

## **POPULAR SUMMARY OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT**

During the occupation, Warsaw was filled with multiple illegal networks such as Polish Underground State with the civic and military structures, secret schooling, black market economy, denunciators, collaborators etc. In my research project I want to recreate the network of help and support for Jews in the occupied Warsaw. Besides the “official” (well known Polish Council to Aid Jews, Żegota”) structure, there were many other “private” networks. We know a lot about Poles who helped the Jews and were part of these networks, partly because many of them have been awarded as the Righteous Among the Nations. However, we know only little about Jews helping Jews. There has not been any academic study on that topic. They could not receive the Righteous Among the Nations, because this award is meant only for non-Jews. But their heroic and risky actions aimed at helping their friends, family members and strangers, which often ended in death, need to be studied, recognized and analyzed.

The goal of my research project is to describe and analyze many networks that existed between the Jews in hiding in the years 1939 – 1945 and people who were helping or harming them in the occupied Warsaw. The aim is to present them in an illustrative way on an interactive, on-line map of Warsaw. The research questions I will engage with relate to the methods and ways of helping, the quality and character of that help, financial and psychological costs of that help and its effectiveness.

Diverse sources, archival documents and personal diaries, will be used to collect the information about both people in hiding and those helping them, refusing to help or taking a stand against them. This research project is important and long-term in its character. It is also innovative as the detailed and individualized information will be later used to create an interactive database/map. This will enable us to generate visual, graphic and detailed representations of hiding on the "Aryan side" of Warsaw and will open up new fields of critical inquiry.