**TRAVELLING EXHIBITION DEDICATED TO THE EXPERIENCE OF WOMEN AND GIRLS**

**WHO SURVIVED THE HOLOCAUST**

The Faculty of Communication at Vilnius University introduces the travelling exhibition ‘Healing the Wounds of the Soul’, which is dedicated to the traumatic experiences and dilemmas of young women and girls who had to survive in brutal conditions of World War II and the Holocaust. The opening of the exhibition will take place on 8 March at 4 p.m. at the Scientific Communication and Information Centre of Vilnius University Library.

The exhibition ‘Healing the Wounds of the Soul’ presents the testimonies of the survivors of the Holocaust and their daughters or granddaughters, and proves that such experience, including the hidden experience, may be painful and passed down in several generations of the family. Their testimonies reveal the psychological traumas that even caused identity breaches, and prove that female solidarity is important in life-threatening circumstances. For the exhibition opening, the discussion ‘Overcoming Traumatic Experiences: Do We Repeat Historical Mistakes Today?’ has been organised with the purpose of discussing the impact of traumatic physical and psychological experiences of a few generations in the family, the specifics of communicating those complex issues and various experiences of women war refugees.

As PhD student Neringa Latvytė, the Project Manager and Researcher, stated: ‘Even when the war ended, it continued in the memories of the women and their children interviewed during the research, until the times when they dared to talk about those feelings and open up to the world. We hope that our exhibition will induce the empathy and openness of the visitors, and will help them to understand the complex dilemmas that women also face today.’

The travelling exhibition was created within the framework of the international project ‘Identity on the Line’, which united six museums of culture and history and universities from seven European countries. The aim of the project was to investigate the long-term consequences of various (voluntary and forced) migration processes that had taken place in Europe over the last 100 years. The exhibition has been funded by the Creative Europe Programme for Culture, and the participation of Vilnius University in the project was supported by the Lithuanian Culture Council.

**PROGRAMME: OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION ‘HEALING THE WOUNDS OF THE SOUL’**

**16:00** Opening of the exhibition, and greetings

**16:20–17:30** Discussion ‘Overcoming Traumatic Experiences: Do We Repeat Historical Mistakes Today?’ moderated by PhD student Neringa Latvytė. Participants of the discussion: Dr Rimvydas Laužikas, Dean of the Faculty of Communication, Vilnius University, psychologist Ruth Reches, Director of Vilnius Sholem Aleichem ORT Gymnasium, and PhD student Raminta Jakucevičienė from the Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore.

**17:30–18:00** Introduction to theexhibition and tour with the Project Research Leader Neringa Latvytė.