

## **HIDING – COVERING – UNCOVERING. EXPERIENCING THE HOLOCAUST**

Leader: Mirosław Skrzypczyk

The aim of the workshop was to show different dimensions of the experience of the Holocaust both for Jews and for Poles who were involved in witnessing to the Holocaust and who adopted various attitudes towards the Holocaust. The workshops showed the multidimensionality and density of this experience, as well as bearing witness and talking about the Holocaust. The key words for the discussion were four title words: hiding, covering, uncovering and experiencing.

The subject matter of the workshops was related to the experience of the leader himself - his place of residence and work, research he has been conducting, educational and social activity, and even family history.

The workshops were based on conversation, discussion, joint investigation into diagnoses, conclusions and observations, showing the density of experiences during the Holocaust, as well as on the interpretation of fragments of video accounts.

The workshops were divided in two parts. The first consisted in joint recognition, definition, and indication of the meanings of the title words - emphasizing their ambiguity in the context of Polish and Jewish experience. The second one was to work with recordings of oral history stories - Henryk Szaniawski (Chaim Środa), a Jew from Lelów who survived the Holocaust and spent the rest of his life in Warsaw, and Jadwiga Cukerman-Gold, born in Szczekociny, a Holocaust survivor who had left Poland after the war and spent the rest of her life in Israel. Based on the fragments of the story, showing the complexity of hiding on the Aryan side, the Poles were thinking about various attitudes during the Holocaust and the key concepts for the workshop: hiding, covering, discovering.

The leader of the workshops, referring to his own research and didactic work related to the Jewish subject matter and the subject of the Holocaust, showed methodological inspirations, useful in the development of this topic - oral history, rescue history, and micro-history. The workshops were an incentive for micro-researching, learning, and exploring local stories in which one can see something bigger and more general.

The joint conclusion from the workshops is a conviction about the density, proximity, and importance of the Holocaust experience, also for the Polish society. The problem of the Righteous, witnesses, and bystanders is one of the most important problems of contemporary humanities, it is for Polish researchers and teachers to consider it because bearing witness to the Holocaust has been in the hands of Polish society, it has also become a Polish experience that should be accepted, take responsibility, and attempt to describe it.