

Opening Ceremony of the Historical Site Adlerwerke

25 March 2022



Greeting note by Elke Sautner

Förderverein zur Errichtung einer Gedenk- und Bildungsstätte KZ-Katzbach in den Adlerwerken und zur Zwangsarbeit in Frankfurt am Main e.V.

Dear Ms. Hartwig,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Dear friends and colleagues,

More than 30 years of commitment to the creation of a memorial and educational site to commemorate the Katzbach concentration camp and the forced labor in the Adlerwerke have now come to an end in the search for a location.

Since 1990, initiatives from the Gallus and diverse civic engagement from the entire city demanded that not only a commemorative plaque commemorates the terrible concentration camp Katzbach, in which so many people were cruelly murdered, but also a place that the people there suffered and died, reflects and commemorates their name and identity.

The social changes of the last decades have increased the need for this place of history more and more.

Increasing right-wing tendencies in society.

More and more people in Frankfurt who have completely different social backgrounds

Fewer and fewer contemporary witnesses who could report authentically.

In order to increase the pressure on politics, to form a network, to provide information, to bring the Katzbach concentration camp to the public and to support research, the association was founded in 2015.

Founding members are here today:

Renate Wolter Brandecker, Lothar Reininger, Svenja Özdemir, Andreas Dickerboom, Herbert Bauch, and Ansgar Dittmar.

In the years of its existence, the association has provided information on a wide variety of campaigns about the Katzbach concentration camp and forced labour.

Contacts were sought with former prisoners

There were commemorative events for the prisoners' death march

Information events in schools, in educational institutions of the trade union

Connections have been established to the network of memorial sites in the former Natzweiler concentration camp complex

We made a film, edited a book, developed a play

We took part in many actions in the district and in the city and much more

It was and is important for the association to always be present in order to make the history of the Katzbach concentration camp and the people who were imprisoned there public.

The association wanted and wants to continue to support other people or initiatives that are active in commemorating the Katzbach concentration camp and forced labour.

But today I would like to say thank you to everyone who has always supported us as a support association. I would like to single out two people as representatives of all the many supporters.

There is Winfried Becker and the team from the Gallustheater

The Gallustheater is the focal point, without Winni and Heike many things would not have been possible. Thank you very much.

Unfortunately, the second person is not present today. Without the great and tireless commitment and enthusiasm of our 1st chairman Horst Koch-Panzner, many things would not have been implemented. It was his commitment that made this historical site possible in the first place. Many thanks dear Horst.

The intensive discussion over many years with the question of what should happen at this place has led to the conclusion that it must become a place of remembrance for the thousands of people who lived, suffered and died there.

The second meaning of this place must be the discussion and mediation of the mechanisms that made this atrocity possible before the time of the Katzbach concentration camp and the silence after the war.

For this reason, the association has entered into a cooperation with the Studienkreis Deutscher Widerstand 1933-1945 in order to work together with them and the initiatives in Gallus to make the Adlerwerke history site a strong place against forgetting, against racism and fake news.

Thank you