



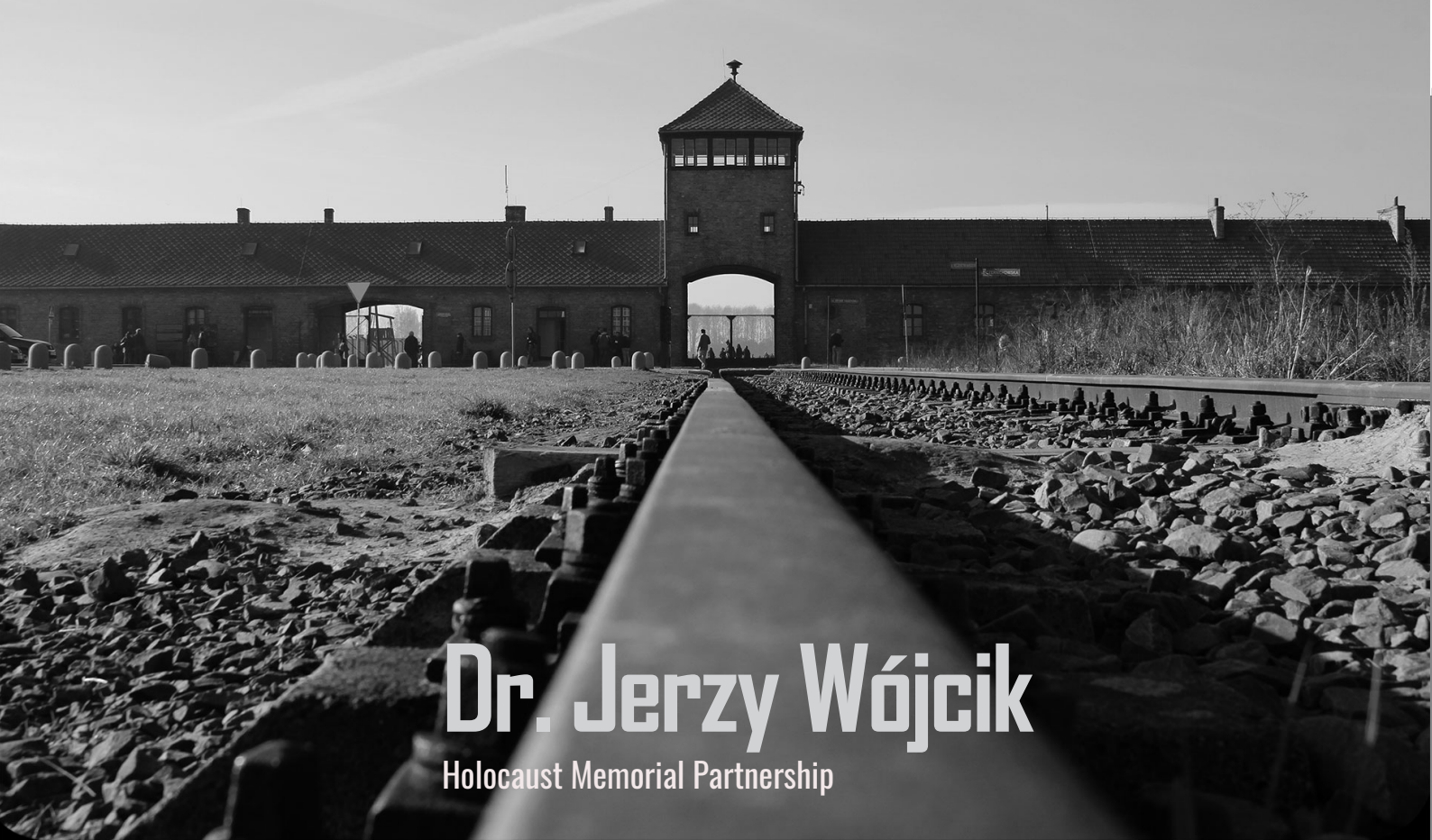
AUSCHWITZ VIRTUAL TOUR

AUSCHWITZ VIRTUAL TOUR

This marks the first-ever regular online virtual visit to the former Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration and extermination camp.

