also utilised as temporary accommodation for arriving Jewish transports, primarily women.

Following the end of the II World War and the creation of the Stutthof Museum in Stutthof, the facility was not incorporated into it, nor were the halls of the German Armaments Works (DAW), the kennel building and the commandant's villa, among others. It was used by the Municipality of Sztutowo. We have witnessed its degradation in recent years.

The museum faces the daunting task of incorporating such a significant building, often recalled by ex-prisoners of the Stutthof concentration camp, into the museum complex. The new Kitchen must be protected from further degradation, a measure to which the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage has pledged support.

The museum intends to use the building for educational, scientific and exhibition purposes in the future. We believe that in the future, we will also take possession of other buildings that were part of the German Nazi concentration camp Stutthof.



## SUMMARY OF THE EXPERT CONFERENCE ON THE GENOCIDE OF THE ROMA

The Swedish Presidency of the IHRA hosted an international conference on the genocide of the Roma and combating antigypsyism, in Stockholm on 20–21 October 2022. The summary report of this conference is now available.

The conference took stock of existing research on the genocide of the Roma; identified obstacles, gaps and needs; shared IHRA knowledge and recommendations; stimulated cooperation and proactively worked together for impact. The conference also aimed to highlight current research on how the genocide of the Roma feeds into the discrimination and prejudice that many Roma face today.

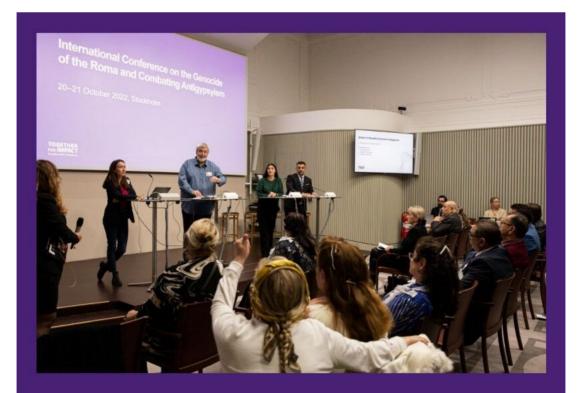
In addition to a summary of the conference and the program, the Summary Report includes a list of key takeaways - the main messages, requests and recommendations put forward by participants at the conference. Read them below: 1. There is a need to systematically and structurally enhance work on remembrance, research and education on the genocide of the Roma and antigypsyism. To contribute to this, the IHRA could – and should – continue to regularly organise conferences like the one in Stockholm, to allow for continued exchange, stock-taking and networking involving IHRA expertise, the Roma civil society and other relevant actors. A concrete suggestion was that the upcoming Croatian IHRA Presidency could arrange such a conference.

2. Remembrance and memorialisation of the genocide of the Roma should be further promoted. This could be done with the help of dedicated memorials that are strategically placed and politically supported. A specific recommendation was that more IHRA Member Countries should commit, adopt and promote the 2nd of August as the 'Roma Holocaust Remembrance Day' in line with European Parliament Resolution adopted in 2015. A related recommendation was for the Chair of the IHRA to always make a statement on this date.

3. IHRA and its Member Countries should promote long-term and sustainable research on the crimes against humanity against Roma before, during and after the Holocaust. This should be done ensuring proper funding for specific academic programmes at academic institutions and universities through scholarships and/or fellowship programmes. It could also include the promotion and protection of knowledge and archival files, i.e. by promoting the digitisation of such material.

Research on the fate of Roma groups that haven't been given the same attention as others also needs to be ensured.

