Learning from the past ~ lessons for today

Holocaust Education Trust Ireland in association with
The Department of Justice and Equality
Dublin City Council
Dublin Maccabi Charitable Trust
Jewish Representative Council of Ireland
Council for Christians and Jews
Holocaust Memorial Day

The Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration is designed to cherish the memory of all of the victims of the Nazi Holocaust. A candle-lighting ceremony is an integral part of the commemoration at which six candles are always lit for the six million Jews who perished, as well as candles for all of the other victims. The commemoration serves as a constant reminder of the dangers of racism and discrimination and provides lessons from the past that are relevant today.

Summary of the Declaration of the Stockholm International Forum on the Holocaust

Issued in January 2000, on the 55th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1945, and endorsed by all participating countries, including Ireland

We, the governments attending the Stockholm International Forum on the Holocaust, recognise that it was a tragically defining episode of the 20th Century, a crisis for Europe and a universal catastrophe. The unprecedented character of the Holocaust fundamentally challenged the foundations of civilisation. After more than half a century, it remains an event close enough in time that survivors can still bear witness to the horrors that engulfed the Jewish people. The terrible suffering of millions of Jews and other victims of the Nazis has left an indelible stain across Europe that must forever be seared in our collective memory. The selfless sacrifices of those who defied the Nazis, and sometimes gave their own lives to protect or rescue Holocaust victims, must also be inscribed in our hearts. We pledge to strengthen our efforts to promote education, remembrance and research about the Holocaust in our schools, universities, communities and other institutions. With humanity still scarred by antisemitism, genocide, ethnic cleansing, racism, xenophobia and other expressions of hatred, we pledge to fight against these evils, and to reaffirm our common aspiration for a democratic and tolerant society, free of prejudice and other forms of bigotry.
Message from the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Paul McAuliffe

On behalf of the City and people of Dublin, it is a great honour to host this important national event which is held every year in the Round Room at the Mansion House.

We feel privileged to be here among survivors of the Holocaust and descendants of survivors who have made Dublin and Ireland their home.

Holocaust Memorial Day marks the date of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau on 27 January 1945, which took place exactly 75 years ago, less than a lifetime! Tonight, we recall the suffering inflicted on the Jewish people of Europe and on those of other faiths and ethnicities, persecuted during the Holocaust. We will reflect on this and on the suffering still being inflicted on people throughout the world today.

We acknowledge the work of Holocaust Education Trust Ireland in its endeavours to educate and inform about the Holocaust and ensure that this dark page of history is always remembered.

Lord Mayor of Dublin, Paul McAuliffe

Message from Holocaust Education Trust Ireland

As we move to the next decade of the twenty-first century, memories of The Second World War, the circumstances which brought it about and the horrors of the Holocaust are in danger of fading. When memories grow faint the lessons of history grow dangerously dim.

Largely gone are those who survived beyond the gates of hell and those who witnessed their suffering when liberating camps. With few left to carry the burden of memory, because burden it was, it becomes even more important to educate generations now living, about the inhumanity which man can inflict on man. It falls to us to remind future generations what happens when all that is decent and all that is good is lost.

We must ensure that never again is a situation created which will unleash events as cataclysmic as the Holocaust where millions of Jews and others were deprived not just of liberty but of the very right to be treated as human beings.

Eibhlin Byrne, Chairperson, HETI
Victim Readings and Candle-Lighting Ceremony

It is customary at Holocaust memorial events to light six candles in memory of six million Jews who perished in the Shoah. In Ireland, we also light candles in memory of all of the other victims of Nazi atrocities.

**People with disabilities and disabling conditions:** In memory of the people with disabilities and disabling conditions who were murdered, forcibly sterilized and starved to death by doctors and other willing helpers.

*Reader:* Sinead Friel, Down Syndrome National Advisory Council and Blue Diamond Drama Academy

*Candle-lighters:* Bernard Johnson from the Corres Centre, and Senator John Dolan, Disability Federation of Ireland

**Ethnic minorities, Poles and other Slavic peoples:** In memory of ethnic minorities, Poles and other Slavic peoples who were murdered, displaced and forcibly 'Aryanised' by the Nazis.

*Reader:* Teresa Buczkowska, Integration Team Coordinator, Immigrant Council of Ireland

*Candle-lighters:* Barnaba Dorda, Chair of Forum Polonia, and Salome Mbegua, founder of AkiDwA

**Roma/Sinti:** In memory of the Roma people of Europe who were rounded up, murdered, displaced and forcibly sterilised by the Nazis.

*Reader:* Gabi Muntean, Roma Community, Pavee Point

*Candle-lighters:* Salomeea Durbala and Alex Butica, of the Roma community.

**Homosexual victims:** In memory of the homosexual men and women who were persecuted and murdered during the Holocaust because of their sexual orientation.

*Reader:* Alan Edge, Councilor

*Candle-lighters:* Moninne Griffith, BeLonGTo and Max Krzyzanowski, Grand Marshall Dublin Pride 2016

**Political victims:** In memory of the political victims of the Holocaust: communists, socialists, trade unionists, and other opponents of the Nazi regime who were persecuted and murdered by the Nazis.

*Reader:* Liam Herrick, Executive Director Irish Council for Civil Liberties

*Candle-lighters:* Kim Bielenberg and Maeve Price, Department of Education and Skills

**Christian victims:** In memory of the Christian victims of all denominations, who were persecuted and murdered by the Nazis.

*Reader:* Brid Dunne, Chaplain Portumna Community School

*Candle-lighters:* Vanessa Wyse Jackson retired Methodist minister, and Catherine O'Dea, Clerk of the Dublin monthly meeting (Quakers)

**Jewish victims:**

Six candles are dedicated to the memory of 6 million Jewish people, including 1.5 million children, who were annihilated in the Holocaust. Jews were murdered in concentration camps, labour camps and death camps. Jews perished in the ghettos. Jews died of starvation and disease. Jews were shot in the forests and in their villages. And Jews were murdered in the streets and in their homes.

Those lighting candles in memory of the Jewish victims of the Holocaust are children or grandchildren of Holocaust survivors, second and third generation. All of them lost countless members of their families in the Holocaust.

*Candle-lighters:*

- Tony Collis, whose grandfather, Zoltan Zinn and great aunt Edit, survived Bergen-Belsen concentration camp but whose other family members perished in the Holocaust.
- Kayla Hertz, whose grandfather, Wolf Hertz, escaped the massacre in the Bronica forest, and whose great-grandparents Lenka and Avrum Muskovic survived Auschwitz, but whose other family members perished in the Holocaust.
- Yoram Tokar, whose great uncle David and aunt Jeanette Gelassen, Paul and Sara Talma, and other family members perished in the Holocaust.
- Dikla Blum, whose grandfather Moshe Halperin, grandmother Bella Halperin and great aunt Sarah Halperin survived, but whose great-grandparents Michael and Henia Halperin, great uncle Joseph Halperin and other family members perished in the Holocaust.
- Joe Katz, whose mother, Frida, survived Auschwitz but whose many other family members perished in the Holocaust.
- Sharlette Caplin, whose father, Raphael Urbach, survived Buchenwald and Theresienstadt concentration camps but whose other family members perished in the Holocaust.

