

Public memorialization of homeless deaths

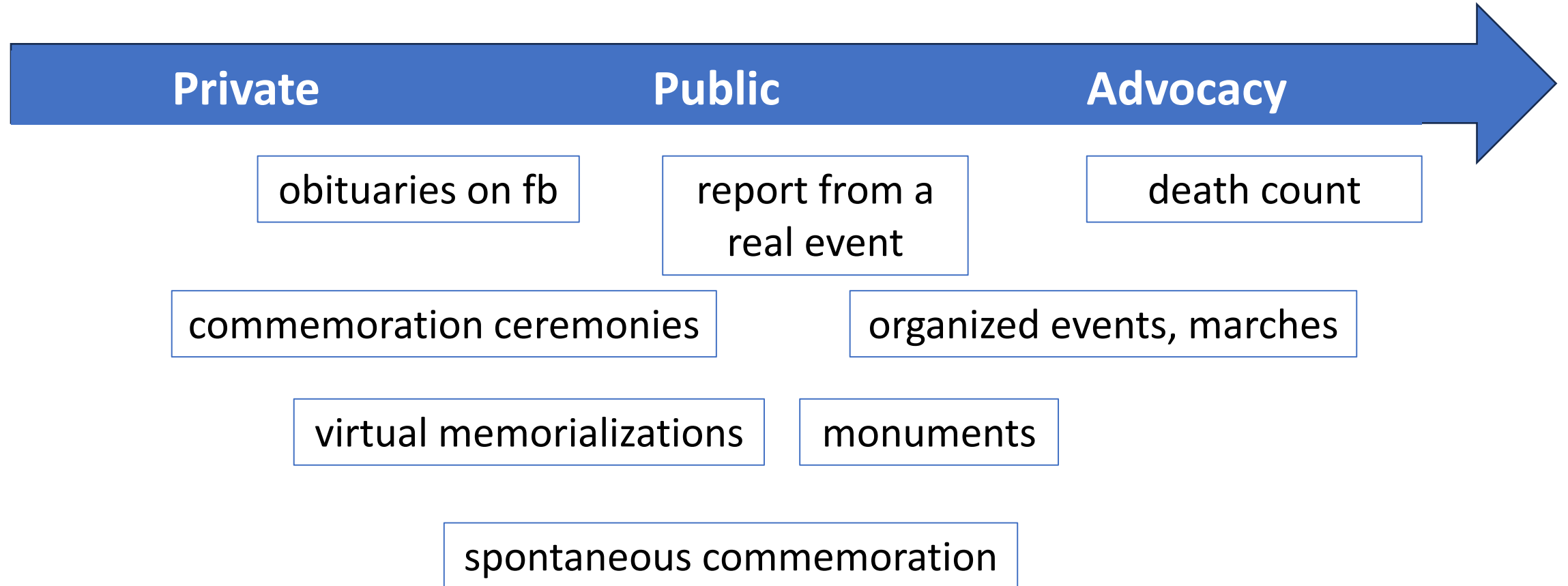
Magdalena Mostowska & Ewelina Biczynska

Memorializations of deaths in public space

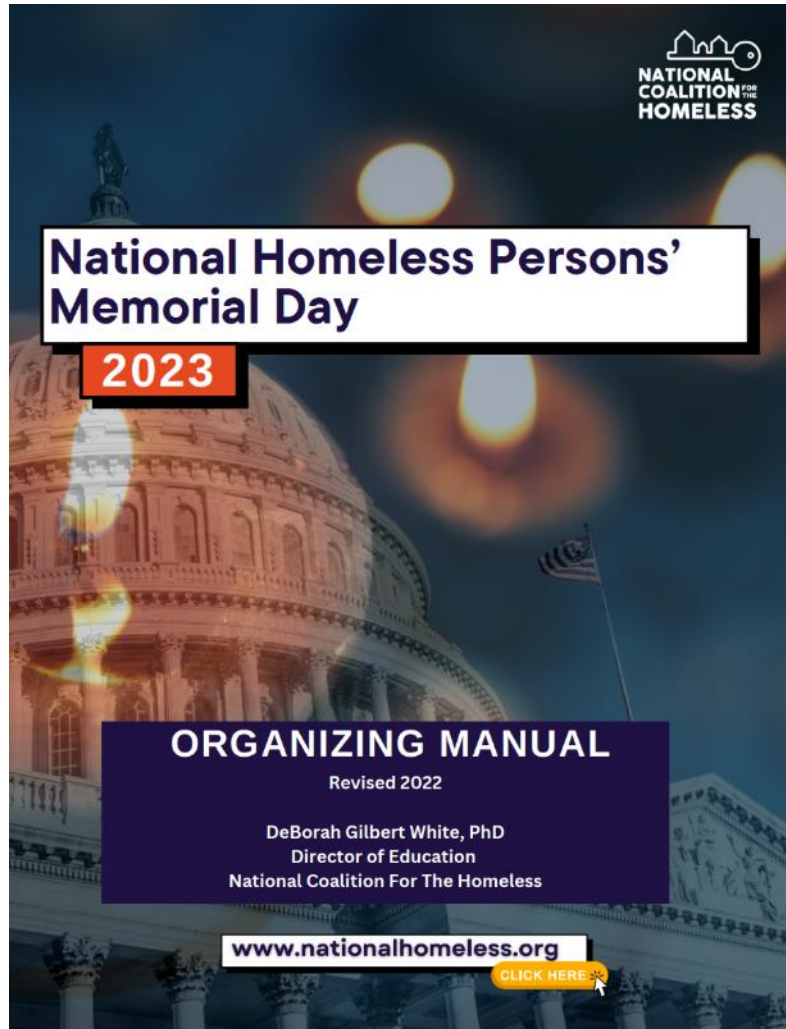
Preventable, premature, unjust deaths:

