

# **ICOM TRIENNIAL ICMEMO CONFERENCE 2022**

## **THE POWER OF MUSEUMS IN RESPONSE TO POLITICAL PRESSURE**

**Prague, Czech Republic / 22-25 August 2022**

**in collaboration with:**

**EUROM - European Observatory on Memory**

**International Coalition of Sites of Conscience**

**Conference Chair: Ophelia Leon**

**Co-chair: Karen Franklin**

## SESSION 1 - MUSEUMS AS INSTRUMENTS OF PROPAGANDA

22 August 2022, Prague Congress Centre - Hybrid Format

<p><b>Chair:</b> <b>Jane E Klinger</b> <b>(ICMEMO Board Member)</b></p> <p><b>Co-chair:</b> <b>Kornelis Spaans</b> <b>(ICMEMO Treasurer)</b></p> <p>The session will explore the extent to which governments and other institutions dictate the historical and memorial message to fit a political view and agenda, and the role of governments in the closure of museums and memorials and removal or placement of key staff. We hope to gain an understanding of how ideologies have impacted museums, positively or negatively, and an understanding of how ICMEMO can offer support so museums may continue to effectively and ethically engage with the public.</p>	16:00 - 16:05	Session Chair: Jane E Klinger <b>Introduction</b>
	16:05 - 16:25	Keynote: Prof. Paweł Machcewicz <b>Museums Under Pressure: Politics, Historical Wars, and the Museum of the Second World War in Gdansk</b>
	16:25 - 16:35	Barbara Thimm & Nisay Hang <b>But true. How to deal with the political use of the Khmer Rouge prison S-21 after 1979</b> Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
	16:35 - 16:45	Viktor Janak & Filip Petlicka <b>Between Historiography and Political Narrative I</b> Zámecek Memorial, Pardubice, Czech Republic
	16:45 - 16:55	Voytech Kynči <b>Between Historiography and Political Narrative II: The Great Patriotic War as a State Narrative in WWII Czech Memorials</b> Academy of Science of Czech Republic, Prague, Czech Republic
	16:55 - 17:05	Keyi Yin & Yayun Gan <b>Propaganda Instruments, Responsible Institutions, or Both? How Representations of the Cultural Revolution Survive in Museums in China</b> Chongqing, China
17:05 - 17:30	<b>Speakers Round Table</b> <b>Q&amp;A Session</b>	



## SESSION 2 - MUSEUMS AS OPEN DOORS TO DIALOGUE

23 August 2022, Prague Congress Centre - Hybrid Format

<p><b>Chair:</b> <b>Erik Somers</b> <b>(ICMEMO Board Member)</b></p> <p><b>Co-chairs:</b> <b>Carla Prat</b> <b>(ICMEMO Board Member)</b> <b>Louisa Onuoha</b> <b>(ICMEMO Board Member)</b></p> <p>Memorial museums are particularly sensitive to the power of museums to create stories that in turn develop identity, as well as provide a platform for debate. They can counterbalance political developments by opening their doors to global issues such as growing prejudice, discrimination, anti-Semitism, hostilities and social unrest. But also by focusing on politically sensitive historical events that are still relevant today (slavery, decolonisation, etc.). It is about how museums can best serve their communities and play a more active role in promoting dialogue and understanding with a more inclusive, open-doors policy.</p>	14:30 - 14:35	Session Chair: Erik Somers <b>Introduction</b>
	14:35 - 14:45	Keynote: Moana Soto <b>Paulo Freire at the Museums: Intercultural dialogue and the construction of citizenship</b> Rio de Janeiro , Brazil
	14:45 - 14:55	Aida Rechena <b>Courage today. Hugs tomorrow</b> MINOM, Lisbon, Portugal
	14:55 - 15:05	Almudena Cruz Yábar <b>Facing the Past, Building a Better Future: Museums in Spain</b> Madrid, Spain
	15:05 - 15:15	Ladislav Jackson <b>Between Oppression and Joy, Permanent and Ephemeral, History and Memory: Collecting Queer Past in the Czech Republic</b> Brno, Czech Republic
	15:15 - 15:25	WenHsin Chang <b>The Participatory Model for Exhibition and Education at the National Human Rights Museum in Taiwan: An Analysis</b> New Taipei City, Taiwan
15:25 - 16:00	<b>Speakers Round Table</b> <b>Q&amp;A Session</b>	



