

Dr. Dietmar Woidke, Minister President of Brandenburg

- Bernt Lund, President of the International Committee of Sachsenhausen
- Survivors of Sachsenhausen concentration camp
- Prof. Dr. Axel Drecol, Director of the Brandenburg Memorials Foundation and the Sachsenhausen Memorial and Museum
- Ladies and gentlemen,

75 years ago, on 22 April 1945, Sachsenhausen concentration camp was liberated by the Red Army. Tens of thousands were robbed of their lives there between 1936 and 1945, by hunger and disease, abominable atrocities, executions or medical experiments.

People who survived terror and torture there are watching us at this moment. My warmest welcome to you. Your personal commitment to the work of remembrance and reconciliation is of unmatched value.

Today, we remember the victims and also the survivors who suffered so many horrors. It is our responsibility to remember and to keep the crimes of the National Socialists alive in the consciousness of our society – and especially in that of our young people.

Authentic sites, such as Sachsenhausen, are so very important to keep our memories from fading. Today, once again, it is important to be vigilant. Right-wing extremism poses one of the greatest threats of our times. Decades have passed since the Shoah, and yet, Jews in Germany are fearful once again. I am deeply saddened by this.

It is the constant duty of every one of us to face and deal with the past, to remember the atrocities and to honour the persecuted and the victims. The State government supports this with many projects.

The millions who died in concentration camps and the survivors will continue to spread the message: "Never again!".