

## Accommodation

We will be staying at a house on a lake in the small village of Himmelpfort. Himmelpfort is close to Fürstenberg, which can be reached by train and bus. You should bring a bike for easy travel to and from the site. If you don't have access to a bike, please let us know. Unfortunately the camp is not free of obstacles for wheelchairs. But together we'll make every effort to accommodate you, should you wish to join in. We'll organise our daily life activities together, such as getting food, cooking, planning the day's schedule and relaxing.

Maximum number of participants is 22. In order to support the creation of a positive and productive group dynamic, it would be great if you could commit to taking part for the entire ten days. For those who aren't able to participate in the whole week, you would still be welcome to participate in the last three days of the camp: Friday, 13th - Sunday, 15th 2010; just ask!

## Language

The working camp is international and we have decided to make the camp language English. Of course, not everyone will be able to speak perfect English, but we will try to provide translations to the best of our abilities.

## Fees

We finance the camp by means of donations and endowments. There is a participation fee of 50-100 € (covers all food, lodging etc.) If you're able to pay more you're welcome to do so. If you can't afford that much, pay as much as you can. We will do our best to cover travelling costs for those who need it.

## Further Information on the Uckermark concentration camp

In general, there is very little information available about the camp, but even less in foreign languages. You'll find some remarks about the Uckermark camp if you search online e.g. under "Ravensbrück Concentration Camp".

There are some photos with short English explanations at <http://fcit.usf.edu/Holocaust/photos/ucker/ucker.htm>

"Das Mädchekonzentrationslager Uckermark. Beiträge zur Geschichte und Gegenwart", ed. by Katja Limbächer,

Maike Merten, Bettina Pfefferle, Unrast Verlag, 2005

"Das Mädchekonzentrations- und spätere Vernichtungslager Uckermark", DVD, Orders: behrendt@globale-medienwerkstatt.de also available at the Ravensbrück Memorial site shop

## Public round tour

We will provide a public tour on the site for everybody interested during the open weekend, 13th- 15th August.

The former Uckermark youth concentration camp borders on the Ravensbrück Memorial site. Signs, starting from the Ravensbrück youth hostel, will show you the way (approx. 1 km). The Fürstenberg/Havel train station is approx. 3 km from the Ravensbrück Memorial site. There is a train every hour from Berlin to Fürstenberg/Havel. The journey takes 1 hr.

## Registration/Contact

email: [uckermarkcamp@riseup.net](mailto:uckermarkcamp@riseup.net)

Registration deadline is June, 20th, 2010

[www.maedchen-kz-uckermark.de](http://www.maedchen-kz-uckermark.de)

International Antifascist Feminist

# Working Camp

At the site of the former youth concentration camp for girls and young women and subsequently extermination camp

# Uckermark

E H E M A L I G E S  
M Ä D C H E N - K Z

05/08 - 15/08/2010

## The Uckermark Youth Concentration Camp

The area of the former Uckermark concentration camp for girls and young women which subsequently became an extermination camp is situated 90 km north of Berlin. It is in close proximity to the former concentration camp for women at Ravensbrück, which has been turned into an official memorial site. The Uckermark site, which was used as a concentration camp for girls, has not been integrated into the memorial area.

Around 1200 girls and young women along with a few boys were imprisoned there between 1942 and 1945. Most of them were between 16 and 21 years of age, but there were quite a few girls who were even younger. The majority of the girls had been labelled "anti-social" by institutions of public welfare and committed to the concentration camp.

There were no set rules as to who was labelled as such. Furthermore, Sinti and Roma girls were imprisoned in the camp, from 1943/44 onwards, along with partisans from Slovenia. The girls' living conditions didn't differ from living conditions in other concentration camps. Long hours of daily roll calls, hard physical labour and little food characterized their daily life.

In January 1945 the larger part of the youth concentration camp was converted into an extermination camp. Most of the girls were transferred to either Ravensbrück or to other outlying camps. It was mostly Jewish women, women from Eastern Europe as well as the sick and the elderly who were moved to the Uckermark extermination camp. Living conditions at the Uckermark extermination camp were extremely hard and were intended to lead to high mortality rates among the women. It is estimated that at least 5000 women were killed at the camp.

## Since 1945

After the liberation in late April 1945 by the Red Army, large parts of the former camp were used by the CIS military and sheds for military vehicles were built there. These structures are still the main feature of the (still unofficial!) Uckermark Memorial site, although its deconstruction by a construction company is planned. It wasn't until 1970 that the former youth concentration camp received official recognition as a concentration camp.

Since 1997 there have been working camp activities to transform the site into a Memorial that provides information on living conditions and the size of the camp as well as on the continuity of discrimination and marginalisation.

### Open Remembrance - How the past is being remembered

The site of the former Uckermark youth concentration camp offers a completely different setting for remembrance than the institutionalized Memorial sites we are familiar with. The site asks its visitors to make a commitment: to get closer, to achieve a level of personal involvement and to also become active on the site.

During the working camp, remembrance mainly means an exchange of views, discussions and contact with Shoah survivors – besides the practical, creative and research work. Furthermore, remembrance is not a backward process. For us, remembrance is inseparably linked with the act of positioning oneself as antifascist now and today.

## Working camps to fight against oblivion

We would like to invite all women\_lesbi-ans\_bi\_trans people from all over the world. Individuals and groups, who would like to join in the debate, discussion and work on the site and who would like to do so autonomously, are all welcome.

### The camp aims to provide

- easy identification and access to the site for all visitors
- contact with survivors of the camp
- information material on the history of the Uckermark concentration camp
- a personal and political debate on the history of German National Socialism, its continuities and the attitudes towards it in the different societies (with inputs on the situation in the different countries, provided by the participants if possible)
- a discussion on the point and the objectives of remembering
- international encounters and exchanges
- public relations