

# Gathering at Auschwitz-Birkenau

May 4 – 9, 2020

**to be Re-Scheduled!**

March 13, 2020, Friday

Dear friends,

If you are receiving this letter, you registered for the “Gathering at Auschwitz-Birkenau”, MAY 4-9, 2020.

As you know, because to the rapid spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, the world has radically changed in just the past few days.

Due to these circumstances, we will regretfully

**POSTPONE OUR GATHERING AT AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU.**

As organizers of the Gathering at Auschwitz, we regret having to take this step. We feel a strong commitment and responsibility to the wellbeing of each individual, as well as our greater community and the wider society.

We have been informed that “The Memorial and Museum Auschwitz-Birkenau” has closed, and as of this evening (Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>) we just learned the Polish government has closed its borders to all foreign travelers. In addition, they cancelled international train and air traffic into and out of the country. Even “The March of the Living” has been cancelled. As far as we know, this is unprecedented in the history of the Auschwitz Museum.

In making this decision, we have taken into consideration The World Health Organization recommendations, as well as the local situation in the region of Krakow and the town of Oświęcim and these new constrictions for international air and train travel.

Friday evening we evaluated the whole situation and made the responsible and conscientious decision to postpone the Gathering at Auschwitz. As the situation develops, over the next few weeks, we hope to have a better sense of when we can reschedule the

Gathering and when the Center for Dialogue & Prayer can reserve rooms for us. They already have our deposit and will hold it.

### **YOUR REGISTRATION FEE:**

For those who have paid the registration fee:

~ We can hold it and will reserve a space for you when we have the new dates of our Gathering. If the new dates do not work for you, we will return your registration fee in full, minus only the bank transfer fees.

~ If you prefer your money returned now, please let Ginni know and she will alert Steffi to return your registration fee in full, minus only the bank transfer fees.

~ Please know, due to the possibility of price increases over time, we might have to increase the registration fee accordingly. If this happens, we will do our very best to keep any possible increases as minimal as possible, but if this happens, we will have to ask you to pay the difference.

### **YOUR TRAVEL TICKETS:**

For those of you who have already purchased your tickets, please contact the airlines or train company directly to tell them: due to the Covid-19 pandemic, you need to receive money back or credit towards new tickets. Each airline will have its own guidelines and ways of responding to such requests.

If you do not receive an answer that satisfies you, please ask for a supervisor – and if still unsatisfied, ask for the supervisor of the supervisor.

We will keep you posted as the situation becomes clearer.

Meantime, please stay safe, nourish your commitment to resilience, and practice the Three Tenets:

Not-Knowing, Bearing Witness & Appropriate Action

...and please, wash your hands.

Love,

Roshi Frank

&

Ginni, Serving the One