

NeDiPa

*Why is memory
activism important?*

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Qualitative study on memory activism in Poland

— *20 in-depth interviews,
including 7 with people
identifying as Jewish and
13 non-Jews*

— *7 small organizations, 7 medium-sized
organizations, 6 large organizations,
— 5 people from small towns, 5 from
medium-sized towns, 10 from large cities*

— education, grass-root work

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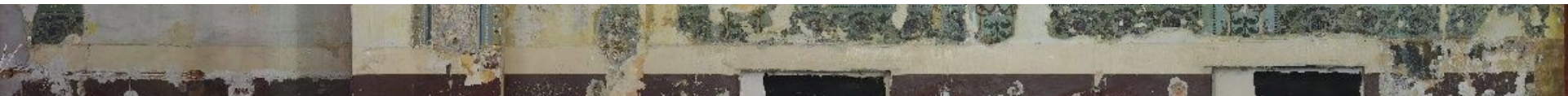
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— fight for human rights

I believe that history and memory are important - it is an obligation to emphasize that these mechanisms, which worked then are still here. Racism has no homeland.



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I believe that history and memory are important - it is an obligation to emphasize that these mechanisms, which worked then are still smoldering. Racism has no homeland.

— opposition to oblivion

For me memory activism is (...) a patriotic activity. Sweeping things under the rug is harmful (...).



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For most respondents, dealing with memory is an activity unrelated to what they are doing their everyday professional activity, resulting more from a sense of responsibility and mission.

Memory activists are socially-minded ———— mission-driven individuals caring for democratic values.

Respondents pointed out that activities related to memory are inseparable from activities undertaken for human rights. Touching on the topic of memory means opening up conversations about tolerance, inclusivity and dialogue.

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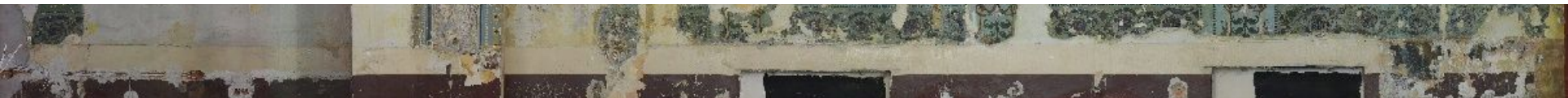
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„I look back to the past for the sake of the future.”

— building social bonds



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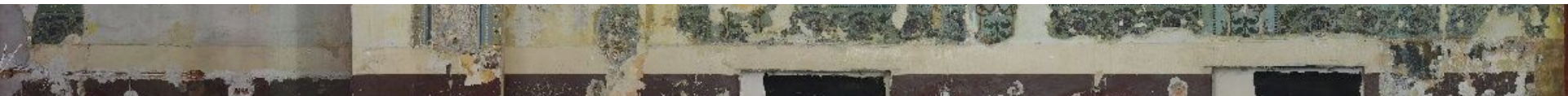


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Many activists emphasize that they care about building social change in the local communities where they live.



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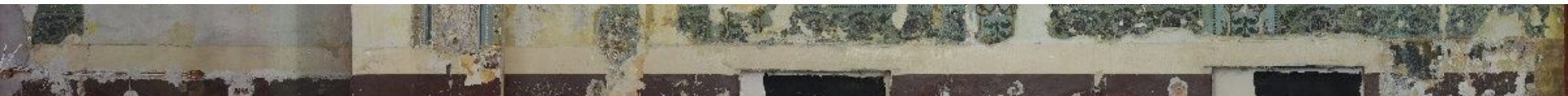
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— building social bonds

„For us, this history is an integral element of our future. What we really care about is the future of the region, its development, and building relationships based on democratic values.”

„I look back to the past for the sake of the future.”

— counteracting exclusion and xenophobia



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Memory activists believe that the memory of the past teaches us about the tragic consequences of prejudice and intolerance, as well as about the need to defend human rights and equality for all.

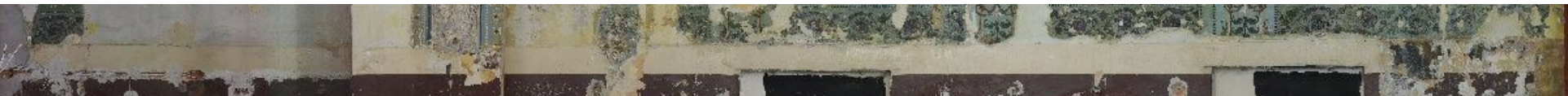
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„I do it for my daughters, for their future. We see - with the war in Ukraine (...) what happens when history (...) is perfidiously used for manipulation and propaganda.”

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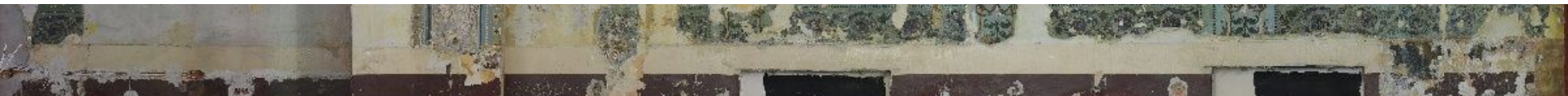
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*„All this is extremely **rewarding** for us and also **difficult** at the same time because we never know how much money we will get. Even if everyone tells us that they really appreciate what we do, it turns out that this **does not translate into any tangible support.**”*

What do they need?

— networking and cooperation with other activists



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- greater visibility

„What I dream about is for these small initiatives to reach more people. There are so many people who organize things - like small towns that collect funds to install a commemorative plaque.”