- Traffic deaths
- Gun violence in the US (school shootings)
- Police killings/Black Lives Matter
- Immigrant border deaths
- Terror attacks
- Femicide

Categories of death memorializations



Advocacy-remembrance initiatives



NATIONAL COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day

2023

ORGANIZING MANUAL
Revised 2022

DeBorah Gilbert White, PhD
Director of Education
National Coalition For The Homeless

www.nationalhomeless.org

CLICK HERE

The poster features a background image of the US Capitol building with a warm, glowing light effect. The text is arranged in a clear, hierarchical layout, with the title and year at the top, followed by the manual title and author information at the bottom.

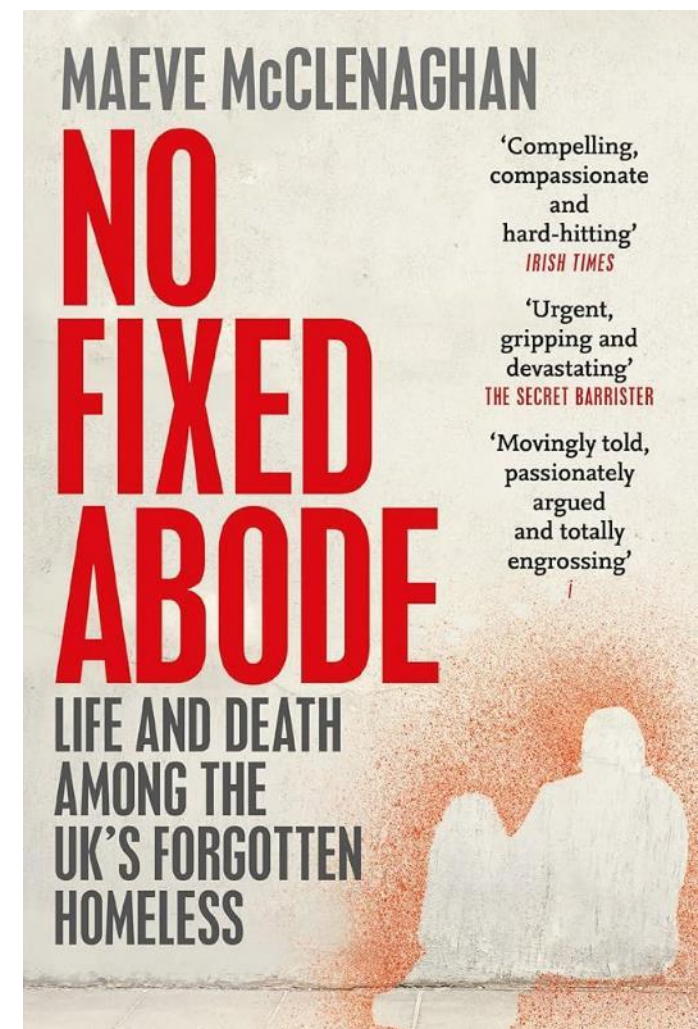


HOMMAGE AUX 656 MORTS DE LA RUE
LE 19 MARS 2024

Aux arènes de Lutèce
Métro Monge
Lecture des noms de 11h30 à 13h
Rassemblement à 13h

**POUR EUX
LES JEUX
SONT FAITS**

The poster has a black background with white and red text. At the bottom, there is a white line-art illustration of a trapezoidal arena with a flag on a pole in the center. The text is bold and centered, providing clear information about the event.



MAEVE McCLENAGHAN

**NO
FIXED
ABODE**

LIFE AND DEATH
AMONG THE
UK'S FORGOTTEN
HOMELESS

'Compelling, compassionate and hard-hitting'
IRISH TIMES

'Urgent, gripping and devastating'
THE SECRET BARRISTER

'Movingly told, passionately argued and totally engrossing'
i

The book cover features a textured, light-colored background with a faint illustration of two figures sitting on the ground. The title 'NO FIXED ABODE' is written in large, bold, red letters. The author's name and several quotes are positioned at the top and right, while the subtitle is at the bottom.