We will always remember.
Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration
Sunday, 26 January 2020, The Round Room, Mansion House, Dublin

Programme

75 years since the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau on 27 January 1945


- **Introduction:** MC, Clodagh Finn
- **Opening Remarks:** Eibhlin Byrne, Chairperson, Holocaust Education Trust Ireland
- **Words of Welcome:** Lord Mayor of Dublin, Paul McAuliffe
- **Keynote Address:** President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins
- **The Nuremberg Laws:** The Hon. Ms Justice Iseult O’Malley
- **Stockholm Declaration:** Niall Burgess, Secretary General, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

**Musical interlude**

- **Holocaust survivor:** Tomi Reichental
- **Exclusion:** Mick O’Dea, Artist
- **Evian and the Jewish Refugee crisis:** Sorcha Pollak, Irish Times
- **November Pogrom, Kristallnacht:** Gwendolen Morgan, Human Rights Lawyer
- **Identification:** Andrew Woolfe, Jewish Representative Council of Ireland. Youth reader, Oisin Stapleton Doyle
- **Ghettos:** Enda Ó Neill, UN High Commission on Refugees (Ireland)
- **Nazi camps:** Shane O’Curry, Irish Network Against Racism (INAR), Youth reader, Ella Nethercott
- **Killing Squads:** Nick Henderson, Irish Refugee Council
- **Jan Kaminski’s story:** Jadzia Kaminska
- **Wannsee Conference:** Carol Baxter, Head of Civil Justice and Equality Policy, Department of Justice and Equality
- **Resisting antisemitism:** Anastasia Crickley, former Chair, UN Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- **All of the Victims:** Caryna Camerino

**Scroll of Names**
- Stratford College, Dublin; Portumna Community School, Co. Galway;
- Our Lady’s College Greenhills, Co Louth; Assumption Secondary School, Walkinstown, Dublin

**Musical Interlude**

- **Legacy of the Holocaust:** Aidan O’Driscoll, Secretary General, Department of Justice and Equality
- **Liberation:** Colonel Stephen Ryan, Irish Defence Forces. Youth reader, Niamh Fanning
- **Holocaust survivor:** Suzi Diamond
- **Righteous Among the Nations:** Kinga Paszko, Righteous Polish family
- **Second Generation:** Caroline Zinn-Collis
- **Israel & the Shoah:** HE Ophir Kariv, Ambassador of Israel
- **Holocaust & other genocides:** Robert Gerwarth, Professor of History, University College Dublin

**Minute’s silence**

Victim readings and candle-lighting ceremony

- **Go home from this place:** Lynn Jackson, Founding Trustee, HETI
- **El Malay Rachamim:** Rabbi Zalman Lent, and Carl Nelkin, Irish Jewish community
- **Closing remarks:** Eibhlin Byrne, Chairperson, Holocaust Education Trust Ireland
- **End of ceremony:** MC, Clodagh Finn
The Jews of Europe before the Second World War

The majority of Jews in Eastern Europe belonged to Orthodox Jewish communities living in small towns or villages called shtetls. Their lives centred around the strict observance of the Jewish commandments, and their daily existence was determined by the Jewish calendar. Many spoke Yiddish as their first language and wore distinctive traditional clothing, the men being particularly noticeable with their long beards, side curls, black coats and black hats. In the shtetl, the Jewish population undertook a wide range of occupations, including those connected with communal institutions such as synagogues, schools and burial societies. Alongside these vibrant communities were important centres of Jewish learning and Yiddish culture.

The large number of Jewish people living in the great cities of Europe, such as Berlin, Paris, Prague, Vienna, Budapest and Warsaw, had a more integrated existence. Although many observed Jewish festivals, the Sabbath and kashrut (dietary requirements), the majority were assimilated and relatively secular. They belonged to the culture in which they lived, speaking the language of the country, dressing like their non-Jewish neighbours and participating in all areas of life: academia, the arts, the professions, commerce and politics.

There were also Sephardi Jewish communities, most of whom resided in the countries around the Mediterranean and in the Balkans, as well as in cities such as Amsterdam and London. Sephardi culture had originated in the Iberian Peninsula, and Sephardi Jews spoke Ladino, a language with Spanish roots. The Sephardi communities were scattered after the expulsions from Spain and Portugal in the fifteenth century. Over time, Sephardi Jews occupied important positions in the economy and government administration of the countries where they lived, and some rose to become diplomats in the royal courts.

Despite waves of persecution and expulsion, Jews had lived and flourished in Europe for hundreds of years. Some had been living in areas of the Aegean and the Mediterranean since Greek and Roman times.

Before Hitler and the Nazi Party came to power in 1933, Jewish life in Germany and elsewhere in Europe had not been free from struggle and conflict, but it had seen the participation of Jews in all spheres of life and society. In the interwar years, the Jewish contribution to European culture was significant, with major achievements in the areas of literature, art, music, science and commerce.

By the beginning of the twentieth century, many Jews were as secure as they had ever been, yet there were still large areas of poverty, particularly in eastern Poland and western Russia. Anti-Jewish prejudice was ever present, even in the most modern and cultured states of Europe.

On 1 September 1939, Nazi Germany invaded Poland, and the Second World War began. By the end of the war, most of the European Jewish communities had been decimated by the Holocaust, and a great many of those in Eastern Europe and parts of the Balkans had been utterly destroyed.

Grodno, Byelorussia: A street in a shtetl

Suddenly, all those places where Jews had lived for hundreds of years had vanished. And I thought that in years to come, long after the slaughter, Jews might want to hear about the places which had disappeared, about the life that once was and no longer is.

Roman Vishniak
Jewish communities in Poland

By September 1939, Poland had the largest Jewish population in the world, more than 3.3 million Jewish people comprising culturally, socially and politically diverse communities and individuals. Their origins lie in the Medieval period, when Jews from Western Europe, German lands, France and England made their way eastward. Through the centuries, a limited degree of autonomy enabled Jewish communities to provide educational, social and cultural institutions that included synagogues, schools, hospitals, old-age homes, orphanages and shelters for the destitute. Throughout their history, there were good times and bad for the Jews living in Poland. There was significant disruption to Jewish life in the 17th century due to the Cossack uprising of 1648 and other similar incidents. However, generally in most Polish towns, Jews lived and worked alongside their non-Jewish neighbours in relative harmony. Many of the smaller towns, known as shtetls, were 50% Jewish, while some were entirely Jewish. The town of Oswiecim was renamed ‘Auschwitz’ by the Germans in 1939; it had a population of some 14,000 of which almost 60% was Jewish.

300,300 Jews (10% of the city’s population) lived in Warsaw at the outbreak of WWII. More than 60,000 lived in Krakow during the interwar period, contributing to all spheres of life in the city. During the German occupation, the old Remah synagogue in Krakow, dating back to 1535, was damaged and the cemetery destroyed. Tombstones were hauled away and used as paving stones in the camps or sold for profit. Many have now undergone restoration, and desecrated tombstones have been returned and re-erected, although they represent a small fraction of the monuments that once stood in this ancient place.

Today there are approximately 120 Jews registered as living in Krakow. Lively programmes of Jewish revival are taking place, involving the restoration of synagogues, cemeteries and prayer houses. There is a School of Jewish Studies at the Jagiellonian University, one of the oldest universities in the world.

The Jewish Cultural Centre has registered some 500 members (many students, visitors or transient residents). The Galicia Jewish Museum records traces of Jewish memory in Poland dating back over 800 years and the Festival of Jewish Music attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors from around the world every summer.
The rise of Nazi Germany

When Adolf Hitler became leader of the Nazi Party in 1921, he stated that his ultimate aim was 'the removal of the Jews from German society'. By the time he was appointed chancellor in 1933, he intended to make life so difficult for Jews that they would feel compelled to leave the country. Hitler's antisemitism soon manifested into actions, and violence against Jews became prevalent.

Boycott of Jewish businesses

Boycotts of Jewish shops, businesses and professions were organised throughout Germany in April 1933. Jews were also forced out of jobs in the civil service, academia and the media.

Notice in window reads: 'Germans! Defend yourselves! Don't buy from Jews!

