

# CHURCHES AND RELIGIOUS ASSOCIATIONS BEHIND THE „IRON CURTAIN”

Part three: 1968–1978

## PROGRAM

**23 SEPTEMBER 2025**

9:30 Welcome speeches, opening

### **9:45 Panel I**

Moderator: Beáta Katrebová Blehová

**Peter Jašek** Nation's Memory Institute, Slovakia

*The Position of the Church and Believers in Slovakia in the Beginning of So-Called Normalization (August 1968–1971)*

**Rafał Łatka** Institute of National Remembrance, Poland

*From March '68 to October '78: The Polish Episcopate in the Face of the Socio-Political Reality of the People's Republic of Poland*

**Réka Földváryné Kiss** Committee of National Remembrance, Hungary

*Church Policy and Church Communities in the Context of the Helsinki Process*

*Debate*

11:00 Break

### **11:30 Panel II**

Moderator: Rafał Łatka

**Nadezhda Beliakova** University of Bielefeld, Germany

*Soviet Policy of Regulating Religious Diplomacy: Underestimated Transnational Religious Actors amid the Development of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe Process in the 1970s*

**Beáta Katrebová Blehová** Nation's Memory Institute, Slovakia

*Religious Policy of the Slovak World Congress in the 1970s*

**Eszter Cúthné Gyóni** Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary

*The Operational Work of the State Security in the Parish of St. Imre in Buda in the 1970s*

*Debate*

12:45 Lunch

### **14:00 Panel III**

Moderator: Gergely Isó

**Željko Oset** ELTE RCH Institute of History, Hungary

*Rehabilitation of Priests in State-Sponsored Priest Associations in Yugoslavia: A Tool to Exert Pressure on the Church Hierarchy*

**Zsolt Balázs Pétsy** Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary

*The Clerical Peace Movement in Hungary between 1968 and 1978, with Special Regard to their International Relations and their Appearance in the Press*

**Przemysław Pazik** University of Warsaw, Poland

*From Below or From Above? Interactions Between State Religious Administration and the Catholic Clergy in 1970s Poland*

**Chinmaya Lele** Robert Morris University, USA

*Atheism as Ideological Warfare: Soviet Religious Suppression and the Politics of Belief (1968–1978)*

*Debate*



## 24 SEPTEMBER 2025

9:30 Opening

### 9:35 Panel IV

Moderator: Peter Jašek

**Irina Gordeeva** Leibniz Centre for Contemporary History, Germany  
*Soviet Underground Ecumenical Movement in the Context of the Global Cultural and Religious Movements of the 1970s*

**Bogusław Wójcik** Institute of National Remembrance, Poland  
*Keston College in Defence of Religious Freedom behind the Iron Curtain, 1969–1989, First Decade*

**Bernadett Wirthné Diera** Office of the Committee of National Remembrance, Hungary  
*A New Shoot from the "Pruned Tree": The Launch of the Correspondence Course at the Roman Catholic Academy of Theology*

*Debate*

10:50 Break

### 11:20 Panel V

Moderator: Bogusław Wójcik

**Bernd Schaefer** Woodrow Wilson Center, Washington DC, USA  
*German Ostpolitik and Vatican Diplomacy with the GDR, 1965–1978*

**Jacek Tebinka** University of Gdańsk, Poland  
*Election of Karol Wojtyła as the New Pope in 1978: British Hopes and Expectations*

**Piotr Długolecki** Polish Institute of International Affairs, Poland  
*The Establishment of the Permanent Working Contacts between the Holy See and the Government of the People's Republic of Poland*

**András Fejérdy** ELTE RCH Institute of History, Hungary  
*The Holy See and Hungary in the Short 1970s: Dynamics and Content of Bilateral Relations*

*Debate*

12:55 Closing remarks

13:00 Lunch