Les Morts de la Rue, FR

58 ans en novembre à Fresnes
 3 ans en novembre à Paris
 59 ans, le 1^{er} novembre à Noyon
 18 ans, le 3 novembre à Puteaux
 13 ans, le 3 novembre à Paris
 ne, 45 ans, le 4 novembre à Paris
ORAND, 54 ans, le 4 novembre à Paris
 45 ans, le 4 novembre à Paris
 e, 53 ans, le 5 novembre à Paris

Daniel, 60 ans, le 13 novembre à Amiens
 Ion, 44 ans, le 13 novembre à Rennes
 Paul, 33 ans, le 14 novembre à Puteaux
Stéphane, 53 ans, le 14 novembre à Clichy
 Un homme, 53 ans, le 14 novembre à Paris
 Un bébé, 6 mois, le 14 novembre à Koungou
Nadjim, 55 ans, le 15 novembre à Tourcoing
Fabrice dit «Fada», 41 ans, le 15 novembre à Redon
Ahmed dit «Yoyo», 56 ans, le 15 novembre à Perpignan
 Roger, 63 ans, le 15 novembre à Strasbourg
 Cindy, 37 ans, le 16 novembre à Toulouse
 Catherine, 76 ans, le 16 novembre à Paris
 Patrick, 61 ans, le 17 novembre à Vitry-Sur-Seine
 Abdenaim, 49 ans, le 21 novembre à Brest
 Habib, 70 ans, le 21 novembre à Paris
 Velonjara, 42 ans, le 21 novembre à La Rochelle
 Bogdan, 71 ans, le 21 novembre à Bagnolet
Marie-Christine, 70 ans, le 22 novembre à Paris
 Gregory dit «Saian», 37 ans, le 22 novembre à Orleans
 Isabelle, 51 ans, le 22 novembre à Lille
 Gérard, 65 ans, le 22 novembre à Paris
 Abdelouahab, 86 ans, le 23 novembre à Paris
 Anthony, 36 ans, le 23 novembre à Lille
 Asif DANESH, 35 ans, le 24 novembre à Paris
 Serge, 61 ans, le 26 novembre à Nice
 Steve dit «Teddy», 53 ans, le 28 novembre à Colmar
 Un homme, 55 ans environ, le 28 novembre à Vincennes
 Nicolas, 35 ans, le 30 novembre à Nice
 Frédéric, 54 ans, le 30 novembre à Nice
 Daniel, 44 ans, le 30 novembre à Colombes

COLLECTIF
Les
de La
MORTS
RUE

**MARCHE POUR LES 611
MORTS DE LA RUE
LE 13 JUIN 2023**

**Hommage
aux
morts
de
la
rue
de
2022
et
début
2023**

Rendez-vous à Paris
place de la Nation
coté 20^e à 16h45

Arrivée vers 18h devant la porte
principale du cimetière du Père
Lachaise (au niveau de la rue de la Roquette)

(Sous réserve d'autorisation de la préfecture)