Sign reads: 'Avoid using Jewish doctors and lawyers'

Book burning

Jewish religious books, books by Jewish authors and books about Jews were condemned as 'degenerate' and burned in public bonfires with other books considered by the Nazis to be 'un-German'. Book burnings took place throughout Germany where some of the finest works of literature, history, philosophy, science and art, were destroyed.

Students contribute books to be destroyed at a Berlin book-burning, May 10, 1933

Book burning

Nuremberg Laws

The Nuremberg Laws of 1935 deprived German Jews of their German citizenship and they were forbidden from marrying non-Jewish Germans. This law was soon extended to include Roma, black people and other ethnic minorities.

Initially, the Nuremberg Laws defined someone as Jewish if they had three or four Jewish grandparents, even if they had converted to Christianity generations before. Many Germans who had not identified themselves as Jewish for generations, found themselves persecuted because of their religion.

A Jewish man forced to wear a placard for affair with a Christian woman. It reads: 'I am a racial defiler'

Exclusion

Jews were forbidden in public places such as cinemas, theatres, cafes or public parks. They were not allowed to participate in sports or ride on trams. Increasingly, Jewish people were excluded from German society.

Jews not wanted here

Identification

Germany required everyone to carry identity papers, but Jewish people had to add special identifying marks to theirs. A red letter ‘J’ on their passports, new middle names of ‘Sara’ for females and ‘Israel’ for males were added. After 1941, Jewish people were forced to wear badges on their outer clothing: a yellow Star of David or a white armband with a blue Star of David.

Passport of Inge 'Sara' Frankel

34588_HMD_Body_Layout 1  20/01/2020  10:32  Page 6
Anschluss

Public humiliation of Jews, who were forced to scrub the streets of Vienna with toothbrushes and nailbrushes

In March 1938, Austria was annexed as part of Nazi Germany. More than 200,000 Austrian Jews came under Nazi control.

November Pogrom, Kristallnacht

On the night of 9/10 November 1938, the state-sponsored pogrom known as Kristallnacht erupted against the Jews of Germany and Austria. Hitler Youth, bolstered by the SA and locals, unleashed a night of terror, violence and destruction. Synagogues and schools were wrecked and set ablaze; Jewish businesses and homes had their windows smashed, leaving the streets strewn with glass. Jewish cemeteries were desecrated. Over a thousand Jews were beaten to death or committed suicide afterwards out of despair. Some 35,000 Jewish men were thrown into concentration camps. After the destruction, the Jewish communities were fined 1 billion Reichsmarks to pay for the damage.

For many Jews, it became clear that they had to leave. With their bank accounts confiscated and no longer able to find employment, Jews were forced to sell their businesses and properties far below their market value. Offices were set up to speed emigration.

The Évian Conference

As it became increasingly difficult for Jews to continue working in Germany, they sought refuge elsewhere. Few countries were prepared to accept Jewish refugees. President Roosevelt, of the USA, convened an international conference in Évian-les-Bains, France, July 1938, to consider refugee policies. Thirty-two countries attended Évian, including Ireland. None was willing to take in more refugees, and the conference was deemed a failure.

Kindertransports

Prompted by the events of Kristallnacht, Britain agreed to offer temporary refuge to Jewish children from Nazi-occupied lands. Between December 1938 and September 1939, Britain accepted 10,000 Jewish children from Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia and Poland. Jewish and Christian voluntary organisations worked together to find homes for the children; funds were raised, guarantors were found. The children arrived on special trains called Kindertransports. They were housed in private homes, farms, castles, boarding schools, holiday camps – anywhere they were accepted. Visiting Prague in late 1938, Nicholas Winton determined to do what he could to help the children. He arranged for eight Kindertransport trains to bring 669 Jewish children to safety in England.

Winton found foster parents and secured a £50 bond for each child. He met each Kindertransport train at Liverpool Street station, making sure that each child was collected by a foster parent.
Murder

‘In the brief two years between autumn 1939 and autumn 1941, Nazi Jewish policy escalated from the prewar policy of forced emigration to the Final Solution as it is now understood, the systematic attempt to murder every last Jew within the German grasp.’

Christopher R. Browning

‘Today I will once more be a prophet: if the international Jewish financiers in and outside Europe should succeed in plunging the nations once more into a world war, then the result will be... the annihilation of the Jewish race in Europe!’

Adolf Hitler, January 1939

Ghettos

The purpose of the ghettos was to separate Jewish people from the rest of the population. Ghettos were created in cities and large towns, close to railways, and often near killing sites or death camps. Many were walled in or fenced off, and Jews who left them without permission were often severely punished and sometimes shot. The brutality, harsh living conditions, starvation rations and disease added to the death toll. Although there are heroic stories of resistance, most of them failed. In the end, all the ghettos created by the Nazis were razed and most of their populations murdered. There were few survivors.

Einsatzgruppen/Killing squads

In June 1941, Germany invaded the Soviet Union. Special killing squads called Einsatzgruppen followed the German army through the eastern territories of Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, and into Russia. They operated hundreds of killing sites in these regions. Einsatzgruppen comprised SS, police, soldiers and local collaborators. They murdered some 2 million Jews in the forests, fields and cemeteries. They herded them into ravines or forced their victims to dig their own graves before being shot. Einsatzgruppen mostly killed Jews, but they also murdered Gypsies, Communists and others. The killing squads continued to operate in parallel to the murders taking place in the death camps.

Wannsee Conference

On receiving word from the East to find a more efficient method of murder, the Wannsee Conference was held on 20 January 1942. Fifteen senior Nazi and German government officials had been summoned by Reinhard Heydrich of the Reich security head office. He was seeking endorsement to carry out Hitler’s plans to annihilate the Jews of Europe. Adolf Eichmann presented the delegates with a list of the number of Jews living in each European country, whom the Nazis intended to murder; Ireland appears on the list with a total of 4,000 Jews. The delegates debated who was Jewish according to bloodline considerations and concluded that a more efficient method of ‘disposal’ was necessary, and one that would also spare those operating the killing sites in the eastern territories from the psychological effects of face-to-face killing. The delegates gave their unanimous support for the implementation of the ‘Final Solution to the Jewish question’: murder of the Jewish people by poison gas.

Operation Reinhard

Named after Reinhard Heydrich, Operation Reinhard was the establishment of three death camps at Belzec, Sobibor and Treblinka in which Jews were murdered by poison gas. Between March 1942 and August 1943, some 1.7 million Jews, mostly from Poland, were murdered in the gas chambers of these camps. The camps were dismantled on completion of their ‘function’, and all traces of their existence were destroyed. The lands where they had stood were planted with forests, farms and grasslands.
Murder

There were thousands of concentration camps, labour camps and transit camps within the Nazi camp system. They were run by the SS and many also had several sub-camps. All of them employed cruelty, starvation, poor hygiene and harsh living conditions. There were six Nazi death camps, all of them on Polish soil. They were established specifically to murder Jewish people and other victims by poison gas. These camps were: Auschwitz-Birkenau, Belzec, Chelmno, Majdanek, Sobibor, Treblinka. Hundreds of thousands of inmates of concentration camps succumbed to brutality, starvation, cold and disease.

Concentration camps

Concentration camps were an integral feature of the Nazi regime. Originally for political opponents, the first concentration camps were established in Germany in 1933. After 1939, they were also places of imprisonment for Jews.

Labour camps

The labour camp system meant annihilation through work. Prisoners were forced to carry out super-human tasks such as shifting boulders or laying roads or railways by hand, often for twelve hours a day, with little to eat or drink.

Transit camps

Transit camps were usually established beside large cities as a place to collect Jews (and others) for deportation. They were sometimes purpose-built, but often they were run-down apartment blocks, where hundreds were forced into cramped living conditions and subjected to maltreatment and brutality.

