



## STOLPERSTEINE IN LOMNICE

### 1. About the project

The Stolpersteine project aims to honor and commemorate the victims of Nazi WW2 genocide. A permanent tribute is paid to murdered Jews, Roma and Sinti, gays, resistance fighters, physically and mentally disabled and Jehova's witnesses through the commemorative stones carrying the victim's name and fate.

Stolpersteine is a composite of German words stolpern (to stumble) and stein(stone). The name expresses the power of a story behind each of the Stolpersteine, which does not allow us to just pass by without noticing and continue walking. It forces the walker-by to stop and bow both symbolically and physically to the victim whose name is imprinted on the Stone.

Each Stone is made of concrete, it is a 10 x 10 x 10 cm cube with a brass plate on one of its sides, which carries an imprinted sign. The Stolperstein is placed as part of the pavement in front of the house which was a last residence of a person deported by the Nazis to death. The Stones, placed in a public space, become a permanent reminder of a crime committed by the Nazis and their helpers. In accordance with the present day trend in the education about the holocaust, the Stolperstein stands for a fate of a human being - a fellow citizen who lived in the same places where we live our lives today, and who was murdered for no reason. The Stolpersteine thus provide an exceptionally strong possibility to identify with the victims of Nazi persecution and warn against the danger and consequences of intolerance and xenophobia. Their location in the street of course also expresses the stand-point of the Municipality and its leaders towards the war mass murder, racism and other forms of xenophobia.

The German artist - sculptor Gunter Demnig developed the Stolpersteine idea in 1993/94 and placed the first Stones in the streets of German Cologne, with Berlin and other German townships following. As of today, more than 23 thousand Stones were laid in hundreds of European cities. The Stolpersteine project has gradually expanded beyond the German borders and the Stolpersteine can today be found in Austria, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Poland, Hungary, Ukraine, Norway and Denmark and of course the Czech Republic.

In all these countries, local initiatives or executive teams, cognizant of local environment, conduct a research into holocaust and gather the names and other information on the victims and places of their last residence before deportation. The teams work with their municipalities, get the permissions for laying of the Stones and organize events to popularize the Stolpersteine idea. All the Stones Europe-wide are produced by Gunter Demnig and his Cologne team, based on an order from the local initiatives.

Gunter Demnig travels Europe a lot and sets personally almost all the Stones in the pavement. The funding for the project is diverse but sponsorship by private donors and donations by local institutions and organizations fill the most of project's budget.

## **2. Stolpersteine in Lomnice**

The Association for Beauty Lomnice (Okrašlovací spolek pro Lomnici a okolí) has been collecting information, documents and photos about murdered Jews from Lomnice. They have contacted many relatives of the murdered Jews and they cooperate with the civic association Stolpersteine CZ o.s.

**The first stolpersteine cubes of Liebesny family are going to be laid on the 17th of September 2011 during a celebration of the European Heritage Days.**

The relatives of the murdered Jews, the representatives of Lomnice, the representatives of the Jewish Association Brno and many other are going to take part in that event.