4. Education about the genocide of the Roma needs to be further promoted. For the IHRA, the main tools to ensure this would be to continue developing the foreseen IHRA Recommendations for Teaching and Learning on the Genocide of the Roma, include Roma experts in the process and ensure that the recommendations are translated and implemented by the IHRA Member Countries, in accordance with their national contexts. Training of teachers about the genocide of the Roma and antigypsyism



International Conference on the Genocide of the Roma and Combating Antigypsyism – Research and Expert Conference

Summary Report

20-21 OCTOBER 2022, STOCKHOLM

### ART AND LITERATURE OF THE HOLOCAUST IN THE SOVIET UNION

The Moshe Mirilashvili Center for Research on the Holocaust in the Soviet Union of the International Institute for Holocaust Research at Yad Vashem and the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) are pleased to invite applications for a research workshop entitled, "Art and Literature of the Holocaust in the Soviet Union."

The workshop is scheduled for August 21-29, 2023 at the USHMM in Washington DC. This is the fifth research workshop co-organized by Yad Vashem and USHMM with a focus on the former Soviet Union.

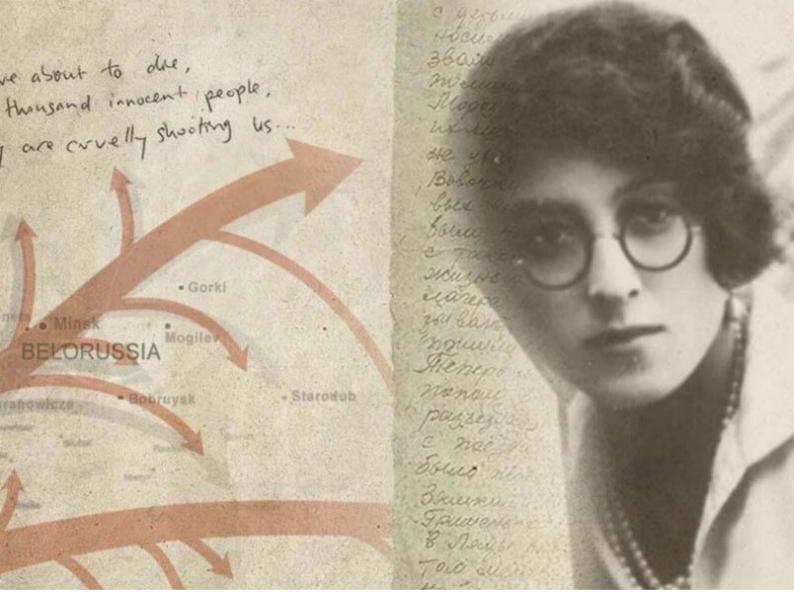
Despite Soviet attempts to downplay the Holocaust in officially approved narratives, literary and artistic works emerged during and after World War II which revealed the suffering endured by Jewish victims at the hands of the Nazis and their collaborators. Newspaper articles, plays, musical works, memoirs, poems, films, and fictional accounts all focused on various aspects of the Holocaust as it occurred in the Soviet Union. These framed the experiences of Soviet Jews. especially as there was no official recognition of the Holocaust in the Soviet Union.

The goal of this workshop is to discuss and develop research that emphasizes works of art and literature about the Holocaust in the Soviet Union. Applications will be considered for any proposals touching upon any aspect of art and literature within the categories described above.

Participants will be expected to submit a paper (no more than 15 pages) a month prior to the beginning of the workshop for circulation among all participants. Daily sessions will include 30-minute presentations followed by a discussion (up to 30 min), as well as an opportunity for participants to do research at the USHHM's library and archives.

This workshop will be co-led by Professor Anna Shternshis of the University of Toronto and Professor Gennady Estraikh of New York University.

Applications will be accepted from scholars at all levels of their careers, from Ph.D. candidates to senior faculty. All application materials must be received by April 21, 2023. Incomplete applications will not be considered after this date. Late



The Untold Stories – Murder Sites of Jews in Occupied Territories of the USSR project

### PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN YAD VASHEM AND YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

Raising to the great need for Holocaust awareness while countering the alarming increase in antisemitism and Holocaust denial in the U.S., a powerful alliance between two historic institutions—Yeshiva University's (YU) Emil A. and Jenny Fish Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies and Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center — promises to build innovative educational programs and initiatives on Holocaust studies.