Death camps

There were six death camps, all of them on Polish soil, established to murder the Jewish people of Europe by poison gas. Other victims were also murdered in these camps.

Hungary

Nazi policy towards Hungary, which had been an Axis partner of the Third Reich, changed dramatically in July 1944. Adolf Eichmann was dispatched to oversee the round-up and deportation of Hungarian Jews, and in just eight weeks, 437,000 were deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau. The railway line at the death camp was extended under the gateway right up to the unloading ramp where ‘selections’ were made. In Budapest, the Germans were supported by their Hungarian collaborators, the Arrow Cross, who were responsible for shooting some 100,000 Jews into the Danube.
Non-Jewish victims of the Holocaust

People with disabilities

Hitler initiated the T4 Euthanasia Programme in 1939 in order to kill elderly people, the terminally ill and people with disabilities, whom the Nazis referred to as ‘life unworthy of life’. Although the programme was officially discontinued in 1941 due to public outcry, the killings continued clandestinely until 1945. It is estimated that more than 300,000 people with disabilities in Germany and Austria were murdered in the T4 Euthanasia Programme.

Manfred Bernhardt, born 1929 with intellectual disabilities; murdered in Aplerbeck Asylum in 1942

Poles and other Slavic peoples

Hitler ordered the elimination of the Polish intelligentsia and professionals. Tens of thousands were murdered or sent to concentration camps. Polish children did not progress beyond elementary school, and thousands were taken to Germany to be ‘Aryanised’ and reared as Germans. In addition to the 3 million Polish Jews, it is estimated that up to 3 million non-Jewish Polish victims were also murdered in the Holocaust.

A Polish prisoner (marked with an identifying patch bearing a ‘P’ for Pole), Julian Noga, at the Flossenbürg concentration camp, Germany, between August 1942 and April 1945

Roma and Sinti

The Nazis deported thousands of Roma and Sinti people (Gypsies) to ghettos and concentration camps. In 1941, Himmler ordered the deportation of all Romanies living in Europe to be murdered in Auschwitz-Birkenau. It is estimated that between 250,000 and 500,000 were murdered in the genocide of the Roma during the Holocaust. Two hundred and fifty Romany children were murdered in Buchenwald in January 1940, where they were used to test the efficacy of the Zyklon B crystals, later used in gas chambers.

Amalie Schaich Reinhardt survived the Gypsy camp in Auschwitz-Birkenau

Homosexuals

Thousands of gay men were arrested by the Nazis and imprisoned in concentration camps, where they were subjected to harder work, less food and more brutal treatment than other inmates. Hundreds were put to death and thousands died from brutality and the appalling living conditions. Homosexuality remained on the German statute books as a criminal offence until 1969, and many former gay internees had to serve out their original prison sentences after the war, with no allowance for the time they had served in the camps. This deterred many gay survivors from telling their stories.

Albrecht Becker

Political opponents

The torching of the Reichstag national parliament building in 1933 gave the Nazis a pretext for brutally suppressing communists and, later, social democrats. The Nazis abolished trade unions and co-operatives, confiscated their assets and prohibited strikes. As early as 1933, the Nazis established the first concentration camp, Dachau, as a detention centre for political prisoners.

Political opponents being arrested, Berlin, Germany, 1933
Black, mixed-race and ethnic minorities

In 1933, the Nazis established Commission Number 3, whereby hundreds of adults and children of African descent were forcibly sterilised. According to Nazi philosophy, this would ‘preserve German blood and honour’. By the outbreak of the Second World War, thousands of black, mixed-race and minority-ethnic people had fled, and most of those who remained were murdered.

Christians

Thousands of Catholic priests, nuns and Protestant religious leaders were persecuted and murdered by the Nazis for their opposition to the regime and for saving Jews. Hundreds of Jehovah’s Witnesses were murdered for their refusal to salute Hitler or serve in the German armed forces. A great many Quakers and others of Christian affiliation risked their lives to save Jewish people during the Holocaust.

The persecution of Jews in Arab lands

Nazi plans to persecute and eventually annihilate Jewish people, wherever they lived, extended also into Arab lands in North Africa. Between June 1940 and May 1943, the Nazis, their Vichy collaborators and their Italian fascist allies murdered between 4,000 and 5,000 Jews in these regions. There were no death camps, but thousands of Jews were consigned to more than 100 brutal labour and concentration camps. Many locals were willing collaborators. Some worked as interpreters translating Nazi orders and indicating to SS officers where Jews lived. They oversaw work gangs and worked as prison guards in the labour camps.

Harry Alexander, a Jew from Leipzig, managed to escape to France. From there the French authorities sent him to the Vichy labour camp at Djelfa in the Algerian desert. ‘Nobody told them to beat us all the time,’ he said. ‘Nobody told them to chain us together. Nobody told them to tie us naked to a post and beat us and to hang us by our arms and hose us down, to bury us in the sand... no, they took this into their own hands and they enjoyed what they did.’

Maurice Tandowski was a Polish-born Jew who had joined the French Foreign Legion. He was stripped of his rifle under Vichy’s antisemitic laws and sent to Berguent labour camp in Morocco. He experienced the tombeau (tomb). Prisoners were forced to dig holes and lie in these faux graves for weeks on end, day and night.

Despite the persecution of Jews in Arab lands, we must be mindful that not all Arabs or Muslims were Nazi sympathisers. Many risked their lives to save Jews, sheltered them in their homes, guarded their valuables and warned Jewish leaders about imminent SS raids.

Death marches

As the Allies closed in, the Nazis wanted to remove all traces of their murderous projects. They forced prisoners out of the camps to walk hundreds of kilometres back towards Germany. It is estimated that approximately 300,000–400,000 former camp internees, already weakened by malnutrition, illness and hard labour, perished on these death marches.

A view of the death march from Dachau passing through German villages in the direction of Wolfratshausen, Germany, April 1945.
It is true that not all victims were Jews...

The number of Jews murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators in each European country and North Africa

The blue columns relate to the number of Jews living in each European country and North Africa prior to the Second World War. The black columns relate to the number of Jews who perished in each country between September 1939 and May 1945. The total of just over 5,750,000 does not include thousands of infants murdered by the Nazis in late 1941, before their births could be recorded. Thousands of people from the remoter villages in Poland were added to the deportation trains which left larger localities, without any record of their existence or of their fate.

...But all Jews were victims

Elie Wiesel
Auschwitz Birkenau:
75 years since Liberation – 27 January 1945

Auschwitz-Birkenau was the largest of the Nazi camps. There were forty subcamps in the Auschwitz camp complex, with Auschwitz I, Auschwitz II Birkenau, and Auschwitz III Monowitz, where Primo Levi was incarcerated, being the most well known. Birkenau was the killing centre where between 1.1 and 1.4 million victims were murdered, 90 per cent of whom were Jews.

When Auschwitz-Birkenau was liberated by Soviet troops in January 1945, they found:

- 7,600 emaciated prisoners alive
- 836,500 items of women’s clothing
- 348,800 items of men’s clothing
- 43,400 pairs of shoes
- Hundreds of thousands of spectacles
- 7 tons of human hair

Witness...

‘We had scarcely been inside a few minutes when Isa, a girl I had chatted to on the way here, pulled me to a window. “You must see this, look.” I didn’t want to look. I was too afraid of what I might see. But I had to go and stand beside her. Not fifty yards away was an incredible sight. A column of people had been shuffling from the direction of the railway line into a long, low hall. When the place was full, there was a delay; but I went on watching, hypnotised. What I was witnessing was murder, not of one person, but of hundreds of innocent people at a time. Of course we had known, had whispered about it, and been terrified of it from a distance; but now I was seeing it, right there in front of me...

