

***HUMAN LIBRARY FOR
HOLOCAUST
REMEMBRANCE
12.02.2021, ZOOM***



***MEET OUR BOOKS &
THEIR STORIES***



ABOUT OUR E-HUMAN LIBRARY ON HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE

Young europeans, students, the Jewish community, representatives of the Civil Society and local decision-making centers navigated to stories and experiences about the Holocaust and unravelled the threads of racism, discrimination and intolerance.

MEET OUR HUMAN BOOKS

Mr Josef Cipin, Survivor of the Holocaust

**Dr. George Antoniou, Professor,
Jewish Studies, Aristotle University of
Thessaloniki**

**Mr Jerome (Dan) Vitenberg, Lecturer,
Political Science & Int. Communication**

**Mrs. Anastassia Politi, Theatre Director,
Actress, "Tsigan, the Gypsy poem"**

Guest:

**Mr. Moses Elisaf, Mayor of Ioannina,
President of Jewish Community of Ioannina**



Co-funded by the
Europe for Citizens Programme
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MEET OUR HUMAN BOOKS



JOSEF CIPIN

Survivor of the Holocaust

Jozef Cipin, born in 1934, was a young boy when the war began. He and his family were on the run in the early part of the war, evading the Nazis and hiding out with the partisans. When the Gestapo caught up, Mr. Cipin was interrogated and deported to the Terezin camp, where he managed to survive the Holocaust. After the war and till 1968, he spent his life in Czechoslovakia. He now lives in Toronto, Canada.



READ THEIR STORIES



JOZEF CIPIN

Born in 1934, he described that period of time as “the worst time for a Jewish to be born”. Shortly after, his family’s fate changed when his older sister was transported to Auschwitz for “work”, from where she never returned. He and his family spent 2,5 years in workers camp evading the Nazis, but with the Slovak uprising, they had a chance to return home. When he turned 11, he and his family were forced to run away with partisans and hide in the mountains where he got seriously sick. His mother was afraid that he won’t survive without being examined by doctors and was sent back to the village where he got caught and arrested. He spent 11 days in jail and then transferred to the concentration camp in Sered where he finally got medical treatment. As he was alone, without his parents, he was transferred to Terezin, to the International Red Cross “ghetto”.

He remembers that he was very optimistic there and he believed that if he was a good boy, the God would bring him back to his parents. Few days before the liberation, he received a piece of paper with instructions on where to go with a note “I am here”. Liberation saved his life, as years later he learned about the gas chambers in his camp.



MEET OUR HUMAN BOOKS



GEORGE ANTONIOU

**Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies,
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki**

Dr. Antoniou, with his extensive academic and research background in the Jewish History, has the title of the Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies in the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Among others, his interests lay on heritage and remembrance of the wars within post-war societies, in historiography, the civil wars and the Genocides. He is also the supervising curator of the research program "Mapping the Memory: Jewish students of Salonica in WWII and the Holocaust".



READ THEIR STORIES



GEORGE ANTONIOU

George Antoniou talked about how education and building networks helped some Jewish people to survive during the Holocaust. There is the State Conservatory in his hometown Thessaloniki where Jews studied music along with Christians in the interwar period. Educating themselves, especially in music studies, helped Jews to assimilate, grasp Western types of music and bond with the Greek Christians.

When the WWII started, most Jews were deported to concentration camps. Prisoners, who could play musical instruments, participated in the orchestra, performing for Nazis or accompanying other prisoners marching to and from work. Their ability to perform music gave them a chance to stay alive. Besides, some Jews were not deported to camps because their Christian classmates from the conservatory helped them to hide and be safe at home. This story aimed at highlighting the importance of the Jewish community engagement to education and mingling with Christians as the probability of survival of those who were studied in Music School was much higher than those who never were taught music (about half who were taught music survived Holocaust).



MEET OUR HUMAN BOOKS



JEROME (DAN) VITENBERG

**Lecturer, Political Science & Internal
political communication**

Born in Paris, his studies focused on regional media cooperation and stereotypes in the Middle-east. Through the years, he has managed business development missions in Africa, educational programs for UK and French institutions, and acted as cultural advisor for executive international policy makers in the Mediterranean area.