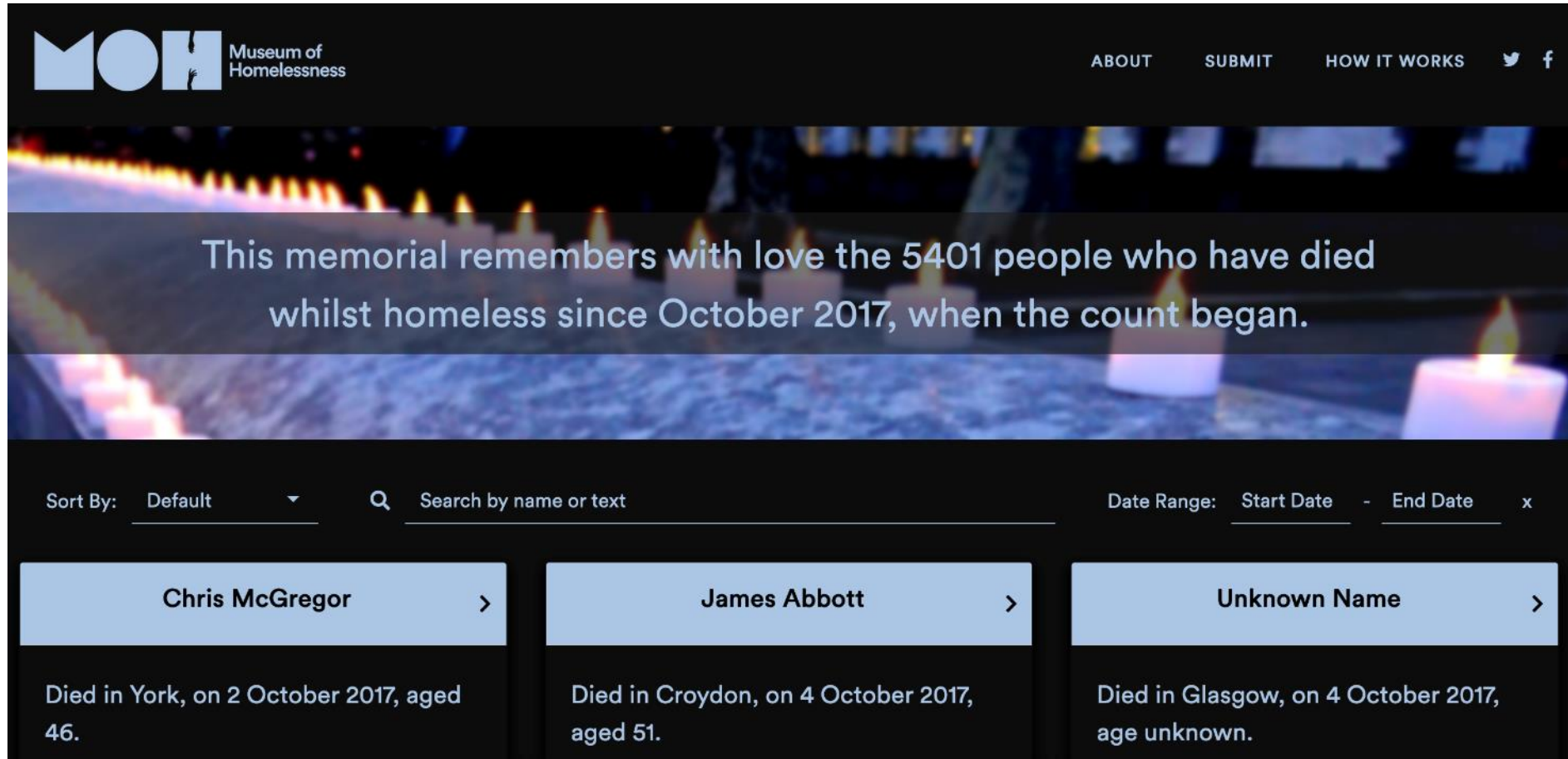


re à Paris

à Limoges

Amelot

Homeless Dying Project, UK



The screenshot shows the website for the Museum of Homelessness. The header includes the logo 'MOH Museum of Homelessness' and navigation links for 'ABOUT', 'SUBMIT', and 'HOW IT WORKS', along with social media icons for Twitter and Facebook. A large banner image of lit candles at night contains the text: 'This memorial remembers with love the 5401 people who have died whilst homeless since October 2017, when the count began.' Below the banner is a search and filter interface with 'Sort By: Default', a search bar 'Search by name or text', and a 'Date Range' selector. Three memorial cards are displayed, each with a name, a right-pointing arrow, and a description of where and when they died.

Sort By: Default	Search by name or text	Date Range: Start Date - End Date
Chris McGregor	James Abbott	Unknown Name
Died in York, on 2 October 2017, aged 46.	Died in Croydon, on 4 October 2017, aged 51.	Died in Glasgow, on 4 October 2017, age unknown.

Homeless Remembrance Project, Seattle

WHEEL WOMEN IN BLACK

CANDLELIGHT VIGIL



**FOR ALL 2023 OUTDOOR/PUBLIC/VIOLENT
HOMELESS DEATHS**

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21st
starts with informal **SUNSET**
RITUAL (4:21 PM)

**SEATTLE CITY HALL
PLAZA (4TH/JAMES)**

SILENT VIGIL on CITY HALL STEPS 5-6 PM

December 21st is the Winter Solstice, the longest night of the year. The National Coalition for the Homeless designates it "National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day." On this day, WHEEL (a grassroots organizing effort) will stand a special one-hour, candlelight, Women in Black vigil to remember all the homeless men and women who have died this year outside, in public, or by violence in King County.

Since our vigils began 23 years ago, more than 2,000 men, women and children have died outside or by violence. In 2023, we've broken our hearts and all records: at least 301 people have died outside, in a public place or by violence through October.

Please join us for our Women in Black Solstice activities, starting at sunset (4:21 PM) at City Hall Plaza at 4th/James with a brief ritual. Women and men are welcome; candles are provided! In partnership with Health Care for the Homeless, there will be an after-gathering with food and fellowship in the Chinook Building (401 5th Ave, rooms 121/123)!






FOR MORE INFO: WHEEL (206) 956-0334



wheelorg@yahoo.com or Homeless Remembrance Project on FB



Interdependence of public and virtual spaces










    


Museum of Homelessness 
March 3 · 







On this day 6 years ago with **Streets Kitchen & Disabled People Against Cuts (DPAC)** we shut down Oxford Circus protesting deaths of our community.

We need another one of these asap.

    9

 Like  Comment  Share

 Comment as Magdalena Mostowska

Death and burial in the Polish context

- Pronouncement of death
 - death certificates (medical doctors only)
 - no coroners, rare investigations
 - few autopsies, garbage codes (16,2% of all deaths in 2021)
- Catholic by default
- Low cremation rate
- Municipal burials

Homelessness in the Polish context

Ministerial point-in -time count 2024

- 31 042 persons
- 6648 (21%) unsheltered in the winter time
- 80% male
- Aging population, long-term homelessness, ill-health
- Substance abuse – alcohol

- Relative invisibility in public spaces

What is to be seen in public

- Very rare spontaneous shrines in case of homelessness (however common in traffic deaths)
- No crowdsourcing projects – gathering names and tallying
- Relatively rare social media posts (data protection and stigma considerations)