On the outside of the low building a ladder had been placed. A figure in SS uniform climbed briskly up. At the top he pulled on a gas mask and gloves, tipped what looked from here like a white powder into an opening in the roof, and then hurried back down the ladder and ran off...

Screams began to come out of the building. We could hear them echoing across to our hut, the desperate cries of suffocating people.

Smoke was beginning to billow out of the tall chimneys. Soon a spurt of flame shot up into the sky. As evening came, the whole sky was red.

None of us slept that night. It was no longer possible to pretend even to yourself that the stories were not really true. All that we had heard and guessed was now before our eyes. Here were the death factories.

It is barely credible to someone like myself who lived through the worst of it, that members of a younger generation today cannot believe it happened at all.

But I did live through it; and I do know it happened – I was there!

Kitty, aged 16, Poland

Kitty Hart-Moxon was born Kitty Felix in Bielsko, Poland, in 1926. She survived concentration camps, Auschwitz-Birkenau and a death march. She speaks regularly about her experiences of the Holocaust and has written: I Was There, 1961 and Return to Auschwitz, 1981.

‘In March 1942, 80% of the Jews who would eventually be murdered in the Holocaust, were still alive. By February 1943, just under one year later, 80% of those European Jews were already dead.’

Christopher R. Browning
Aftermath

Resistance

Jewish partisan groups, consisting of men and women who had fled deep into the forests of Eastern Europe to escape the guns of the Einsatzgruppen, began to emerge in 1942. The first Jewish resistance group in Eastern Europe was started by the 23-year-old intellectual Abba Kovner in Vilna in 1941. Another group was set up by the four Bielski brothers in 1942, and their numbers reached 1,500 by the end of the war. Many more Jews joined local Communist-led partisan units as individuals. There were uprisings in the ghettos, concentration camps and death camps; all of them failed. Spiritual resistance was the effort by many Jews to maintain their Jewish religious practices in the ghettos and camps, despite the threat of severe punishment, even execution. Forging documents, organising opposition movements, clandestinely disseminating information – these were all forms or resistance.

Displaced-persons camps

When the Allied armies occupied Germany in 1945, they found some 6 to 7 million displaced persons alive. Displaced-persons camps were established in many of the former concentration camps, still surrounded by barbed wire. Paradoxically, for a brief period after the Second World War, Germany, the cause of the Jewish tragedy, became the largest and safest sanctuary for Jewish refugees awaiting rehabilitation or the opportunity to emigrate. The Jewish displaced persons were different from the other survivors because they had nowhere to return to. They had lost everything – their homes, their families and, like others, their youth and their hope. They called themselves the She’erit Hapletah, the ‘Spared Remnant’.

Having survived unspeakable horrors, hundreds of Jewish displaced persons were getting married and having babies – the camps experienced a ‘baby boom’!

Liberation

From the summer of 1944, the Soviets were advancing from the east, liberating and dismantling Nazi camps on their way. They first reached Majdanek in July 1944, soon followed by Belzec, Sobibor, and Treblinka. They reached Auschwitz-Birkenau on 27 January 1945. It is this date that has been designated International Holocaust Remembrance Day by the United Nations. The Soviets continued on to Stutthof, Sachsenhausen and Ravensbrück as the Americans reached Buchenwald, Dora-Mittelbau, Flossenbürg, Dachau and Mauthausen while the British liberated Neuengamme and Bergen-Belsen in April 1945.

Post-war pogroms

Antisemitism did not stop with the end of the war; there were pogroms in various towns and villages in Hungary, Poland and Slovakia; some 1,500 instances were recorded. In 1946, a young Polish boy in the city of Kielce went missing. Rumours of ritual murder caused the massacre of forty-two Jewish Holocaust survivors. The Polish government stood helpless in the face of the violence perpetrated by police officers, soldiers and civilians, augmented by workers from the nearby steel factories. This event persuaded 100,000 Polish Jewish survivors that they had no future in Poland after the Holocaust, and once more they gathered their belongings and fled.
Righteous Among the Nations

In Jewish tradition there is a quotation from the Talmud:

‘for he who saves one life is regarded as if he has saved the world entire’ (TB Sanhedrin 4:5).

The Hołubowicz Family

At the beginning of the Second World War, the Hołubowicz family lived on a farm in the small Polish-Ukrainian village of Czabarówka, near the USSR border. Franciszek was the village headmaster and Helena, a retired teacher. Their two sons, Kazimierz and Zbigniew helped with the farm work after school. In December 1940, Franciszek was arrested by the NKVD (Russian police) and sent to a Soviet concentration camp where he remained until June 1941, when his family secured his release. Franciszek returned to Czabarówka, and resumed his teaching work.

Mojzesz and Liza Altschiler were Jewish shopkeepers from the town of Husiatyn. They had two sons, Dow and Jakub. During the liquidation of the Kopyczynce ghetto, and after the murder of their son Jakub by local farmers, the Altschiler family escaped. With much difficulty they made their way to the village of Czabarówka, where they knocked on the door of the Franciszek Hołubowicz and asked for help. The two families were strangers to one another. Although they were poor, all four of the Hołubowicz family agreed to shelter the Altschilers. They prepared a hiding place for them on their farm, knowing that hiding Jews from the Nazis carried a big risk, often punishable by death.

First, the Altschilers were hidden in the attic of the barn, which proved risky after a Nazi search. They were moved to the stable where they kept warm lying close to the animals at night. To avoid suspicion, their hosts delivered their food in buckets, just like the animals. At the end of 1943, fearful of local mobs who attacked Poles, the Altschilers’ were moved to a hiding place under the floor of the farm carpenter’s workshop.

The Hołubowicz family risked their lives to save the Altschillers. It was crucial that neighbours, who could have informed on them, never learned the secret, not even close family of the Hołubowiczes were told. Both families suffered much deprivation, fear and distress together. Even after the end of the war, they did not reveal the truth, fearful of antisemitic hostility.

In March 1944, after the Red Army had entered the village, the Altschilers left their shelter. They went to Eretz Israel in 1947. Over the years, the two families have kept in touch. Dow Altschiller (who changed his name to Dov Eshel) and Zbigniew Hołubowicz have remained friends and have visited each other in Israel and in Poland.

In August 1993, Yad Vashem recognized Helena and Franciszek Hołubowicz and their sons Zbigniew-Aleksander and Kazimierz-Wiesław as Righteous Among The Nations.

‘The altruism of the Righteous calls us to understand the different choices that individuals make and to commit to challenging every example of intolerance that we witness.’

Konstanty Gebert, Polish Council for Christians and Jews
Righteous Among the Nations

In 1963, Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Remembrance Authority, Museum and Archive Centre in Israel, inaugurated the award of Righteous Among the Nations to honour non-Jews who risked their lives and those of their families help save Jewish people during the Holocaust. The Talmudic quotation, which is included in the Yad Vashem citation of the award, should be treated literally: not only those Jews who have been personally saved by the Righteous owe them their lives, but all their descendants do as well.

Mary Elmes
Hitler initiated the T4 Euthanasia Programme in 1939 in order to kill elderly people, the terminally ill and people with disabilities, whom the Nazis referred to as 'life unworthy of life'. Although the programme was officially discontinued in 1941 due to public outcry, the killings continued clandestinely until 1945. It is estimated that more than 300,000 people with disabilities in Germany and Austria were murdered in the T4 Euthanasia Programme.

Diplomats
Sugihara Sempo, the Japanese consul in Kovno, Lithuania, defied Foreign Ministry instructions and issued more than 6,000 of exit visas to Polish and Lithuanian Jews.