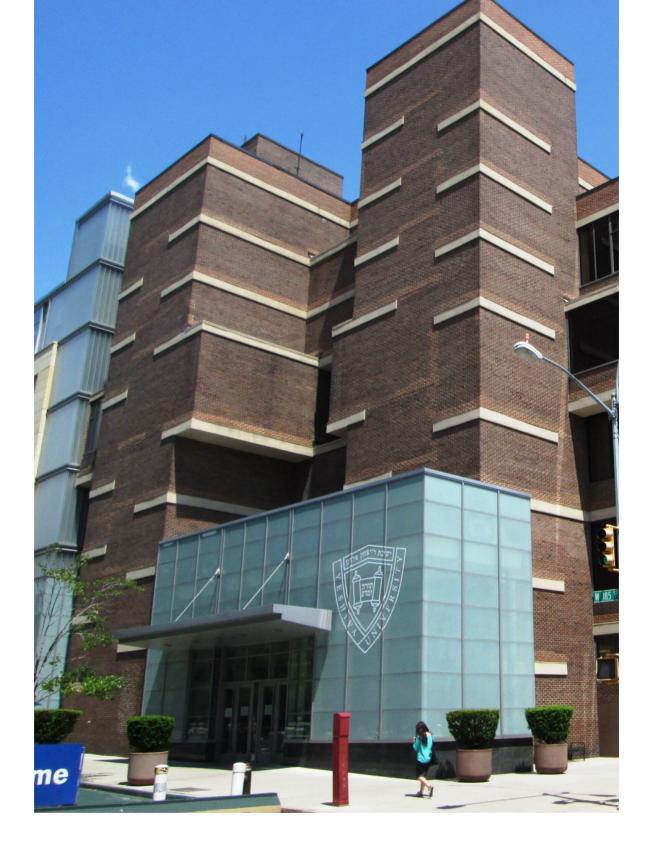
The strategic Memorandum of Understanding —signed by Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman, President of Yeshiva University and Yad Vashem Chairman Dani Dayan—creates a framework for joint partnerships in curriculum building, resource sharing, educator training and event design. The agreement pledges that the two organizations will work collaboratively toward a shared goal of strengthening efforts to promote education and remembrance of the Holocaust and encourage the study of the Holocaust in schools, universities, communities and other institutions.

"Both Yeshiva University and Yad Vashem are global leaders in the field of Holocaust education, and the intention of this partnership is to amplify the impact of institutional resources during an unprecedented rise in antisemitism and decline in Holocaust literacy. We are excited to partner Yeshiva University's world-class educators with Yad Vashem to help advance the mutual goal of increasing Holocaust awareness in America's classrooms," said Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman, President of Yeshiva University.

The signing of the MoU comes on the heels of The Fish Center's development of an advanced certificate program designed to train middle and high school teachers to become skilled educators about the Holocaust. Recently approved by New York State, YU's certificate program was developed to bridge the knowledge gap for the growing number of states who require some form of Holocaust and genocide studies programs in their middle and high school classrooms.

YU will bring rigorous education to these teachers, helping them spread awareness and foster understanding about the Holocaust where's its needed most, with America's students. According to a 2020 study by the Claims Conference, and in which Yad Vashem experts were included on the Steering Committee, that covered the 50 states, New York is among those with the lowest Holocaust knowledge scores, with 58% of Millennials and Gen Z being unable to name a single concentration camp. The study also found that 60% of young people did not know that 6 million Jews were murdered in the Holocaust.

"Yad Vashem is committed to ensuring that the history of the Holocaust continues to be relevant today and for future generations and is not relegated to yet another chapter in human history," said Yad Vashem Chairman Dani Dayan. "This agreement with Yeshiva University provides the next generation of educators with the necessary tools and materials to address the topic of the Holocaust and engage young scholars in the need for further research into its multifaceted nature and relevance today. Yad Vashem hopes that this agreement with YU will continue to open opportunities in higher education in the United States and all over





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