Contact:
Dr. Jerzy Wójcik,
phone/whatsapp: (+48) 509-705-022,
e-mail: jerzy.tomasz.wojcik@gmail.com

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL PARTNERSHIP
Dr. Jerzy Wójcik



Dr. Jerzy Wójcik

Holocaust Memorial Partnership

who we are



Jerzy Wójcik was born in the town of Oświęcim (Auschwitz), Poland. He graduated from the International Relations program as well as the Middle and Far East studies at Jagiellonian University in Kraków, earning a PhD in Political Science in 2010. A recipient of scholarships from the Florentyna Kogutowska Fund at Jagiellonian University and from the State of Israel, he was also a Research Fellow at Tel Aviv University. Over the years, he has collaborated with several organizations and institutions in Poland, including the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, the Jagiellonian University Center for Holocaust Studies in Kraków, the Center for International Relations in Warsaw, and the European Association of Israel Studies. Since 2015, he has been running the Holocaust Memorial Partnership. He has visited Israel more than 20 times.

| www.auschwitz.memorialpartnership.pl | www.memorialpartnership.pl |

Auschwitz Virtual Tour

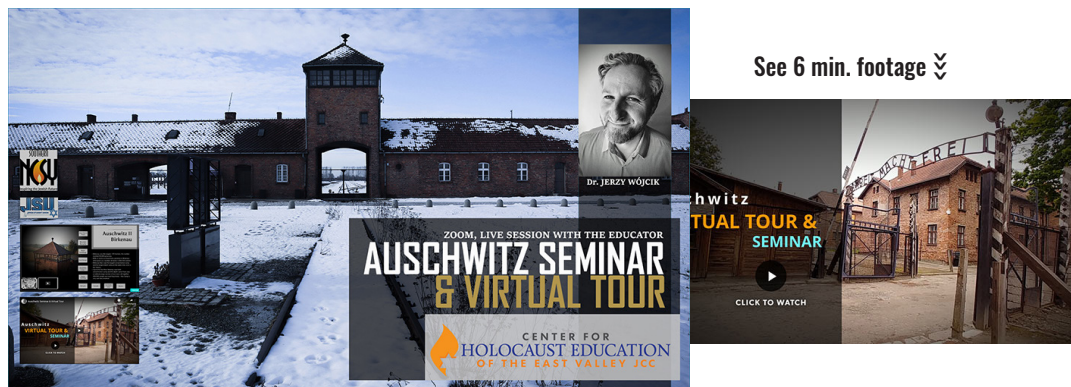
The Auschwitz Virtual Tour offers regular on-line sessions dedicated to exploring the former Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp. However, this is far from a typical webinar or seminar. It stands as the most authentic representation of an in-person visit to the Auschwitz memorial site. The experience is enhanced by historical footage, accounts of former prisoners, visualizations, aerial overviews, and contemporary filming. Utilizing virtual reality tools officially developed by the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, we are able to access every corner and space of the memorial site.

How does it work? We host a Zoom session, connecting with students online. During the session, we narrate the virtual visit while presenting a unique combination of original presentations,

aerial videos, and historical footage. I tell the story of Auschwitz live. As the educator, I am with you throughout the session. You can ask questions and engage in dialogue with me.

The virtual tour is designed for a maximum of 40 participants per session. It will not be recorded or made public. **Unlike typical webinars, where participants usually cannot see each other and interaction with the educator is often limited to a Q&A format, I aim to create something more personal. These sessions are intended to be private and intimate meetings, where all participants can see each other in the virtual space, ask questions, and discuss important issues related to Auschwitz.**

Let me share an example of how impactful such a session can be: During our second session (an open, public one), we had the honor of hosting Mrs. Sophie Klisman, the mother of Lori Ellis. **Sophie Klisman is a Holocaust survivor.** She was deported to Auschwitz and, by incredible luck (as she described it herself), survived a selection conducted by Josef Mengele. Sophie remembers Block 26 in Auschwitz I—a place where newly arrived prisoners were photographed. During our Virtual Visit to Auschwitz, we paused exactly in front of Block 26. I am deeply grateful that we had the opportunity to hear her voice and her vivid descriptions during the session.



