Conference Programme

18 November 2026 (Wednesday)

Opening of the conference

9.00–9.20 Opening of the conference – Dr Sylwia Wielichowska, Director of the Museum of Polish Children – Victims of Totalitarianism.

Panel I – The camp for Polish children on Przemysłowa Street as described in written sources

9.20–9.40 Dr Agnieszka Fronczek-Kwarta (Museum of Polish Children – Victims of Totalitarianism) – *Research pitfalls in the work of a museum professional. Developing a narrative about the camp for Polish children on Przemysłowa Street based on a specific collection of archival materials.*

9.40–10.00 Dr Jakub Parol (Museum of Polish Children – Victims of Totalitarianism) – *Should the accounts, memories and testimonies of former prisoners of the camp for Polish children in Łódź (German: Polen-Jugendverwahrlager der Sicherheitspolizei in Litzmannstadt) be perceived as a reliable source for research into its history?*

10.00–10.15 – Discussion

10.15–10.30 – Coffee break

Panel II – Diaries and letters. A historical source on the history of children as victims of war

10.30–10.50 Dr Alicja Adamus-Kowalik (State Archives in Częstochowa / Jan Długosz University in Częstochowa) – *A small witness, great fear: an epistolary account of the Second World War.*

10.50–11.10 Ewa Dubaj (State Archives in Częstochowa) – *Janek's Diary – a teenager's perspective on the war.*

11.10–11.30 Mariusz Bieciuk (Białystok Cultural Centre / Ludwik Zamenhof Centre) – *A coming-of-age diary. Waldemar Baks's wartime memoirs from 1939–1944.*

11.30–11.45 – Discussion

11.45–12.00 – Coffee break

Panel III – Historical and pedagogical discourse on the child as a victim of war

12.00–12.20 Dr Emila Figura-Osełkowska (Wojciech Kętrzyński Northern Institute) – *Hope in a small suitcase – a historical account of the Kindertransports.*

12.20–12.40 Bożena Maria Kamińska (Palmiry Museum and Memorial Site) – *The plight of orphans in Warsaw during the occupation and in the post-war years, as illustrated by the work of Jerzy Strzałkowski*.

12.40–13.00 Dr Szymon Pietrzykowski (Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute) – *'Never forget to lie…'. A few, some well-known and some less-known, stories of Jewish*

children hidden by Poles during the Second World War, related to Wielkopolska.

13.00–13.20 Marek Mikołajczyk, PhD (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań) – *Between the trauma of war and a return to normality. The educational, care and integration functions of the Cub Scout movement in Wielkopolska between 1945 and 1950*.

13.20–13.35 – Discussion

13.35–14.30 – Coffee break

14.30–14.50 Karolina Włodarczyk (Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk) – *Children as victims of deportations to Siberia – the story of Stanisław Ścibor-Marchocki based on items from the collection of the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk.*

14.50–15.10 Dr Wojciech Łukaszun (Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk) – *Children in occupied Poland as seen through the lens of German cameras. Photographs from the collection of the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk as a source for research.*

15.10–15.30 Agnieszka Kłys (Stutthof Museum in Sztutowo) – *Juvenile prisoners at the Stutthof concentration camp in the light of archival sources*.

15.30–15.45 – Discussion

15.45–16.15 – Coffee break

Panel IV – The martyrdom of children in history education

16.15–16.35 Ewa Malinowska (Stutthof Museum in Sztutowo) – *Museum education in Poland: from commemoration to critical historical reflection, in the context of changes in the state's education policy.*

16.35–16.55 Przemysław Zachulski (Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk) – *From exhibit to story. How to talk about children who were victims of the Second World War*.

16.55–17.15 Natalia Harmasz (Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk) – *An Empty Cradle – a presentation on the lives of Polish children, based on a selected exhibit, as part of the educational programme at the Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk*.

17.35–17.55 Beata Kowska (Museum of Independence Traditions in Łódź) – *Between the grotesque and trauma: historical education in the age of TikTok.*

17.55–18.00 – Discussion

Panel V – The martyrdom of Jewish children in historical sources

9.00–9.20 Dr Lidia Zessin-Jurek (Stockton University / German Historical Institute in Warsaw) – *Children displaced by war. The lives, testimonies and memories of Polish-Jewish refugee children*.

9.40–10.00 Marta Kubiszyn, PhD (Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Lublin) –*Diaries kept by Jewish children during the Occupation as historical and biographical sources.*

10.00–10.20 Dr Martyna Grądzka-Rejak (Warsaw Ghetto Museum / Institute of National Remembrance) – *'Dear Diary! I'm so ashamed that I've neglected you so much!'… Personal accounts and documents as sources for research into the everyday lives of Jewish children in the Cracow ghetto and ZAL/KL Plaszów.*

10.20–10.40 Bartłomiej Grzanka (Museum of the former German Kulmhof Extermination Camp in Chełmno nad Nerem) – *'The boys did not wear any Jewish insignia'. Czech and Polish children – the victims of the German extermination camp at Chełmno, as recounted by witnesses*.

10.40-10.55 – Discussion

10.55–11.10 – Coffee break

Panel VI – Materials relating to the martyrdom of children in archival and museum collections

11.10-11.30 Dr Karolina Trzeskowska-Kubasik (Institute of National Remembrance) –*The Archives of the Institute of National Remembrance as a source for research into the human losses suffered by the children of Polish forced labourers.*

11.30–11.50 Marta Grudzińska (Majdanek State Museum) – *The role of archival materials and artefacts collected by the Majdanek State Museum in reconstructing the fate of children at the Lublin Concentration Camp*.

11.50–12.10 Iwona Drożyner (Dulag 121 Museum) –*'I'm only 10, after all'. Children's testimonies as a source for research into the Second World War*.

12.10-12.25 – Discussion

12.25–12.40 – Coffee break

Panel VII – Memoirs and accounts as historical sources on the history of children as victims of war

12.40-13.00 Dr Beata Kozaczyńska (University of Siedlce) – *Accounts by the last surviving children of the Zamość region as a source for research into childhood during the war. Research value and methodological issues*.

13.00–13.20 Piotr Lasota / Martyna Marczewska (Brama Grodzka Centre – NN Theatre, Lublin) *– Written Down and Burned. Retold and written down. Preserved and published – multidimensional childhood testimonies of the Occupation period in the accounts of Leokadia Dąbczak (1931–2020) from the Zamość Region.*

13.20–13.40 Małgorzata Smreczak (Białystok Cultural Centre / Ludwik Zamenhof Centre) – *The fate of newborns in the reality of the camp in the light of the accounts of Dr Stefania Perzanowska and Dr Irena Białówna*.

13.40-14.00 – Discussion

14.00–15.00 – Coffee break

Panel VIII – Drawings and artefacts as historical sources

15.00–15.20 Dr Maciej Bakun (Gdańsk Scientific Society) – *The fate of Gdynia's youngest residents in the light of the Monument to the Displaced*

15.20–15.40 Kamil Świątkowski (Archive of New Files in Warsaw) – *War and occupation through a child's eyes – children's drawings from 1940 in the collection of the Archive of New Files, inscribed on the UNESCO Memory of the World Register.*

15.40-16.00 – Discussion

16.00– Closing of the conference – Dr Sylwia Wielichowska, Director of the Museum of Polish Children – Victims of Totalitarianism.