Organisations
Irena Sendler, member of Zegota, the Polish Council to Aid Jews, saved 2,500 children from the Warsaw ghetto.

Businessmen
Oskar Schindler was a German industrialist and member of the Nazi party who saved the lives of 1,200 Jews by employing them in his enamelware and ammunition factory in Krakow.

Villages
Magda and André Trocmé of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon, France, the Huguenot village that saved hundreds of Jews.

Righteous Arabs
Khaled Abdelwahhab of Tunisa saved Anny Boukris and her family by hiding them on his farm for several months.

Righteous Germans
Wilhelm Hosenfeld, an officer of the German army, became angered by the persecution of the Jews and tried to help as many as he could.

Righteous Muslims
The Biçaku family of Albania saved twenty-six Jewish people by hiding them from the Nazis.

The people of Denmark, Bulgaria and Albania
Denmark saved its Jewish community by ferrying them to safety in neutral Sweden. The people of Bulgaria and Albania refused to hand over their Jewish communities.

The Children of Villa Emma
107 Jewish children were saved in the town of Nanantola near Modena in Italy. During 1942 and 1943, children fleeing Nazi persecution in Germany, Austria, Bosnia and Croatia found refuge and protection in Villa Emma and its environs. Dr. Giuseppe Moreali, and Father Arrigo Beccari both played a crucial role in helping the children and young people. Later, when the situation became more precarious, they found them hiding places in many nearby houses and farms. They also arranged for local artists to create false Italian documents to be issued for all the Jewish people of the village and helped the refugees to successfully board a train for the Swiss border and safety in Switzerland.

In June 1945, most of the group left for British Mandate Palestine (later, Israel). On February 1964, Yad Vashem recognized Dr. Giuseppe Moreali and Don Arrigo Beccari as Righteous Among the Nations. Today, a plaque outside Villa Emma records the altruism of the citizens of Nanantola in saving the young people during the years of the Holocaust.
Shanghai’s Jews

European Jews who found refuge in China during the Holocaust, moved on after the War. Many returned to Europe while others emigrated to Israel, the United States, Canada and elsewhere.

Shanghai has two centuries of strong Jewish connections. Established Sephardi (Middle Eastern) Jewish families such as the Hardoons, Ezras, Kadoories and Sassoons built their fortunes in Shanghai, establishing at least seven synagogues and many Jewish hospitals and schools.

Ashkenazi Jews made up the second group. They arrived from Russia via Siberia, Harbin and Tianjin after anti-Jewish pogroms in 1906. However, the biggest influx of Jews to China, came between 1933 and 1941 when 30,000 mostly Ashkenazi Jews arrived from Nazi-occupied Europe. They came by boat from Italy or by train via Siberia. This was at a time when governments of many nations were imposing harsh restrictions on the immigration of Jewish refugees, especially after 1938 when almost all countries closed their doors to the desperate Jews.

When the Nazis were conducting their furious persecution and slaughter of European Jews, many people rescued Jewish victims of Nazi terror. Thousands of Jews had been issued with visas to cross China by Dr He Fengshan (Feng Shan Ho), Chinese Consul General in Vienna from 1938 to 1940, sometimes referred to as the ‘Chinese Schindler’.

Shanghai was one of the few safe havens for Jews fleeing the Holocaust in Europe as it required neither passport nor visa to stay. Gestapo agents followed refugees to China and in 1942, tried to persuade the Japanese to build death camps on Chongming Island. They refused to do this but in 1943, the Japanese forced Jews to move into a ‘Designated area for stateless refugees’ in Hongkou.

The Jewish ghetto became home to Jews from all walks of life. A synagogue, schools, hospitals and a local newspaper flourished. There were a number of cafes, rooftop gardens and restaurants which gave the area the nick-name ‘Little Vienna.’ Those Jews who held jobs in the French Concession area of Shanghai had to secure passes from the Japanese. Poorer refugees were forced into cramped hostels known as heime, where they relied on the generosity of others. Many of the wealthy Jewish trading families left in 1941 and the situation for Jewish refugees became harder. Still, when they heard of events in distant Europe, they realised that they were the lucky ones.

Today there are a few reminders of Jewish life in Shanghai: the Ohel Moishe synagogue and the former Jewish Club (1932) in the grounds of the Conservatory of Music where concerts are still performed. A new Museum of Jewish Refugees in China is planned for the site of the former Ohel Rachel Synagogue which was built by Jacob Elias Sassoon in the late 19th century and nearby there are remains of the Jewish school founded in the grounds by Horace Kadoorie.

Almost all Shanghai’s Jewish refugees from central Europe and Russia as well as the Sephardic congregations survived the Holocaust.

Dr. He Fengshan (Feng Shan Ho), Chinese Consul General in Vienna, Austria from 1938 to 1940.
Jewish Holocaust survivors living in Ireland

Suzi Diamond

I was born Suzi Molnar in the small town of Karcag in Hungary, in 1942. My family comprised my mother Gisela, my father Sandor, my brother Terry, and myself.

In 1942, my father was forcibly conscripted into the Slave Labour Service of the Hungarian army and deported to the Soviet Union where he perished in 1943. In July 1944, in just eight weeks, Adolf Eichmann organised the round-up and deportation of nearly half a million Hungarian Jews. The majority of them were sent directly to Auschwitz-Birkenau where most of them perished in the gas chambers. Some were sent to other concentration camps. During those weeks, the Gestapo came for my mother, brother and me. We were deported first to Ravensbrück and then to Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. My mother died shortly after liberation.

Terry and I were very young children when we came to Ireland. We grew up believing we were the only two members of our family to have survived. In 2007 Terry passed away, and I was the only one left.

But things changed unexpectedly in 2015 when I was “discovered” by a first cousin still living in Karcag and I learned a little about my family. My father was one of four brothers who ran a timber business. Two of them perished in the Holocaust and two survived. I have also learned that I have other first cousins living in Hungary and in the United States – I have a family!

I have visited Karcag and seen my grandfather’s house, the Jewish cemetery where my grandparents are buried, and the synagogue where all my family prayed. 778 Jews lived in Karcag before the war, 461 of them were murdered in the Holocaust. Most pertinent for me is the memorial scroll on the synagogue wall recording the Jews from Karcag who perished in the Holocaust. My family is listed on this scroll – but this has to be corrected because my brother and I were not murdered – we survived!

Tomi Reichental

I am a Jew, and I am a survivor of the Holocaust. I was born in Slovakia in 1935.

I was just nine years old when I was captured by the Nazis along with my mother, brother, grandmother, aunt and cousin. We were herded into a cattle car and from that moment onwards, we were treated worse than animals. There was no privacy or hygiene, the stench and conditions were unbearable.

Eventually, after seven nights, the cattle train stopped. The doors were opened, and we were greeted by shouts from the SS with guns pointing and barking dogs. We had arrived at our destination – Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. I was there from November 1944 until the liberation of the camp in April 1945.

What I witnessed as a nine-year-old boy is impossible to describe. The starvation, the cruelty of the camp guards, the cold and disease. People, who were just skin and bone and looked like living skeletons, were walking around very slowly, some of them dropping to the ground, never to get up again. They were dying in their hundreds, their emaciated bodies left where they fell or thrown into heaps. In front of our barracks there were piles of decomposing corpses. For many prisoners in Bergen-Belsen, the conditions were too much to bear, and they threw themselves on the barbed wire at night to be shot in order to put an end to their misery. We found their corpses there in the mornings.

Seventy thousand prisoners of Bergen-Belsen are buried there in mass graves.