READ THEIR STORIES



JEROME (DAN) VITENBERG

Jerome shared a story of antisemitism's influence on the lives of Jewish people since the start of the 20th century till the present day through the experiences of his grandparents, parents, and himself. He has personally experienced anti-Semitic stereotypes since his childhood through his whole life.

He insists that those stereotypes were and still are based on political arguments, religious education, social-economic crises, and now - on the Covid-19 pandemic. Among the things we need to do to prevent another Holocaust from happening, Jerome highlighted the fight against anti-Semitic stereotypes, myths, fake news against the Holocaust denial. He brought to light 28 thousand people all across Europe who risked their lives to save Jews from extermination and who are collectively called Righteous Among the Nations. He also drew parallels between them and the people in his ancestors' and his own lives who stood up to stereotypes and hate against Jewish people.



MEET OUR HUMAN BOOKS



ANASTASSIA POLITI

Theatre Director, Actress

Born in Athens, she studied economics and theatre in Greece and France. During the 25 years that she lived in Paris, she has worked as an actress and theatre director. She also founded the performing arts'group "Compagnie Erinna" which revisits the humanist heritage through artistic creations on stage. In Greece she worked as a policy adviser at the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and as a scientific collaborator at the Hellenic Parliament and at the Panhellenic Confederation of Greek Roms.

She received the avant-garde creation grant Sarane Alexandrian from the Société des Gens de Lettres for the performance Tsigani, the Gypsy Poem written by Cecilia Woloch, Californian poet of Rom origine.



READ THEIR STORIES



ANASTASSIA POLITI

Anastassia Politi narrated stories about the history of the Roma Holocaust and shared the video performance with the audience based on Cecilia Woloch book "Tsigani: The Gypsy Poem" which has been presented all over the world since 2001. She shared the harsh experience of the Roma people during World War 2, mainly in Central Europe and pointed out the suffering, courage and resistance the Roma people experienced in the Auschwitz.

She pointed out that Cecilia Woloch, an American author of Roma origin had the honor to meet the survivor of Auschwitz named Peter who was only a child back then, and she has included some of his testimony in her book. She also honored Peter and another survivor named Raimond - a survivor of the concentration camps, prisons and multiple attempts on his life, as they both passed away last year.