- Municipal burials

Municipal burials in Poland

- No data on homeless deaths

The only available data – municipal burials

- Number per year

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
population	38437	38433	38434	38411	38383	38089	37908	37766
number of deaths	395	388	403	414	410	477	520	448
number of municipal burials	5,3	5,2	5,1	5,1	5,2	5,7	5,9	5,9

data in thousands

Source for population and number of death: Polish Main Statistical Office

Source for number of municipal burials: Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Policy

Spontaneous shrine, Wrocław, 2014



Individual remembrance on social media



Adriana Porowska

December 9, 2021 · 🌐

Zmarł Pan Krzysztof. Zналиśmy się odkąd pracuję w Misji, czyli od 16 lat. Historia jego życia i pobytów w Misji zmieniła moje myślenie o pomaganiu. Pan Krzysztof miał blisko 50 lat i życie pełne cierpienia i niezrozumienia. Potrafił zająć za skórę jak rzadko kto. Udało nam się namówić Go do zamieszkania w misji, zazwyczaj to były krótkie pobyty kilkumiesięczne. Rok temu był mieszkańcem pensjonatu przez blisko rok. Nawet to świętowaliśmy, kupił tort. Czułam że wszystko idzie... [See more](#)



Adriana Porowska

August 20, 2020 · 🌐

W ostatnią drogę odprowadzimy Pana Piotra we wtorek. Osoby chętne do uczestnictwa w Mszy pożegnalnej zapraszam do nas do biura.

Panie Piotrze tak mi przykro. Wierzyłam że uda nam się wypić kawę w Pana własnym mieszkaniu. W mojej pamięci i współpracowników zostanie Pan jako dobry, mądry i życzliwy człowiek. Życie dało się Panu we znaki, a zachował Pan w sercu miejsce dla innych ludzi. Wspomnienie Pana życia zostanie ze mną na zawsze. Nigdy nie zapomnę wyjazdu na Tworki.

Po dwóch miesiącach od śmierci, uda nam się wreszcie godnie Pana pożegnać.



ŚP. PIOTR SIWEK

Z ŻALEM ZAWIADAMIAMY, ŻE 24.06.2020R.

ZMARŁ PIOTR SIWEK

ZYSTOŚCI ŻAŁOBNE ODBĘDĄ SIĘ W DOMUPOGRZEBOWYM
25.08.2020R. O GODZ. 10.00

NIE CIAŁA DO GROBU NASTĄPI NA KOMUNALNYM CMENT
„POŁUNIOWY” ANTONINÓW 40

re informacje – w biurze

👍❤️ Paweł Ilecki and 87 others

4 🗨️ 2 ➦



Wspólnota Sant'Egidio Warszawa

March 14 at 3:44 PM · 🌐



W ostatnim czasie odeszły dwie bliskie nam osoby z DPSu.

Panią Halinkę, znaliśmy od samego początku, czyli od kilkunastu lat. Lubiła konkursy i różne wyzwania, szczególnie plastyczne i wokalne. Nie stroniła też od tańców. Dobrze się czuła w towarzystwie innych ludzi. Chętnie uczestniczyła we wszystkich naszych letnik piknikach.

Pani Ania ceniła sobie głębokie rozmowy. Z racji utraty wzroku była zawsze bardzo uważna, skupiona na rozmowie. Lubiła słuchać ciekawych audycji, zwłaszcza "Wywiad z Człowiekiem" w Radiu Warszawa. Ale frajdę spawiała jej także gra z nami w chińczyka.