## SESSION 3 - ETHICS & SELF-EMPOWERMENT

23 August 2022, Prague Congress Centre - Hybrid Format

<p><b>Chairs:</b> <b>Ophelia Leon</b> (ICMEMO Chair) <b>Luisa De Peña</b> (Ethcom Member)</p> <p>Memorial museums, like all museums, are guided by mission statements and bylaws that relate to the political, social, and cultural consensus that frame their raison d'être. How do they explore and expand within these guidelines - and how far can they go beyond given parameters or when faced with political pressure if ethical self-questioning demands new approaches and the need to generate content of importance to them and their communities? This session aims to explore the drafting of a protocol to respond to imminent conflicts in a timely manner.</p>	16:30 - 16:40	<p>Marta Havryshko <b>War in Ukraine: Losing the last of our survivors</b> Director, Babyn Yar Interdisciplinary Studies Institute</p>
	16:40 - 16:50	<p>Geandy Pavón <b>Cuba: The San Isidro Movement: An artist's rendering</b> Artsit</p>
	16:50 - 17:00	<p>Thomas Lutz <b>Cooperation between civil society and State in dealing with public crimes</b> Topography of Terror, Berlin, Germany</p>
	17:00 - 17:30	<p><b>Round table on ICOM Ethics</b> Constantin Sigov (Philosopher, Profesor of Ethics, Kiev University) Kathrin Pabst (ICETHICS Chair) Sally Yerkovich (ETHCOM)</p>
	17:30 - 18:00	<p><b>Q&amp;A Session</b></p>



## OFF-SITE MEETING - TAKING A STAND

25 August 2022, Jewish Museum in Prague - On-Site Only Format

	9:00 - 9:30	<b>Registration of participants</b> <b>Morning coffee</b>
	9:30 - 10:00	<b>Opening</b> , Ophelia Leon, Chair ICMEMO <b>Welcome</b> , Leo Pavlat, Director Jewish Museum in Prague <b>Intro to Jewish Museum in Prague</b> , Zuzana Pavlovská

