

World Federation of Jewish Child Survivors of the Holocaust and Descendants (WFJCSH&D)

www.wfjcsh.org

German Section: Child Survivors Deutschland e. V.- Überlebende Kinder der Shoah (CSD)
<http://www.child-survivors-deutschland.de/> V. i. S. d. P. Dr. Ph. Sonntag / CSD

Press Conference Aug 21st 11 am at Hilton/Berlin Mohrenstr. 30 for the 26th WFJCSH&D Conference August 24th-27th 2014 in Berlin

For the first time WFJCSH&D will hold its annual conference for Child Survivors of the Holocaust plus their 2nd and 3rd generation in the German capital BERLIN.

Conference Homepage: <http://wfbc2014.com/>

Stefanie Seltzer, President of WFJCSHD said in a statement in Berlin, Germany aimed at German citizens and all of Europe:

“We are here in the place where the Holocaust had its beginnings, and we stand with our brothers and sisters of the German survivor community because we want them and all of Europe to know we are one united community.”

The conference, to start on August 24th, has as its theme three simple words “Justice, Respect, Peace.” Max Arpels Lezer, a Vice President of WFJCSHD from Holland and liaison to Berlin from the Federation commented on that theme:

“Each of us survivors wants only justice where we live, from our neighbors and our government, and we demand respect like every one of our countrymen. If we have those things, we may hope to realize peace.”

Child Survivors, born 1928-1945, survived the persecution of the Nazis until 1945. WFJCSH&D comprises 54 groups in 18 countries, representing about 25.000 individual members, most of them aged 75 – 85. The conference is expected to attract more than 325 survivors, spouses, second generations (2G) and third generations (3G) from all over the world.

Child Survivors come as victims to the former center of their suppressors. Philipp Sonntag of the German section (CSD) emphasizes:

We have to live with a current ambivalence of attitudes in Germany toward Jews. Both the German government and society in the majority of cases display a benevolent, friendly mood. Much will depend on the kind of welcome for the attendees on August 24th.

A happy omen: Steve Adler, a former schoolchild in Berlin, has been cordially invited to “his” school.

Child Survivors are characterized by sufferings, until 1945 and then also ongoing through the decades until now: The impact of past traumas still causes damage for physical and mental health. Child Survivors especially are bitterly aware of the impact of war and other forms of violence upon children, immediately and all along life. While Child Survivors have no easy solution for the global challenges, still they have an extended sensitivity not only for sufferings, but also for the long term importance of “confidence building measures” worldwide.