Na zawsze zostaną w naszej pamięci, sercach i modlitwie 🙏

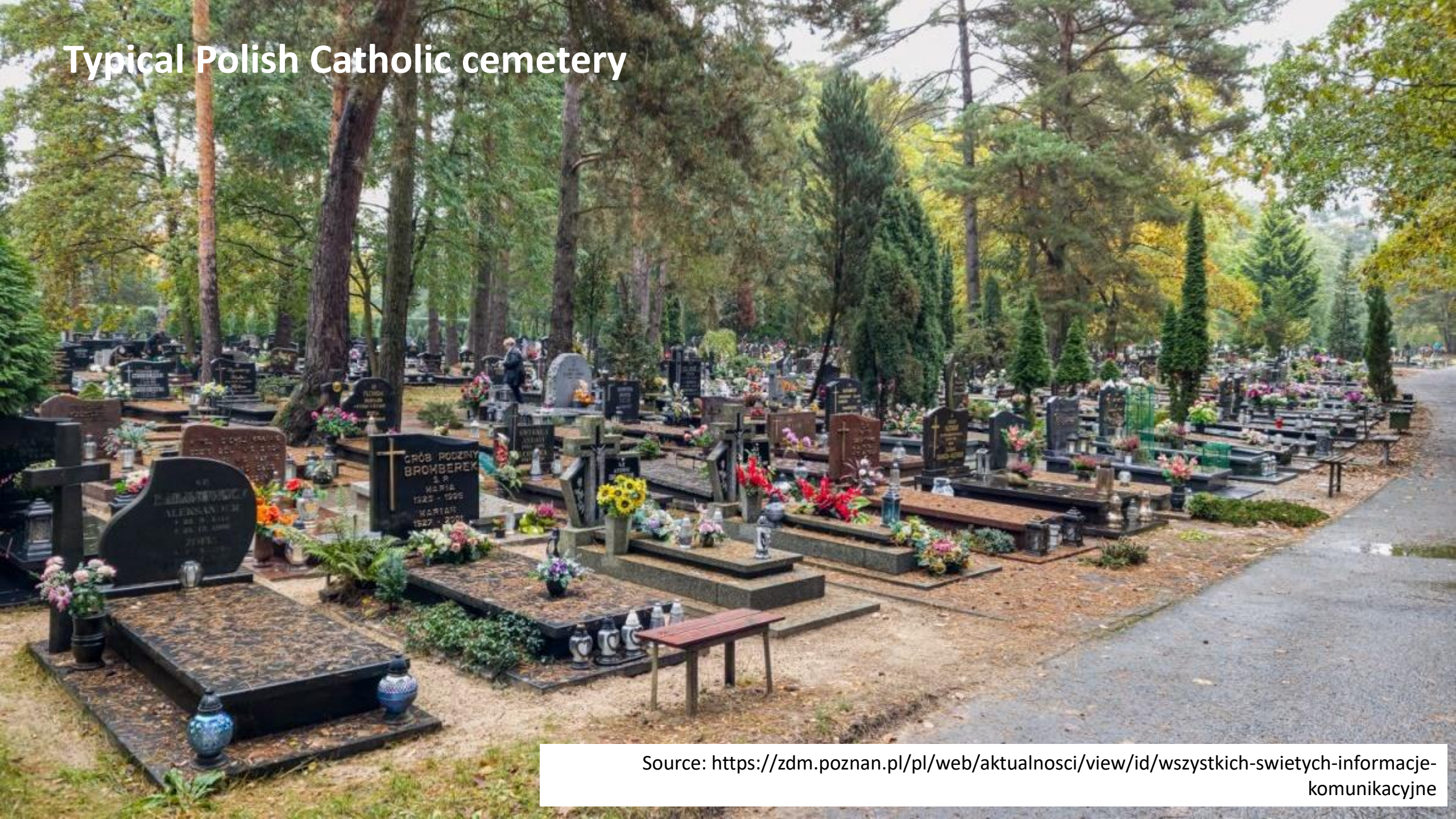


Recently, two people close to us from DPS (social welfare house) passed away.

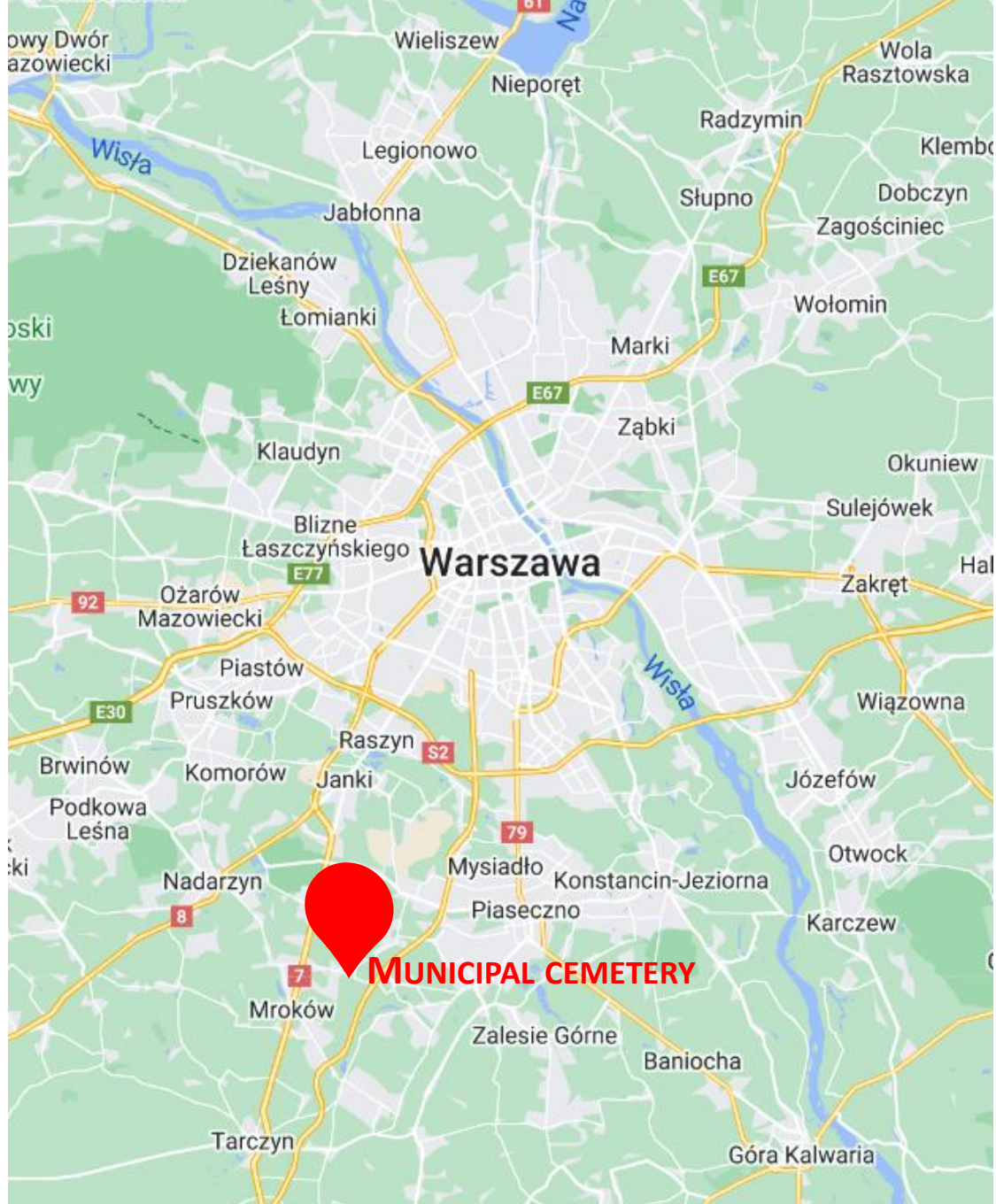
We knew Mrs. Halinka from the very beginning, i.e. for a dozen years or so. She liked competitions and various challenges, especially artistic and vocal. She also did not shy away from dancing. She felt good in the company of others. She enjoyed participating in all our summer picnics.
(...)