### Session I - Taking a Stand: Memorial Museums Fight Hate

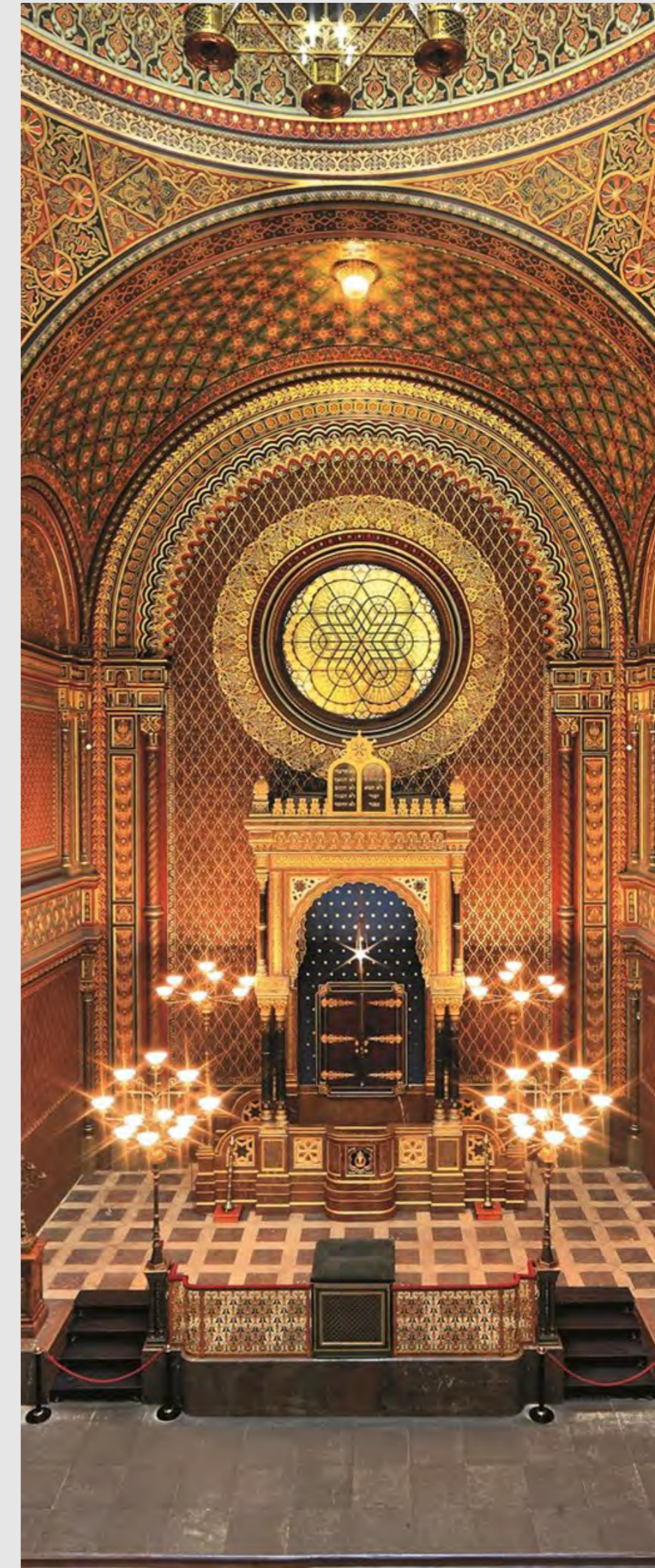
<p><b>Chairs:</b> <b>Karen Franklin</b> <b>Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett</b></p> <p>Do memorial museums have a special role to play in addressing racism and hate today? How might we use our collections to address contemporary issues in an increasingly volatile world? To what extent should we take an advocacy role in relation to current issues? How should we respond when museums that memorialize victims become targets of hate themselves?</p>	10:05 - 10:20	Gabriel Goldstein <b>American Museums Combat Antisemitism</b> New York, United States
	10:20 - 10:30	Hanno Loewy <b>Fighting Hatred with Hatred? Maneuvering through Vicious Circles</b> Hohenems, Austria
	10:30 - 10:40	Cristina Miedico & Gabriele Nissim <b>The Gardens of the Righteous, to prevent hatred and genocide with moral examples</b> Milan, Italy
	10:40 - 10:50	Sofia Cohen <b>Changing Reality: When Hate Takes the Street it is Time to Review the Lessons of the Holocaust</b> Santiago, Chile
	10:50 - 11:00	Sander Jürisson <b>The Next Frontline? Estonian Museums Preparing for Military Conflict</b> Tallinn, Estonia



	11:00 - 11:10	Yu-Hsuan Kao <b>A Museum, Non-Governmental Organizations, and Advocacy for Migrant Workers: Museum Activism Through Co-curating</b> Taipei, Taiwan
	11:10 - 11:20	Ana Paolo Brito <b>Negotiations and dialogues between memories of traumatic pasts in Sites of Memory of the Dictatorship in Brazil</b> Brazil
	11:20 - 11:30	Raivis Simansons <b>The Power of Story: Civic Education at the Zanis Lipke Memorial</b> Riga, Latvia
	12:00 - 13:00	<b>Lunch break /coffee</b>