I lost thirty-five members of my family in the Holocaust.
**Walter Sekules**

My parents were both born in Vienna into families that were part of the vibrant Jewish community. At that time, there were almost 200,000 Jews living in Austria. The flourishing Jewish culture, and Jewish participation particularly in the arts and commerce, was extinguished forever in 1938 when Nazi Germany annexed Austria as part of the German Reich. This was followed by the November Pogrom, Kristallnacht, after which Viennese Jews were desperate to leave. Along with their baby daughter, Ruth, my parents escaped to Estonia, one of the few countries that did not require an exit visa. They arrived with no money or knowledge of the language. I was born in Tallinn in 1940.

My father managed to find work, and they got by until 1941 when the Soviets arrested the family as enemy aliens and deported them to Siberia. Under very harsh conditions, through scorching summers and freezing winters, the family survived the war and three Soviet camps during more than six years in exile. My sister, Leah, was born while we were incarcerated in the Kok Uzek camp in Karaganda in 1945. As Europe was liberated, Austrians and Hungarians (most of whom were Jews) incarcerated in the Soviet camps were the last to attain their freedom, two years after most. In 1947, my family were released and started their grueling three-month journey of more than 3,000 miles back to Austria.

We arrived in Vienna station on a Russian cattle train on 29 March 1947 after being over nine weeks in transit from Kazakhstan. We were back in the city we had fled some eight and a half years before.

When my father's parents, who had managed to escape from Vienna, received our telegram from Romania on our way home, they went into action immediately to obtain entry permits for us to join them in Londonderry, where they had started a textile business. On the way, we spent time in London where my mother was reunited with her sister and mother (my grandmother), who had believed the family had perished. It took a while to process the information that our family had survived and had avoided the fate that befell millions of European Jews.

Our family settled in Kilkeel, Northern Ireland, since that time.

Walter Sekules has moved to the United Kingdom during the past year and continues to reside there.

---

**Ireland and the Holocaust**

We do not know how many Jewish refugees applied to come to Ireland, although it is definitely in the hundreds, if not thousands. Only a small percentage of applicants was actually admitted. While it is important to examine Ireland’s reaction to the refugee crisis in the light of the broader historical context, and the policy examples provided by other countries, especially Britain, one cannot ignore a persistent theme about this episode in Irish history: immigrants were not welcome, refugees were not welcome, but Jewish immigrants and Jewish refugees were less welcome than others.

*Katrina Goldstone*

---

**Jan Kaminski – In Memoriam**

It was with much sadness that we learned of the death of Jan Kaminski in May 2019. Jan was born Chaim Srul Zybner into a Jewish family in Bilgoraj, Poland in 1932. He was just ten years old when the killing squads arrived in his native town in 1942 whence they dispatched the entire Jewish population to Belzec death camp. During these round-ups Jan fled into the nearby forest, becoming permanently separated from his family. He survived the war on the run, adopting the name of Jan Kaminski, a more typical Polish name. At war’s end, Jan learned that his entire family had been wiped out, his parents, sisters and baby brother. For more than 30 years he searched for any of his family who might have survived but no trace of immediate family members have been found. Jan often attended the national Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration with his family. He will be fondly remembered.

*Jan Kaminski*
Perilous Journeys

The plight of the St Louis

On 13 May 1939 the ‘St Louis’ sailed from Hamburg to the US, via Cuba, with 937 Jews on board, fleeing Nazi tyranny. They held landing certificates issued by the Cuban Director-General of Immigration, and planned to wait in Havana until the US visas they had applied for were issued. But even before the St Louis arrived in Cuba, the landing documents were revoked. A huge anti-Jewish rally was held in Havana, urging Cubans to ‘fight the Jews until the last one is driven out’. Five days later, the Cubans ordered the ship out of Cuban waters. The St Louis sailed so close to Florida that the passengers could see the lights of Miami, but the American State Department refused to allow them to land. The St Louis was forced to return to Europe, where Belgium, the Netherlands, Britain and France agreed to take some of the refugees. With the outbreak of the Second World War, many of the original passengers of the St Louis eventually perished in the Holocaust.

Refugees today

Today, people are still embarking on perilous journeys in their attempt to flee persecution, tyranny and war.
The Holocaust and some genocides that have taken place during the twentieth century

The Holocaust is the name given to one specific case of genocide that was unprecedented in its totality: the attempt to destroy the Jewish people of Europe and all traces of Jewish culture, history and memory. By the end of the Holocaust, 6 million Jewish men, women and children had been murdered in ghettos, mass shootings, concentration camps and death camps.

In all cases of genocide, people have been targeted because of their ethnicity or their religious and cultural affiliations. In Armenia, over 1 million people were murdered between 1915 and 1923. In Cambodia in the 1970s, it is estimated that 2 million people were murdered by the Khmer Rouge, and in Rwanda in the 1990s, over 1 million people were murdered, often by neighbours and people they knew, who joined the killing squads in hand-to-hand killing. In Bosnia, approximately 8,000 Muslim men and boys were massacred in Srebrenica in 1995, in the single largest mass murder in Europe since 1945.

The genocide of the Roma took place during the Holocaust, as did the murder of thousands of others who were victims of Nazi atrocities.

‘Genocide is not a single event in time but a gradual process that begins when discrimination, racism and hatred are not checked, when people are denied their human rights and their civil rights. For this reason it is important that we respect each other’s differences, and when we see injustice, we speak out.’

Holocaust Education Trust Ireland
Four million Jewish victims of the Holocaust identified

Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Authority and Museum in Israel, has to date managed to identify four million of the six million Jews murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators during the Second World War. One and a half million new names have been added over the past decade, increasing the list of confirmed victims by 60 per cent.

Yad Vashem chairman, Avner Shalev, says that one of the museum’s main aims, since it was established in Jerusalem in 1953 has been to recover every victim’s name and personal story. ‘The Germans sought not only to destroy the Jews but also to erase their memory.’ The museum aims to counteract this.

The figure of 6 million victims is based on pre-war census lists of Jewish communities in areas occupied by the Nazis. Due to the difficulty of obtaining accurate information, these figures are continually updated. Territories in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, where mass killings took place, pose a challenge to researchers.

In 2004, Yad Vashem launched its Pages of Testimony Project. Visitors to the museum and to its website are encouraged to complete information forms which can then be cross-referenced against archival information. The project is a huge success: 53 per cent of the 4 million names have come through Pages of Testimony.