Source: Fanpage Wspólnota Sant'Egidio Warszawa

Typical Polish Catholic cemetery

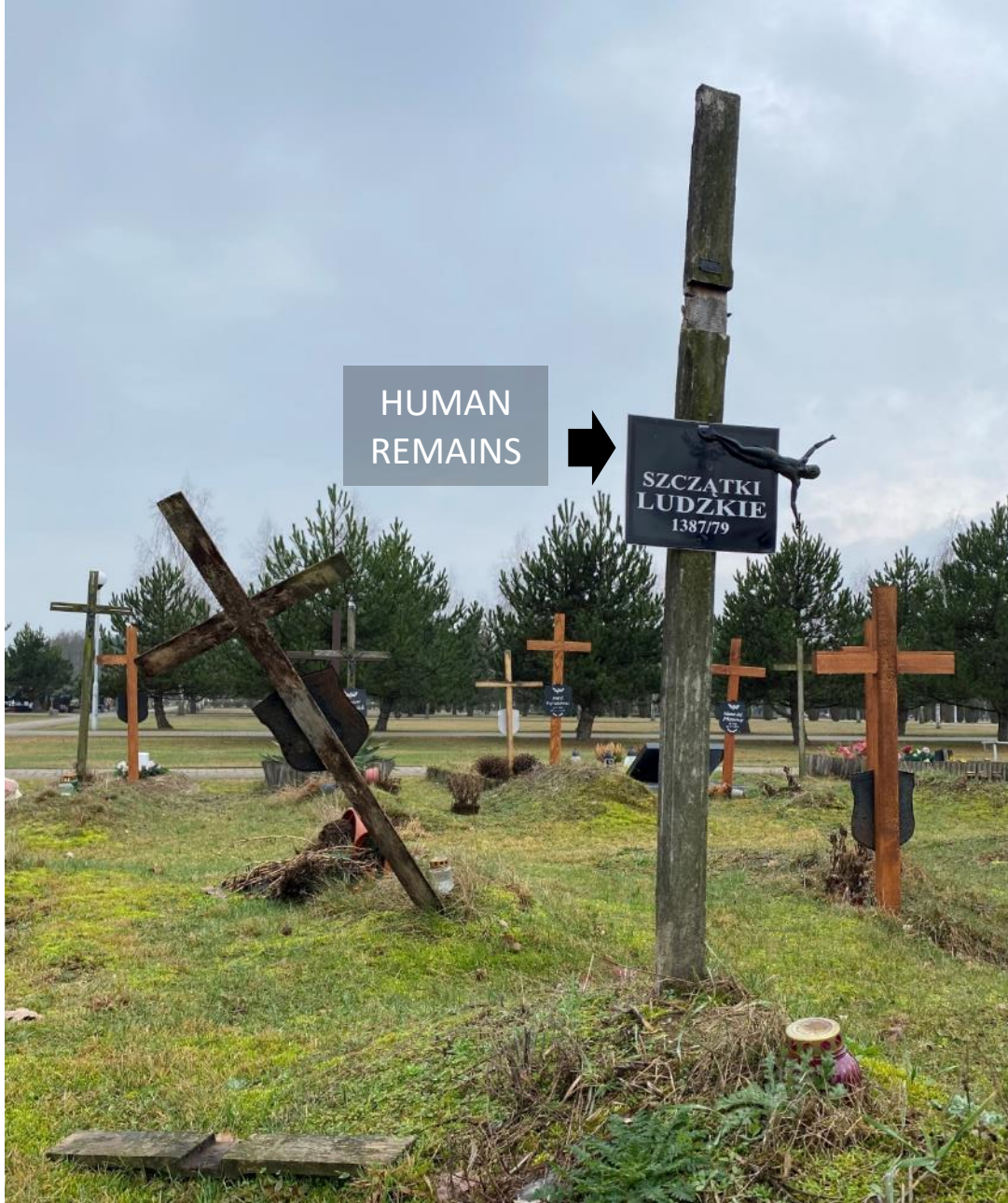


Source: <https://zdm.poznan.pl/pl/web/aktualnosc/view/id/wszystkich-swietych-informacje-komunikacyjne>