<<< click to watch my introduction to the Auschwitz Seminar & Virtual Tour

Auschwitz Virtual Tour - two options



WEBINAR - Zoom session

Our primary goal is to provide educational services to students and adult professionals. We tailor the content for adults, university students, and high school pupils. We believe that factors such as the level of engagement, the age and educational background of participants, and other considerations can be discussed and customized to suit your needs. Zoom is our primary webinar platform because it is widely used in most countries and relatively easy to navigate.

WEBINAR FORMULA

This is not a short webinar. Those who know me or who have visited Auschwitz Memorial with me as a guide know that it usually takes 4-5 hours. The Auschwitz Virtual Tour is planned to be divided into two parts: virtual visit at Auschwitz I (1:15), a 10-minute break, visiting Auschwitz II-Birkenau (1:15). In case of questions, I can extend the session, because we have no time limitation.

EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS. The webinars do not require costly equipment. Participants only need a computer with a webcam, a microphone, and an internet connection. To enhance the quality of the experience, investing in a higher-quality external camera and microphone is recommended. The Zoom platform is user-friendly, and in today's world, practically everyone is familiar with this software

Hybrid Seminar & Tour

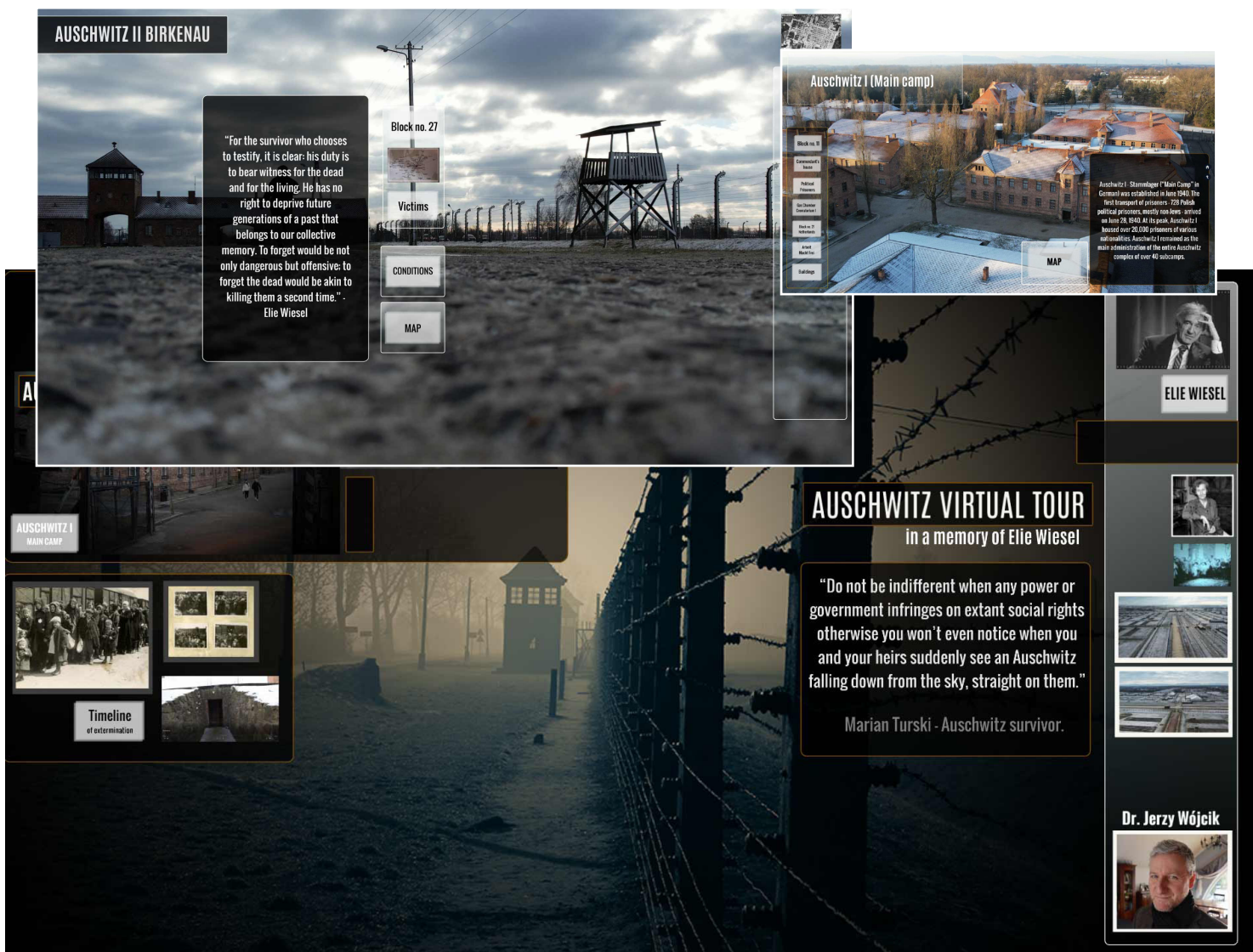
The online webinars are not the only option. A hybrid format works as well: the educator, in person and offline, presenting the virtual tour online. We believe that, for many students and professionals, an on-site presentation would also be a highly engaging option. This approach involves the educator traveling to the school, company, or institution to deliver a live presentation of the virtual tour in front of an audience. In this scenario, the educator continues to utilize digital resources but physically interacts with the group at their chosen location. This option creates a much more intimate experience, fostering direct contact between the educator and the participants.

