

## Research Project...

### TRAUMATIZED SOCIETY, DEMOCRACY AND RELIGIOUS BELIEF

Lithuanian society experienced significant traumatization during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. For 50

years, first by the Soviet Union, then by the Nazi Germany, and again by the Soviet Union. In 1920 the Soviet Union and  
 Nazi Germany signed the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, dividing Europe into spheres of interest.

Lithuania was assigned to the Soviet sphere. In the summer of 1940, even before the formal

reestablished its control of Lithuania in 1944, starting a new period of occupation that lasted

45 years. Thousands of people from Lithuania were sent to the Gulag camps

located in the far north of Siberia, where they experienced physical and mental

repression, while others lived for decades under the communist regime. The suffering of the

victims were not recognised, they were concealed from the public. The sufferers often did not

dare to tell their own children about them. Thus, the victims of repression were exposed to

traumatic experiences for an extremely long period of time, for several decades. People exposed

to the most severe traumas as a result of political repression were forced to live their past for a

long time. Many of them did not share their experiences of deportation or the Gulag camps even

with their own children, for fear of new repressions.

The available studies of political repression provide little data on the consequences of the

communist regime, although millions of people fell victims to Stalinist repression. In terms of

trauma psychology, the experience of victims of repression living in Lithuania, as well as in

other former Soviet republics, is interesting due to the extremely long duration of their exposure



relativism, and indifferent attitude to national history, still prevail in society. The lack of a comprehensive and thorough evaluation of the not-too-distant past still remains a problem in the most post-communist countries. The effect of collective traumas is very complicated and multi-

the continuance of social memory and the successful inter-generation passage of historical memory, bonds between family and society, its crises and generations. Another result of life in an abnormal society is also a moral trauma. Life by moral double standards eventually affects the

responsibility and his or her deepest values. Even today one can observe many forms mentality and to public health and moral values would be a part of the project.