EUROPEAN FEDERATION

EfPP

PSYCHOANALYTIC PSYCHOTHERAPY

In Memoriam - Lydia Tischler, 1934-2026



Lydia Tischler (January 1, 1929 – November 20, 2026)

It is with profound sorrow that the EFPP announces the passing of Lydia Tischler who passed away on November 20, 2026.

Lydia Tischler has been a founding member of the EFPP, the first chair of the Child and Adolescent Section and the first Honorary Secretary. She left her home country,

Czechoslovakia, after the war and settled in London. In the 1990s, following the fall of the Berlin Wall and the Iron Curtain, she played a pioneering role in developing structures for child and adolescent psychotherapy training in her homeland under very challenging circumstances.

She then went on to support the development of psychoanalytic psychotherapy structures in the Baltic countries and further across Eastern Europe. She embodies the very essence of the EFPP—working to develop, promote, and protect psychoanalytic psychotherapy—and is remembered fondly by many for her wit, humour, and determination. She remained a present and active part of the EFPP community, most recently attending the biennial delegates meeting in Bucharest 2025.

Lydia Tischler has been recognised in the United Kingdom King's New Year Honours 2026 and has been awarded **Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) for her services to Holocaust remembrance and child psychology.**

This honour reflects her longstanding commitment, professional excellence, and significant contributions in both fields.

The EFPP community shares the sorrow for Lydia Tischler goodbye and the gratitude for the extraordinary legacy she has left us.

Our heartfelt condolences to her family, friends and colleagues.

In Memoriam Words - Miranda Feutchwang

Lydia Tischler - a personal recollection.

Lydia was a force of nature, a force to be reckoned with and she was above all a survivor. She was indefatigable and blessed thank goodness with a necessary degree of omnipotence to get things done whatever the odds.
In the mid1980s, Lydia was Chair of the Training Council of the UK Association of Child Psychotherapists, while I was its Chair. We were invited by Brian Martindale to begin to formulate plans for the launch of a new European psychotherapy organisation. Lydia single handed without mobile phones or email managed to locate and connect with her colleagues and contacts across Europe who were working in child psychoanalytic psychotherapy. Together with Brian's adult European connections and a smattering of European group therapists we all came together in London in 1991. Miraculously despite snow and bomb threats from the IRA, and after a long days discussion, all the delegates agreed on a formation of a new organisation - the EFPP. Lydia was on the first board as Hon. Secretary and first chair of the Child and Adolescent section. She never looked back, she traveled and taught across Europe making contact with groups in Eastern Europe. I joined her in helping to start the Czech training in Prague. But Lydia never stopped. She took night trains and buses all over Europe to help start new trainings in all sorts of weathers.
She once said that as young Czech child deported to Auschwitz, surviving with her sister, coming to England as a refugee after the war, and eventually training with Anna Freud as a child psychoanalytic psychotherapist, her mission was to give something back to the children of Europe. Her legacy is indeed the Child and Adolescent section of the EFPP.

Miranda Feutchwang

In Memoriam words - Brian Martindale

Lydia Tischler was one of the most important founding members and contributors to (not only) the early stages of the EFPP.
As a leading UK child psychotherapist, already familiar with the European Union and its regulations around the freedom of movement of professionals, she readily involved herself, with forming a European organisation that involved child and adolescent psychotherapists with equal status to adult and group psychoanalytic psychotherapists.
She was the first EFPP Secretary, diligent and innovative, perhaps especially so when the EFPP felt secure enough within the EU to expand its influence and membership to Eastern Europe and she became the EFPP's first European Secretary. Others will describe her activities in Eastern Europe and even in China in recent years.
I got to know Lydia some years before the EFPP when I was training at the Cassel psychoanalytically orientated therapeutic community. She was the Child Psychotherapist to the Families Unit where whole families, sometimes with very young children, were admitted for 18 months or so. For most of my time there I was on the same unit and I learned a great deal from her about the needs of children from her caring and calm observations and her sense of benign authority in her role.
She showed the same interest and care in my own personal and family development and my wife and I still treasure the little hats she knitted for our twin children when they were born more than 31 years ago now. It was wonderful that Lydia could join other founding members in a moving reunion we held in Bucharest last year.
As many will know, Lydia was born in Czechoslovakia in 1929 and she survived Auschwitz but her mother did not. An interview of her experiences can be found on https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3lpTceEE3d8.
Lydia was far more than a survivor, she was a solid innovator until the very end and created one of the pillars on which the EFPP firmly stands. We owe her a great deal of respect and gratitude.

Brian Martindale
Hon President, EFPP