ADJUSTMENT AND FLEXIBILITY We are very flexible and strive to make arrangements as straightforward as possible. I understand the importance of tailoring the program to meet a customer's unique needs and expectations. While webinars may be logistically simpler to organize, digital requirements can sometimes present challenges that are not easy to overcome. An on-site Auschwitz Seminar offers several advantages, with the most significant being the direct contact between the educator and the audience. This closeness enhances Q&A opportunities and facilitates meaningful dialogue. The rest of the presentation content remains identical to the webinar format.

Auschwitz Virtual Tour - what do we use?

No. 1: Prezi presentation: new, audiovisual approach to education.

To be honest, I have built an entirely new digital infrastructure for the Auschwitz Virtual Tour. I have combined historical footage, individual stories of survivors, and contemporary graphics technology. Prezi – the best (or one of the best) presentation software enables us to create a powerful, interactive presentation that proves to be extremely successful. Participants of our sessions so far have really appreciated the way the material has been collated and displayed.





No. 2: historical footage



During the liberation of Auschwitz, the Russians created a film capturing the camp immediately after its liberation. The footage reveals the original barracks, the campgrounds, and the survivors who endured the horrific conditions. It serves as an invaluable historical resource.

Another significant historical source is the official photographs taken by the Nazis themselves. The so-called “Auschwitz Album” is a collection of photos taken in 1944 for documentation purposes. After the war, the collection was discovered entirely by chance by Lili Jacob-Meyer, a young girl who found the photos in another camp, Dora-Mittelbau.