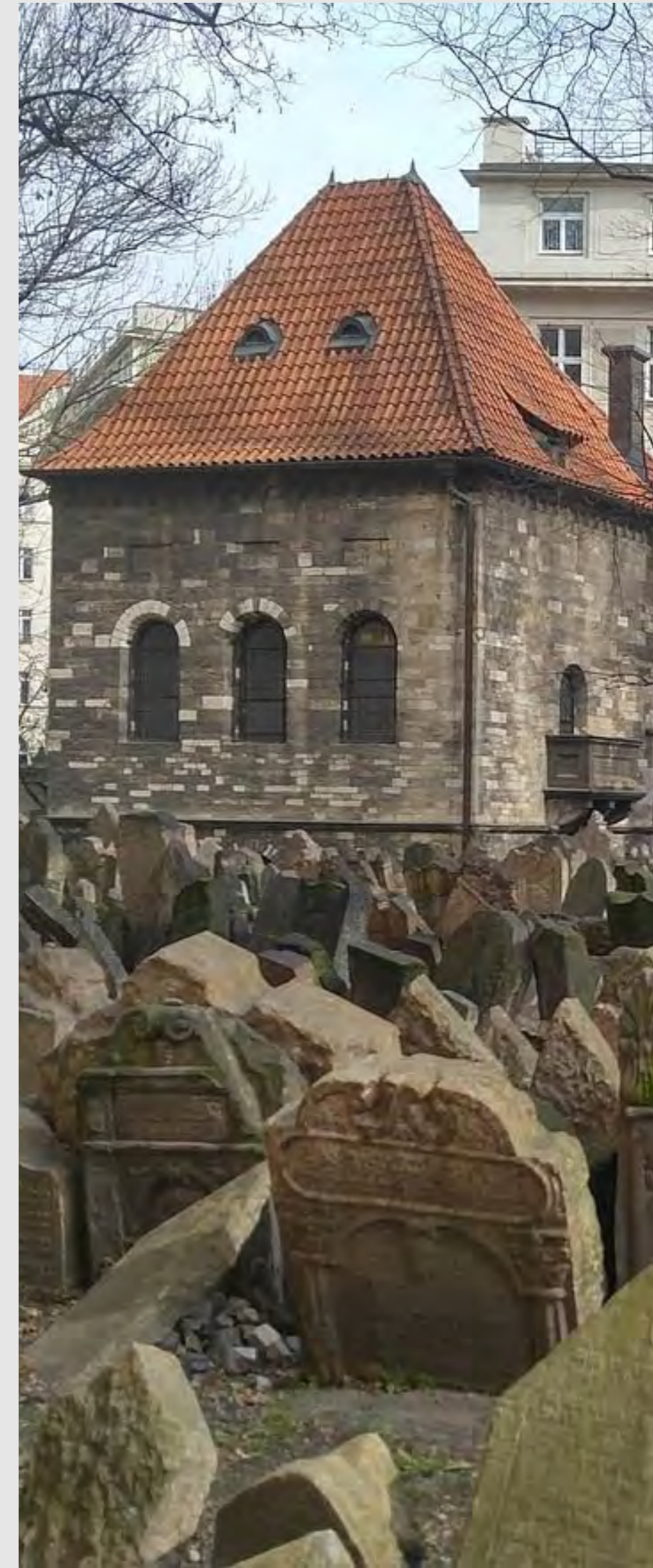
## Session II - Taking a Stand: Other Perspectives

<b>Chairs:</b> <b>Karen Franklin</b> <b>Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett</b>	13:00 - 13:10	Pauline Araújo <b>The Human Rights Memorial (MDH): a Historic Site Museum at Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais State, Brazil</b> Belo Horizonte, Brazil
	13:10 - 13:20	Raúl San Miguel <b>Digital Sites of Memory "in motion". Opportunities and challenges of new formats for a changing world</b> Madrid, Spain
	13:20 - 13:30	Zahava Doering and Linda Norris <b>Our Responsibility in Times of War: People First, Memorialization After</b> USA



**Session III - Taking a Stand: From documenting to acting.  
Shifting role of a museum in the face of crisis**

<p><b>Chair:</b> <b>Felicitas Heimann-Jelinek</b></p> <p><b>Co-chairs:</b> <b>Markus Moors</b> <b>(ICMEMO Vice Chair)</b></p> <p>What is the role of memorial institutions in times of war, how can they provide support to vulnerable people and institutions in such times, how can they maintain their international cooperations, and can they develop visions for the time after the war?</p>	13:30 - 13:40	<p>Mofidul Hoque The Liberation War Museum, Bangladesh</p>
	13:40 - 13:50	<p>Sarah Grandke <b>The Assistance Network for Victims of Nazi Persecution in Ukraine</b> Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial, Germany</p>
	13:50 - 14:00	<p>Jakub Nowakowski Galicia Jewish Museum, Cracow, Poland</p>
	14:00 - 14:10	<p>Jörg Morré <b>The Museum Berlin-Karlshorst Commemorating History: Germany, Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus</b> Museum Berlin Karlshorst, Germany</p>
	14:10 - 14:20	<p>Dieudonne Nagiriwubuntu Kigali Genocide Memorial, Kigali, Rwanda</p>
	14:20 - 14:30	<p>Alina Gromova <b>Report on German aid to Ukraine and the Data transfer and back-up initiative</b></p>
14:30 - 14:40	<p>Søren la Cour Jensen <b>Report on Blue Shield Denmark aid to Ukraine</b></p>	



