



Vilna Gaon State
Jewish Museum

#asmassmurderbegan

CONFERENCE

AS MASS MURDER BEGAN: IDENTIFYING and REMEMBERING the KILLING SITES of SUMMER-FALL 1941

March 22-23, 2017, Vilnius, Lithuania

About the IHRA

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance unites governments and experts to strengthen and advance Holocaust education, remembrance and research world-wide and to uphold the commitments of the 2000 Stockholm Declaration.

The IHRA has 31 Member Countries, eleven Observer Countries, and seven permanent international partner organizations.



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1ST DAY – MARCH 22

MORNING SESSION

- 8.30-9.00 Registration of Participants
Conference venue: Tolerance Center of Vilna Gaon State Jewish Museum (VGSJM)
Naugarduko St. 10/2 Vilnius
- 9.00-9.30 **Opening of the Conference**
Welcome speeches:
Markas Zingeris, Director of Vilna Gaon State Jewish Museum
François Wisard, Head of Swiss Delegation to IHRA
Piotr Trojański, Chair ad Interim of Killing Sites SC MYWP
Moderator: Dr. Kamilė Rupeikaitė
- 9.30-10.15 **Keynote Lecture: *Framing the Historical Background and the Broader Approach***
Dr. Christoph Dieckmann, Fritz Bauer Institute, Frankfurt am Main
- 10.15-10.30 **Discussion**
- 10.30-10.50 Coffee Break
- 10.50-11.30 ***Re-discovering Paneriai: Current Research in the Paneriai Mass Killing Site***
Neringa Latvytė-Gustaitienė, VGSJM
Dr. Oksana Valionienė and Saulius Sarcevičius, Lithuanian Institute of History
- 11.30-13:00 **Presentations and Discussion on *Identification*** (field work, research, archives, database)
Moderator: Dr. David Silberklang
Participants: Dr. Mikhail Tyaglyy, Ukrainian Center for Holocaust Studies, Kiev
Adrian Cioflâncă, Romanian Academy's A.D. Xenopol Institute of History
Dr. Arkadi Zeltser and Dr. Lea Prais, International Institute for Holocaust Research, Yad Vashem
Neringa Latvytė-Gustaitienė, VGSJM
Alexandra Tcherkasski, Institute for Diaspora Research and Genocide Studies at Ruhr University Bochum
- 13:00-14:00 Lunch Break



AFTERNOON SESSION

14:00-15:00 **Market Place**

15:00-16:30 **Presentations and Discussion on *Marking*** (preservation, legal and religious issues)

Moderator: Dr. Thomas Lutz

Participants: Diana and Michael Lazarus, the Belarus Holocaust Memorial Project

Dr. Diana Dumitru, Ion Creanga State University, Moldova

Diana Varnaitė, Department of Cultural Heritage under the Ministry of Culture of Lithuania

Rabbi Kalev Krelin, Rabbi of Vilnius Choral Synagogue

Karina Barkane, Center of Jewish Studies at Latvian University

16.30-17:00 Coffee Break

17:00-18:30 **Presentations and Discussion on *Commemoration*** (remembrance, education)

Moderator: Dr. Piotr Trojański

Participants: Dr. Karel Berkhoff, NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Amsterdam

Prof. Zoltán Tibori Szabó, Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies and Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj, Romania

Tamara Vershitskaja, Shtetl Routes Project, Belarus;

Ingrida Vilkienė, Secretariat of the International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania;

Dr. Ekaterina Makhotina, Rheinischen Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn;

Dr. Olev Liivik, Estonian History Museum



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2nd DAY – MARCH 23

MORNING SESSION

- 8.30-9.00 Registration of Participants
- 9.00-9.45 **Keynote Lecture: *Liquidation of the Ghetto in Chisinau (Kishinev)***
Paul Shapiro, Director of International Affairs and Director Emeritus of the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
- 9.45-10.00 Discussion
- 10.00-10.30 Coffee Break
- Parallel Workshops:**
- 10.30-12.30 **Workshop 1 – *Identification*** (Educational Hall of the Tolerance Center)
Moderators: Irinel Rotariu, Prosecutor's Office of Romania;
Alexandra Tcherkasski, Institute for Diaspora Research and Genocide Studies at Ruhr University Bochum
- Workshop 2 - *Marking*** (Secretariat of the Tolerance Center)
Moderators: Agnieszka Nieradko, Research coordinator of Rabbinical Commission for Jewish Cemeteries in Poland;
Neringa Latvytė-Gustaitienė
- Workshop 3 – *Commemoration*** (Main Hall of the Tolerance Center)
Moderators: Ray Brandon, historian at the foundation "Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe";
Milda Jakulytė, curator of "Lost Shtetl" Project at Šeduva Jews Memorial Fund
- 12.30-13.30 Lunch Break

AFTERNOON SESSION

- 13.30 – 14.30 **Workshops continued**
- 14.30-16.00 **Marketplace**
- 14.30 -16.00 Optional tour through the exhibitions of the Tolerance Center



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AFTERNOON SESSION

- 16.00-16.30 Coffee Break
- 16.30-18.30 **Workshop reports, discussion and closing remarks**
Moderator: Paul Shapiro
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INFORMATION ON OPTIONAL PROGRAM

MARCH 21

- 15.00 – 18.00 Tour of Jewish Vilnius and the Ghetto
Guide: Regina Kopilevič
Meeting point at 15.00: Tolerance Center of Vilna Gaon State Jewish Museum
Naugarduko St. 10/2 Vilnius

MARCH 24

- 9.00 – 14.00 Visits to Paneriai mass killing site and Naujaneriai mass killing site
Guides: Neringa Latvytė-Gustaitienė and Mantas Šikšnianas
Meeting point at 9.00: the bus leaves from the Tolerance Center
Naugarduko St. 10/2 Vilnius

On September 24, 1941 Jews from Maišiagala, Riešė, Paberžė and from the others small northern rural districts of Vilnius were killed in Naujaneriai village which is around 16 km from Vilnius city and 7 km from Riešė village. The mass extermination was organized and committed by the Nazi Security Police and the Special Squad. Local policemen and former white arm-banded partisans also assisted during the mass killing when 1,767 Jews (512 men, 744 women and 511 children) were murdered during one day.

Conference contacts:

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