OUR GUEST TESTIMONY



READ THEIR STORIES



MOSES ELISAF

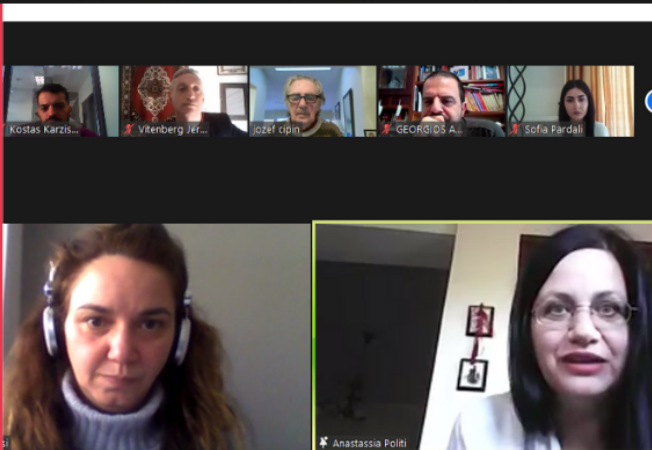
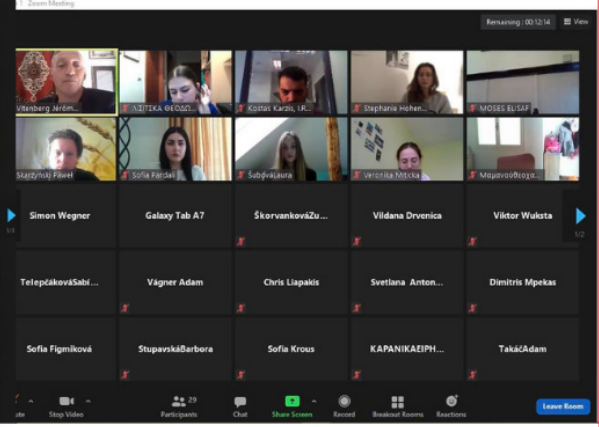
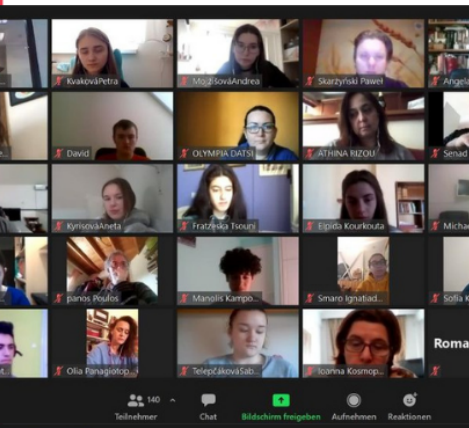
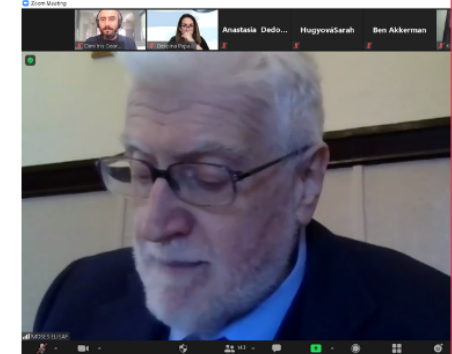
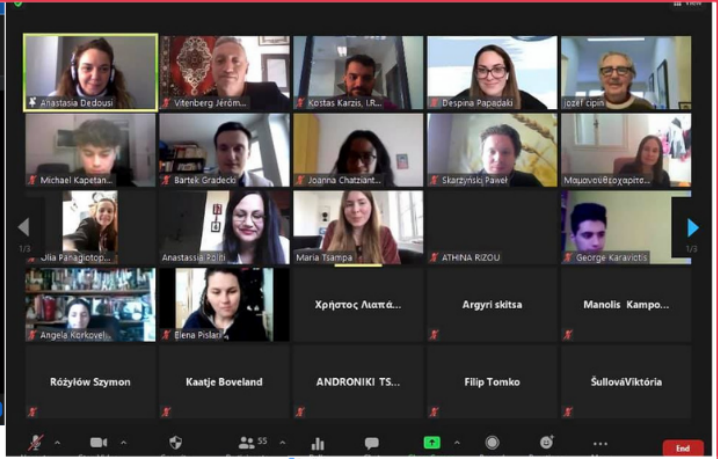
Born in 1954, his life was marked by the loss of dozens of close relatives- 32 of first degree who, together with his father and two brothers, were killed at Auschwitz camp. Growing up with very few relatives led him to persistently look for the cause of evil and the roots of anti-Semitism. Mr. Elisaf, on his testimony, described moments of the extermination of the Jewish Community of Ioannina during which 92% of its members were lost. He also shared in details the adventurous story of his parents' escape plan and the life of the survivors after their liberation in Ioannina.

As Mr. Elisaf stated "With this memory in all my life I fight relentlessly against fatal oblivion and silence as well as against fascism, racism, intolerance and anti-Semitism. I believe by rephrasing Jean-Paul Sartre statement that the stranger is not our hell but the fellow human being standing next to us, our comrade-in-arms in our common effort for a better future."



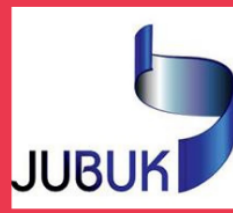
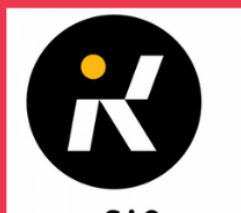


Participants and special thanks to all 4 books for their patience and passion!
Thank you!
Thank you for this experience
Thank you very much! It was a great experience to learn all this stories!
Amazing stories! Incredible people! We should never forget! We are truly thankful!
Even though I lost connection for the last 30 minutes, I thoroughly enjoyed this event. Thank you for your effort and activities. I am in awe of everyone who survived the Holocaust and is able to share their story to teach us how to be humans. THANKS a lot!





PROJECT PARTNERS



www.rememberholocaust.eu



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