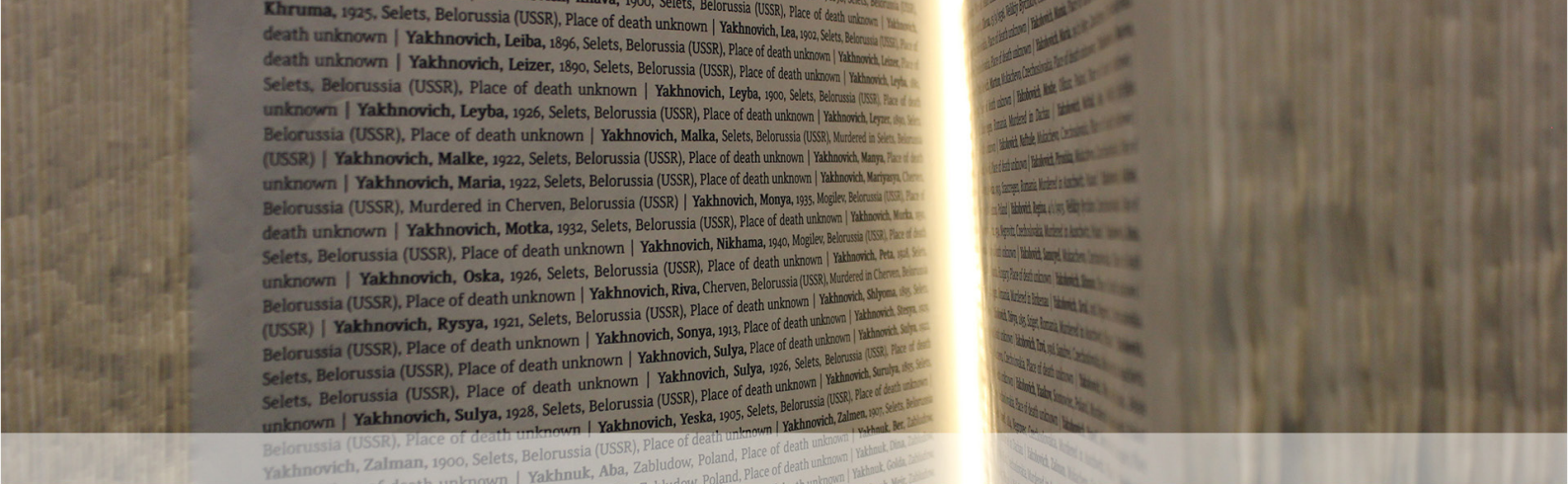
The third exceptionally important visual source consists of unofficial photographs taken by members of the Sonderkommando—prisoners tasked with cremating the bodies. Using a confiscated camera, they managed to capture several images: burning corpses in a corner of Birkenau and Jewish women awaiting death in the gas chamber. These photographs survived and remain an irreplaceable testament to the atrocities committed at Auschwitz.

360-degree panoramas

No. 3: 360-degree panoramas.



I had considered creating a virtual reality tool for this project, and I succeeded—I developed such a tool myself: a set of excellent, 360-degree panoramic images which make it possible to reach and look at even the most distant places at the memorial site. We can see the interiors of barracks, we can rotate the camera, and we can stand virtually in every spot that we normally visit in person.



Virtual tour for whom?

For students

At its core, students are the primary focus of this project. I firmly believe that teaching about the Holocaust should be an essential component of history education. As such, we are ready to conduct virtual tours for both adult university students and secondary school pupils aged 15 to 18.

For teachers

“In the past, I have encountered many teachers with remarkable knowledge, and a strong desire to deepen their understanding of Auschwitz’s history. Collaborating with educators is both immensely rewarding and equally challenging. Continuing education for teachers demands a dedicated program and specialized seminars, which I hope to have started in the early part of 2025.

For professionals

It is quite surprising, but over the past 2–3 years, I have worked with a significant number of small, private groups from corporations and business circles. It is particularly noteworthy that many corporate CEOs want their employees to gain an understanding of these tragic events. We are fully prepared to organize seminars tailored for companies and corporations, considering the specific role of business and entrepreneurship during World War II.

For communities

Over the past number of years, I have organized hundreds of visits for families, individuals or people who make up communities of many kinds. Many times I have had the pleasure of guiding the families of Holocaust survivors. I have also prepared a special virtual tour for them which allows the creation of an appropriate atmosphere for commemorating the victims of the Shoah.



