

MAUTHAUSEN COMMITTEE AUSTRIA

In 2000, Mauthausen Committee Austria took over the legacy of the survivors of Mauthausen Concentration Camp and its satellite camps. Mauthausen Committee Austria was founded in 1997 by the Austrian Federation of Trade Unions and the Bishops Conference of the Roman-catholic church together with the Federation of Jewish Communities in Austria as a partner. It was established as a successor organisation to the Austrian Association of Mauthausen Survivors. In 2000, the Austrian Association of Mauthausen Survivors made the MKÖ its official successor organisation. MKÖ pledges to preserve and carry on the legacy of the former prisoners of the concentration camp. Commemorating the victims of Nazi terror, especially those who were imprisoned in Mauthausen Concentration Camp and its satellite camps, as well as committed anti-fascist and anti-racist work, in particular with young people - these are the core activities of Mauthausen Committee Austria (MKÖ).

Liberation and Commemoration celebrations

Around the anniversary of the liberation of Mauthausen Concentration Camp on 5 May, Mauthausen Committee Austria organises the annual international Commemoration and Liberation Celebration, with thousands of participants from across the world. As more than 90 percent of the victims of the camp were neither Germans nor Austrians, the memorial ceremony is of international value and is by far the biggest commemoration and liberation ceremony in the world. The commemoration of the victims of Mauthausen Concentration Camp and its satellite camps is of international importance to us. The Mauthausen oath reminds us to embed internationality as our top guiding principle. With more than 100 commemoration and liberation celebrations in places of former satellite camps and other places where Nazi terror took place, we are taking an impressive stance for a “Never Again”.
www.mkoe.at

Festival of Joy

Since 2013, the Mauthausen Committee Austria has been organising the “Festival of Joy” on 8 May on Vienna’s Heldenplatz square, to celebrate the liberation from the Nazi reign. We also commemorate the millions who were prosecuted and murdered by the Nazis. Tribute is paid to the victims and the resistance fighters on this day, and the liberators are celebrated. Over the last few years, the Festival of Joy was supported by the Jewish Community, the Gedenkdienst association, the Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance, and by the Austrian Federal government and the City of Vienna. The Festival of Joy has an annual focus topic, which is reflected both in the music accompanying the event, and in the contents of the programme. The Festival of Joy takes a strong stand for the establishment of dignified commemoration on 8 May as the day of liberation.
www.festderfreude.at

Activities for young people

For many years, MKÖ has been implementing numerous projects, especially with young people, and has co-organised selected activities with partner organisations. The youth projects of Mauthausen Committee Austria have involved hundreds of thousands of young people; and these projects have been conveying not only knowledge of history, but also values such as human rights, a free, democratic society, anti-racism, anti-fascism etc - all values for which the Mauthausen Committee Austria stands.

We offer **educational activities** tailored to individual groups **at the Concentration Camp Memorial Mauthausen as well as on sites of former satellite camps of Mauthausen Concentration Camp**. These activities not only impart knowledge of the most far-reaching and darkest chapters of history, but they also touch upon the significance of these events for today, for the life of our young generations. In August 2018, MKÖ launched its **Mauthausen Satellite Camps App**, thus making for an interactive component of our programme which contains interviews with contemporary witnesses and photos. Historical information, photos, and videos are provided free of charge in the App and on the website www.mauthausen-guides.at. The app also allows users to conduct virtual visits to the sites with 25 virtual tours. One of our fundamental causes is to convey contemporary history to young people in an interactive and innovative manner. Short videos about the different sites and contributions by survivors of concentration camps and contemporary witnesses are also one of the interactive components of the four virtual tours of the project “denk mal wien”! The **educational project “denk mal wien”** and the **workshops “Zivilcourage trainieren”** cover the challenges of our society with respect to the past in even greater detail. Since autumn 2020, Mauthausen Committee Austria has also been conducting trainings on promoting moral courage on online platforms.

www.mauthausen-guides.at

www.zivilcourage.at

www.denkmalwien.at

Research

There are research projects on the history of Mauthausen Concentration Camp and its satellite camps, but MKÖ also organises regular international symposiums that aim at giving an understanding of the topic to a non-academic audience.

Publications

The series “edition mauthausen” is dedicated to the processing of the historical events and puts humans who had to experience unimaginable horrors at Mauthausen Concentration Camp at its centre.

www.edition-mauthausen.at

Book and Workshop “RECHTSEXTREM”

The book “Rechtsextrem” offers teachers, youth group leaders, social workers, works council members, educators, parents etc. universal backgrounds on neo-fascist youth culture, their codes, music, fashion labels, and symbols. For a more practical conveying of these contents, presentations and workshops can be booked on the topic.

www.rechtsextrem.at

Cultural events

New approaches to the events around Mauthausen Concentration Camp and its significance for Austria’s past and present - this is what we are trying to offer with our cultural events.

The objectives of MKÖ

MKÖ stands for a free and democratic society and for the conservation of human rights for all, regardless of their citizenship, their political convictions, or their religion, and especially for the protection of minorities. MKÖ is decisively against all types of fascism, racism, right-wing extremism, chauvinism, and anti-Semitism. MKÖ is responsible for the conservation and the scientific and pedagogical supervision of the former concentration camp of Mauthausen and its satellite camps. MKÖ is a non-profit association whose work is always non-partisan.