

KZ-Gedenkstätte Neuengamme

Ausstellungen
Begegnungen
Studienzentrum

KZ-Gedenkstätte Neuengamme Jean-Dolidier-Weg 75 21039 Hamburg

Seasonal newsletter

to the survivors of the Neuengamme
concentration camp, their relatives and members
of the Friends of the Memorial association

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Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends,

The Year 2009 is drawing to a close, and I would like to use this as an opportunity to tell you about our activities here at the Memorial over this past year.

At the start of this year, the Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial underwent some structural and institutional changes. The Memorial is still part of the Hamburg Ministry for Culture, Sports and the Media, but because of its nationwide significance, it now also receives regular funding from the Federal Government of Germany. This support means we will be able to both secure and substantially expand our educational work and the upkeep of the Memorial itself in the long term. Talking to Hamburg's Minister for Cultural Affairs, Prof. Karin von Welck, during a visit to Hamburg City Hall on 30 September, Bernd Neumann, the Federal Commissioner for Culture and the Media, reaffirmed the Federal Government's intention to permanently become one of the Memorial's funding bodies. With this support, we were able to carry out the urgently needed refurbishment and insulation work on the roof and more than 200 windows of the former Walther factory as well as put in new roof tiles and drain the basement of Brick Building II, which used to house prisoner blocks 21 to 24 and now houses the exhibition.

Our enlarged educational team also produced the first long-term results this year. A new structure for the schedule, topics and methods of our guided tours was drawn up. The new tours range from short visits to one-day seminars. New possibilities for research learning were created through the expansion of the Open Archive, which now contains more than 5,600 items, the development of questionnaires on the exhibition, the associative use of pictorial sources and through the new media lab, which was set up in September and contains cameras and editing equipment. We also increased the training measures for our freelance guides, who are now directly under contract with the Memorial. They guided around 1500 school groups and other groups this year. We are expecting total visitor numbers to rise to over 65,000 this year.