When asked what an online Auschwitz Virtual Tour is like,
I explain it this way:

‘The Virtual Tour of Auschwitz aims to be a faithful and precise representation of an in-person visit to the Auschwitz Memorial Site. However, through the use of audiovisual techniques, we can greatly enhance the experience by incorporating historical recordings and aerial videos. What is most important, though, is the presence of the educator (myself), who can answer students’ questions at any moment and provide much deeper explanations. In this online system, the educator always interacts LIVE with the students.

One element remains unchanged: The NARRATIVE. This is something I have been dedicated to for the past 15 years.’

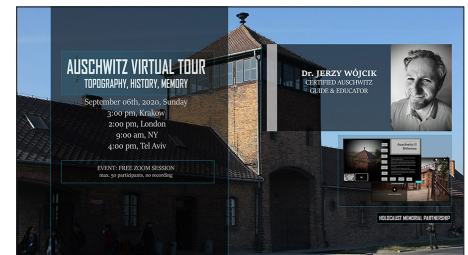
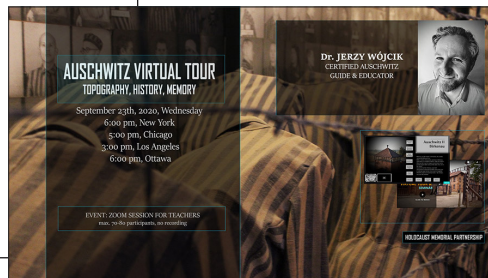
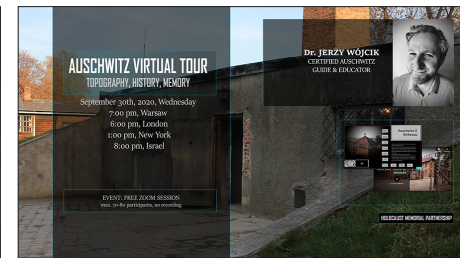
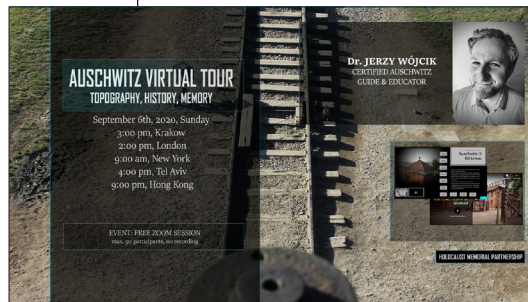
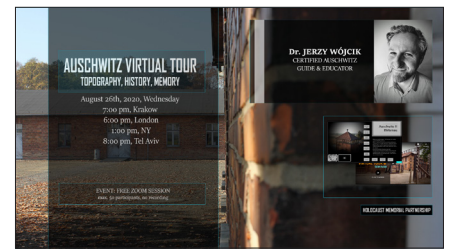
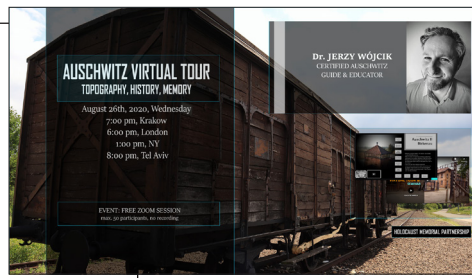
Jerzy Wójcik - Holocaust Memorial Partnership



Sessions - recent and upcoming

“We are currently offering free Zoom sessions for the general public.

Anyone can participate in one of these sessions on a trial basis. They are highly popular and limited to 50 participants, although the demand typically exceeds this number, with twice as many people expressing interest.



Dr. Jerzy Wójcik
Phone/ whatsapp: +48 509705022
E-mail: jerzy.tomasz.wojcik@gmail.com
www.auschwitz.memorialpartnership.pl
facebook.com/memorialpartnership/

I would be delighted to meet you online during a Zoom session and suggest organizing a trial run for your students, teachers, colleagues, or family. This will allow you to evaluate the project and determine whether your school, organization, or group would like to fully benefit from this opportunity. If so, I am more than willing to strengthen our collaboration by seeking external funding sources from foundations that support Holocaust education. My direct e-mail: jerzy.tomasz.wojcik@gmail.com