



**Polania**  
FUNDACJA

## March of remembrance and life

We are Poles, inhabitants of Krakow. We live in a city of many-centuries-long history of rich, multicultural heritage. We haven't built it being a monolith. A few hundred years ago Jews came to Poland seeking refuge and safety. With them they brought enlightenment, work and a different way of practicing religion.

We would like to commemorate their living in the midst of us. Express our thankfulness for the fruit of their labor in this land. For everything that we can see, realise and name – but also for the gifts unseen, unrealised, which also influenced and enriched the history of our city. We are a generation that hasn't had a chance to actually live together in this land, yet there is this feeling of longing, loneliness and quiet.

We decided together, a group of Polish and German Christians, to organize this March – a sign of remembrance of Jewish inhabitants of Krakow, that together with our forefathers for centuries had their influence on how this city was being built and existed. We would also like it to be an act of penance for how, for a long time, the majority of Christians treated their Jewish fellow-citizens.

At the same time it is our dream, that finally we can sound that great joy, that THEY are our „elder brothers in the faith”, and we can draw from their heritage of wisdom and hope. We want this March to be a sign, that we remember our common history: both what was beautiful and noble, but also what was shameful and low: the hurt, the injustice, the unrightfully-shed blood.

The time we chose is the hebrew month of Elul – the Jewish month of penance and reflection before the coming of the New Year... the preparation for a DIFFERENT time, clean and fresh start. In the Latin calendar the month of Elul happens to be September this year – also an important date to commemorate: the beginning of WWII, that dramatically changed the situation of Jews in Europe.

The March of Remembrance and Life will begin on Sept. 11<sup>Th</sup>, 2016, i.e. the 8<sup>th</sup> of Elul 5776.

We will start at 4 p.m.

The meeting place is the Collegium Maius, next to Św. Anny St., which used to be called the Jewish Street. We planned a few stops, to help us reflect on the history of the Jews and what hapened over the centuries in Krakow:

1. stop – WAWEL: to remember King Kazimierz Wielki and the priviledges he granted to the Jews;
2. stop – PL. WOLNICA 4: a prayer of penance for antisemitism, tumults, robberies, persecutions, deliveries, betrayals, pogroms, the March of 1968;
3. stop – SYNAGOGA STARA (THE OLD SYNAGOGUE): the Appeal of Kościuszko and the response of the Krakow Rabbis;
4. stop – THE VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST MONUMENT: we hand the voice over to the German representatives;
5. stop – UL. MIODOWA: (the Jewish Community Center, JCC);
6. stop – THE TEMPEL SYNAGOGUE: the closing concert.

The message we want to send:

- Educational – to remind the new generation of our common heritage;
- Reconciliation – a step towards the healing of the relations between the Poles and the Jews;
- Sociological aspect – we want to oppose any aspects of antisemitism, to build relations and a common future.

This initiative has been granted support by, and we expect the participation of: Bishop of the Catholic Church Rev. Grzegorz Ryś, the President of The Jewish Religious Community Mr. Tadeusz Jakubowicz, Rav. Avi Baumol, The Pastor of The Pentecostal Church Wiesław Didoszak.