

European Memorial Sites: Core Declaration

European Memorial Sites established on the grounds of places connected to the crimes perpetrated by the Nazis, Fascists, and their accomplices during World War II constitute a visible legacy of the history that shaped the foundation of post-war Europe.

As our societies undergo significant change, and as the generation of Survivors and direct witnesses gradually disappears, Memorial Sites carry a continuing responsibility: to raise awareness of the past, actively encourage reflection in our contemporary society, and signal and resist dehumanization, racism, antisemitism, and xenophobia wherever they arise.

In fulfilling this responsibility, Memorial Sites occupy a distinct position. Basing on rigorous research and historical evidence, they are detached from private interests, independent, and have a critical voice, including in relation to political developments and all forms of hate speech. This requires that Memorial Sites remain places for difficult questions and that they can offer warnings when this is called for.

This task can only be sustained where Memorial Sites are guaranteed programmatic independence from political authority: local, regional, national, or European. Their intellectual and practical autonomy should not be subject to political or budgetary pressure.

As custodians of a history that affected the whole of Europe, their independence is not solely an internal matter for their respective governing bodies, but a shared interest of Europe as such.

To confront the growing challenges for democracy and peace, we call on all parties involved in public dialogue to respect this principle of autonomy.

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Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum, Poland	Museum of the Former German Extermination Camp Kulmhof in Chełmno nad Ner, Poland
National Historical and Memorial Reserve Babyn Yar, Ukraine	Memorial Leistikowstraße Potsdam, Germany
Death March Memorial in Below Forest, Germany	Lety u Písku. The Memorial to the Holocaust of the Roma and Sinti in Bohemia, Czech Republic
Bergen-Belsen Memorial, Germany	Maison d'Izieu, France
Memorial to the Victims of the Euthanasia Murders Brandenburg an der Havel, Germany	Mittelbau-Dora Memorial, Germany
Brandenburg-Görden Prison Memorial, Germany	Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial, Germany
Buchenwald Memorial, Germany	KL Plaszow Memorial Museum in Kraków, Poland
Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial, Germany	Memorial Museum Ravensbrück, Germany
Flossenbürg Concentration Camp Memorial, Germany	Internment and Deportation Memorial – Royallieu Camp, France
Museum of the Martyrdom of the Citizens of Wielkopolska Fort VII, Poland	Memorial and Museum Sachsenhausen, Germany
Fossoli Foundation, Italy	Stutthof Memorial in Sztutowo, Poland
Gross-Rosen Museum in Rogoźnica, Poland	Camp Vught National Memorial, Netherlands
Memorial Site Hartheim Castle, Austria	House of the Wannsee Conference Memorial and Educational Site, Germany
Hodonín u Kunštátu. Memorial to the Holocaust of the Roma and Sinti in Moravia, Czech Republic	Memorial Center Camp Westerbork, Netherlands
Memorial and Museum Jamlitz in Lieberose, Germany	Wolfenbüttel Prison Memorial, Germany
Kazerne Dossin, Belgium	Martyrs' Museum in Żabikowo, Poland