Source: Google Maps





Municipal cemetery outside of Warsaw



NN
WOMAN

NN 1348,07
KOBIEȚA
01 07 2007

Municipal cemetery outside of Warsaw



HUMAN
REMAINS

Szczątki ludzkie
1921/334/04



Municipal cemetery outside of Warsaw

What can't be seen

Interviews:

- Not-for-profit service providers (shelter, streetwork, community work)
- Local welfare office (homelessness unit)
- City police (medical patrol)



Close relationships

*We know personal stories and therefore **we don't agree with people being forgotten.** And that's amazing that people who pass, they stay in the memory of people who experience homelessness. **We call these names during the service once a year [...] whom we knew and they knew, and they tell us about these people, and we collect these names and these names...** I thought we're doing this for so many years now.*

Interview NGO Catholic service provider, 2024

*I admire social workers... they have someone in a hospital. **They can just go, say farewell, give support knowing that the person is dying. Then they just go to the funeral, organize everything, contact the family. This is so hard.***

We are sort of like a foster family to them.** [People who experience homelessness] they come here [to the office] like they are coming home. [...] **That's why these deaths are so hard and sad for us.

Interview Homelessness unit, municipal welfare office, 2024

A Litany of Names and Stories

Maciek – one of the persons who died in a fire of a vacant building. Organization was pushing for identification of bodies and burial, which was delayed because of criminal investigation.

Kazik – city policemen collected money to fund a priest and service during funeral and a proper gravestone on the municipal cemetery with „Our Kazik” inscription.

Kludia – her real name was unknown, there was no photograph of her. Organization created a portrait of her and pushed for her alias to be on the grave so that she was not buried under NN and could be remembered.



Source:
Fanpage
Wspólnota
Sant'Egidio
Warszawa

Piotr – a long term client of the organization and the shelter. Sick with cancer was putting off his transfer to a hospice. Finally, he agreed to go. He bought lottery tickets on the way. He passed the following day in the hospice.

Funerals and vigils

Funerals are pretty miserable, short, there's no solemnity as it is usually at funerals. There's few people, or just one. Or no one, I know it happens sometimes, that there are only funeral home staff, a priest and the coffin.

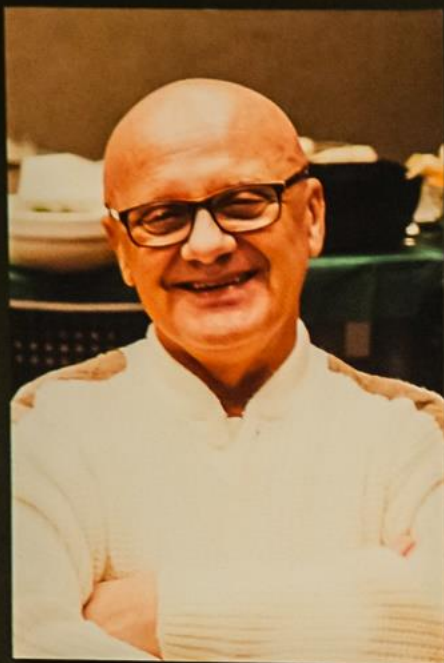
You have to walk a long way there [at the municipal cemetery] and you have to get there. So in practice it's rare that someone goes to the funeral. But they always ask us when. And the priest comes here [to the shelter] and celebrates a mass here for someone who died, and they come. When this man hanged himself, he hanged himself in this gazebo. The service was celebrated there, the gazebo was consecrated, guys brought candlelights and flowers.

Interview NGO service provider, head of a shelter, 2023

Remembrance of Deceased Homeless People



Source: Fanpage Wspólnota Sant'Egidio Warszawa



Source: Fanpage Wspólnota Sant'Egidio Warszawa

To sum up

- Few memorializations in the public domain – homeless deaths go largely unnoticed
 - No institutional and rare bottom-up death count initiatives
- Diverse views on posting obituaries online (data protection and stigma attached to homelessness)
- Religious or community-based organizations
- Long-lasting and close relationships with social workers and volunteers
- Remembrance practices are more community-oriented than outwardly-oriented
- Analysis based mostly on interviews (a big limitation of our study)

Thank you!

This research is supported by the National Science Centre, Poland
(grant number 2022/45/B/HS6/00322)

<http://homelessmortality.wgsr.uw.edu.pl/>