

The International Youth Meeting Centre in Oświęcim/Auschwitz is an extracurricular educational institution founded by Aktion Sühnezeichen Friedensdienste e. V. and the city of Oświęcim with the support of former KL Auschwitz prisoners. Since 1995, the work of the IJBS has been administered by the Polish-German **Foundation for the IYMC**.

The aim of the Foundation is to carry out educational, educational and cultural activities through the IYMC in Oświęcim/Auschwitz by preserving the memory of the effects of the criminal ideology of German National Socialism, of which Auschwitz and the Holocaust have become a symbol. The further aim is to advocate for an open civil society, the building of a common European home and understanding between nations for peaceful coexistence.

Based on historical facts, the IYMC works to preserve the memory of the Second World War and the Holocaust. Its mission is to prepare young people for committed action against racism, anti-Semitism and other forms of exclusion and to strengthen in them an attitude for the courageous defence of civil and human rights, peace, equality and social justice.

The IYMC is a place for intergenerational encounters of young and old people, a forum for the exchange of ideas, international understanding and dialogue across cultural and social boundaries.

The IYMC runs international youth seminars and exchanges, study trips, workshops, conferences, meetings, public debates, and organises exhibitions, concerts, literary encounters and performances. A large garden, bright seminar rooms, a well-stocked library and a complex of detached, bright, single-storey residential pavilions provide a great space for meeting and reflection.

The Foundation is considered one of the oldest and most valued institutions for German-Polish cooperation and European dialogue. Every year, around 5,000 people from more than 20 countries around the world visit our house. The IYMC in Oświęcim has received numerous prestigious awards, including the Pro-Publico-Bono-Award in 2008 and the German-Polish Award in 2014.

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