## Post session activities

	15:30 – 17:30	<p>Option 1: <b>Workshop in Jewish Museum in Prague – tour to renovation workshop, depository (max 12. Priority ICMEMO members)</b></p> <p>Option 2: <b>Guided tour – Jewish Museum Prague</b></p>
	17:30 – 18:00	<p><b>Members News</b> (Full Membership Meeting will take place online October 31st)</p>
	After 18:00	<p>Suggested Group Activities for the evening:</p> <p>Option 1: <b>visit to the Glass Museum (across the street)</b></p> <p>Option 2: <b>Excursion to Bubny Station. Presentation of project and concept of “The Memorial of Silence”.</b></p> <p>Option 3: <b>Visit to the exhibit “The New World Order” on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the assassination of Reinhard Heydrich and his activities in Prague</b> <a href="https://www.pamatnikticha.cz/en/the-new-world-order/">https://www.pamatnikticha.cz/en/the-new-world-order/</a> <b>Presented in Czech-English.</b></p> <p>Option 4: <b>Opera, Don Giovanni, 19:00, at The Estates Theatre</b></p>





## Extra Activities

### **Museum Night - 23 August 2022**

<https://prague2022.icom.museum/museum-night>

### **Excursion Day - 26 August 2022**

The thorny path to freedom: From the Terezín Memorial to the North Bohemian Gallery of Fine Arts in Litoměřice.

<https://prague2022.icom.museum/excursions/regions/path-of-freedom>

If you wish to register for this tour, or others available with your registration, please go to:

<https://prague2022.icom.museum/excursions/regions>

### **Historic Bohemia Day Tour - 27 August 2022**

ICMEMO organised tour with historian Julius Mueller. Visit of several location in the Bohemia region including Melnik, Mlada Boleslav and Pobebrady.

Cost: 35 euros or dollars. Payment to be made directly in Prague.

Limited seating available, reservations first come/first served. To book please contact:

[secretary.icmemo@icom.museum](mailto:secretary.icmemo@icom.museum)

## Useful information

### **ICOM Prague Conference Program:**

<https://prague2022.icom.museum/programme-schedule>

### **Hotel reccomandation:**

**Michelangelo Grand Hotel**

**Vladislavova 1477/20, Prague, CZ 11000**

[www.michelangelograndhotel.com](http://www.michelangelograndhotel.com)

The majority of ICMEMO participants will be staying in this hotel. This affords us the opportunity to travel together to/from the different venues and navigate the public transport system which will be new for most of us.

### **Transportation:**

Free transport cards are included with registration and will be provided at the conference.

Images pp. 1,2,4,5,6,7 by Antonio Rodríguez

Images p. 3 (Marianne and Justice) by Geandy Pavón



# ICMEMO 2023 CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

## Living with the Memory of War

1-5 November 2023

The Netherlands, Amsterdam

Presentations and discussions will encompass how museums address experiences of war and violence and give them valuable meaning, for the present and in the future. Given current events around the world, the topic is more relevant than ever. The conference is an excellent opportunity to exchange ideas, share experiences, and learn about new advances.

Dutch memorial museums are in the midst of re-evaluating their approach and developing new strategies for exhibition and education. A large number of institutions have recently radically changed and adapted their museum presentation, such as the Anne Frank House. In September 2021, the impressive Holocaust Names Memorial designed by Daniel Libeskind was unveiled in Amsterdam and the new National Holocaust Museum in Amsterdam will open its doors in 2023.

The conference includes site visits to memorial museums and sites such as former Nazi concentration camps Westerbork - Vught - Amersfoort. To be informed about the ICMEMO International conference 2023, sign up for the mailing list by sending an email to:

[secretary.icmemo@icom.museum](mailto:secretary.icmemo@icom.museum)

On behalf of ICMEMO organized by NIOD Netherlands Institute for War Holocaust and Genocide Studies, SMH '40-'45 (the Dutch Foundation of Museums and Remembrance Centers 1940-1945), supported by the Dutch umbrella organization Platform WW2 and made possible to a large extent by the Dutch ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport.

**We are accepting site proposal submissions to host subsequent annual conferences. Please fill the linked [FORM](#) and return it to ICMEMO Secretary Massimiliano Azzolini at [secretary.icmemo@icom.museum](mailto:secretary.icmemo@icom.museum)**