After the Second World War, thousands of Jewish Holocaust survivors made their way to the newly-established State of Israel. They called themselves the Sh’erit Ha Pletah, the ‘Spared Remnant’. After such great suffering, witnessing the murder and decimation of their families and their communities, the survivors gradually rebuilt their lives. They created new generations of their families in their ancient homeland.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Birthplace</th>
<th>Murdered At</th>
<th>Age at Time of Death</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Max Heller</td>
<td>Born Chomotow, Czechoslovakia</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1943</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Klara Heller</td>
<td>Born Hermanstat, Czechoslovakia</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1943</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gisella Molnar</td>
<td>Born Debrecen, Hungary</td>
<td>Murdered Bergen-Belsen, 1945</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandar Molnar</td>
<td>Born Debrecen, Hungary</td>
<td>Murdered Treblinka, 1942</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bajla Hercberg</td>
<td>Born Wloszczowa, Poland</td>
<td>Murdered Treblinka, 1942</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthias Hercberg</td>
<td>Born Wloszczowa, Poland</td>
<td>Murdered Treblinka, 1942</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruchla Orzel</td>
<td>Born Wloszczowa, Poland</td>
<td>Murdered Treblinka, 1942</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fujwel Orzel</td>
<td>Born Sosnowiec, Poland</td>
<td>Murdered Treblinka, 1942</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slazma Urbach</td>
<td>Born Wloszczowa, Poland</td>
<td>Murdered Treblinka, 1942</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hirsch Urbach</td>
<td>Born Wloszczowa, Poland</td>
<td>Murdered Treblinka, 1942</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tauba Urbach</td>
<td>Born Wloszczowa, Poland</td>
<td>Murdered Treblinka, 1942</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Josef Urbach</td>
<td>Born Wloszczowa, Poland</td>
<td>Murdered Treblinka, 1942</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shaul Urbach</td>
<td>Born Kielce, Poland</td>
<td>Murdered Treblinka, 1942</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abe Tzvi Urbach</td>
<td>Born Kielce, Poland</td>
<td>Murdered Treblinka, 1942</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gitla Frajda Urbach</td>
<td>Born Kielce, Poland</td>
<td>Murdered Treblinka, 1942</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laja Fayiga Urbach</td>
<td>Born Kielce, Poland</td>
<td>Murdered Treblinka, 1942</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuchim Mordechai Urbach</td>
<td>Born Kielce, Poland</td>
<td>Murdered Treblinka, 1942</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruchla Golda Urbach</td>
<td>Born Kielce, Poland</td>
<td>Murdered Treblinka, 1942</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Urbach</td>
<td>Born Kielce, Poland</td>
<td>Murdered Treblinka, 1942</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chil Urbach</td>
<td>Born Wloszczowa, Poland</td>
<td>Murdered Treblinka, 1942</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Szeymon Urbach</td>
<td>Born Wloszczowa, Poland</td>
<td>Murdered Treblinka, 1942</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuchim Urbach</td>
<td>Born Wloszczowa, Poland</td>
<td>Murdered Buchenwald, 1944</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faigla Urbach</td>
<td>Born Wloszczowa, Poland</td>
<td>Murdered Buchenwald, 1944</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perla Urbach</td>
<td>Born Wodzislaw, Poland</td>
<td>Murdered Treblinka, 1942</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frymeta Urbach</td>
<td>Born Wodzislaw, Poland</td>
<td>Murdered Treblinka, 1942</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moses Klein</td>
<td>Born Wodzislaw, Poland</td>
<td>Murdered Treblinka, 1942</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hilde Frenkel</td>
<td>Born Berlin</td>
<td>Murdered Belorussia, 1942</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kurt Frenkel</td>
<td>Born Berlin</td>
<td>Murdered Belorussia, 1942</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walter Frenkel</td>
<td>Born Berlin</td>
<td>Murdered Belorussia, 1942</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herbert Frenkel</td>
<td>Born Berlin</td>
<td>Murdered Belorussia, 1942</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fritz Frenkel</td>
<td>Born Berlin</td>
<td>Murdered Belorussia, 1942</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zigmund Frenkel</td>
<td>Born Berlin</td>
<td>Murdered Belorussia, 1942</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saloman Delmonte</td>
<td>Born Amsterdam</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1942</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karoline Wolff</td>
<td>Born Aurich, Germany</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin Wolff</td>
<td>Born Aurich, Germany</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolfgang Wolf</td>
<td>Born Aurich, Germany</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selly Wolff</td>
<td>Born Aurich, Germany</td>
<td>Murdered Theresienstadt</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henrietta Wolff</td>
<td>Born Aurich, Germany</td>
<td>Murdered Theresienstadt</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosetta Wolf</td>
<td>Born Aurich, Germany</td>
<td>Murdered Theresienstadt</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eli Velvel Avisanski</td>
<td>Born Lithuania</td>
<td>Murdered Lithuania, 1941</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Philipp</td>
<td>Born Wanne-Eickel, Germany</td>
<td>Murdered Stutthoff, Poland, 1944</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recha Philipp</td>
<td>Born Wanne-Eickel, Germany</td>
<td>Murdered Stutthoff, Poland, 1944</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leopold Philipp</td>
<td></td>
<td>Murdered 1943</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julia Philipp</td>
<td></td>
<td>Murdered Riga, c. 1942</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dagbert Philipp</td>
<td></td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1943</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louis Philipp</td>
<td></td>
<td>Missing, Minsk, 1941</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valeria Philipp</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosalia Scheimovitz</td>
<td>Born Slovakia</td>
<td>Murdered Bergen-Belsen, 1945</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julius Mayer</td>
<td>Born Slovakia</td>
<td>Murdered Buchenwald, 1945</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geiza Suri</td>
<td>Born Slovakia</td>
<td>Murdered Buchenwald, 1944</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oskar Scheimovitz</td>
<td>Born Slovakia</td>
<td>Murdered Buchenwald, 1944</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adela Fried</td>
<td>Born Slovakia</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1944</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bella Fried</td>
<td>Born Slovakia</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1944</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katerina Fried</td>
<td>Born Slovakia</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1944</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agnes Fried</td>
<td>Born Slovakia</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1942</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ezekiel Reichental</td>
<td>Born Slovakia</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1942</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katarina Reichental</td>
<td>Born Slovakia</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1942</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalmar Reichental</td>
<td>Born Slovakia</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1942</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ilona Reichental</td>
<td>Born Slovakia</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1942</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gita Reichental</td>
<td>Born Slovakia</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1942</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ibi Reichental</td>
<td>Born Slovakia</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1942</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desider Reichental</td>
<td>Born Slovakia</td>
<td>Murdered Wroclaw, 1943</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferdinand Alt</td>
<td>Born Slovakia</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1942</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Place of Birth</td>
<td>Place of Death</td>
<td>Age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renka Alt</td>
<td>Born Slovakia</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1942</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erna Elbert</td>
<td>Born Slovakia</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1942</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marta Elbert</td>
<td>Born Slovakia</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1942</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josef Drechsler</td>
<td>Born Plzen, Czechoslovakia</td>
<td>Murdered Zamosc, 1942</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bedriska Drechsler</td>
<td>Born Prague, Czechoslovakia</td>
<td>Murdered Zamosc, 1942</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Drechsler</td>
<td>Born Plzen, Czechoslovakia</td>
<td>Murdered Ibica, 1942</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meta Drechsler</td>
<td>Born Brezec, Czechoslovakia</td>
<td>Murdered Ibica, 1942</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bella Perlberg</td>
<td>Born Plzen, Czechoslovakia</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1944</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irma Popper</td>
<td>Born Plzen, Czechoslovakia</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1943</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jure Mataija</td>
<td>Born Lika, Croatia</td>
<td>Murdered Jasenovac, 1945</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ivica Mataija</td>
<td>Born Lika, Croatia</td>
<td>Murdered Jasenovac, 1945</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ankica Mataja</td>
<td>Born Lika, Croatia</td>
<td>Murdered Jasenovac, 1945</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalman Rosenthal</td>
<td>Born Yasia, Ukraine</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1944</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eleonora Rosenthal</td>
<td>Born Kuty, Poland</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1944</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abraham Soustiel</td>
<td>Born Thessaloniki, Greece</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1943</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polin Soustiel</td>
<td>Born Thessaloniki, Greece</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1943</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Soustiel</td>
<td>Born Thessaloniki, Greece</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1943</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shemon Soustiel</td>
<td>Born Thessaloniki, Greece</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1943</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regena Soustiel</td>
<td>Born Thessaloniki, Greece</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1943</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rapae Soustiel</td>
<td>Born Thessaloniki, Greece</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1943</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marta Soustiel</td>
<td>Born Thessaloniki, Greece</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1943</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shabtai Soustiel</td>
<td>Born Thessaloniki, Greece</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1943</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lusi Soustiel</td>
<td>Born Thessaloniki, Greece</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1943</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moshe-Yom Tov Soustiel</td>
<td>Born Thessaloniki, Greece</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1943</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adela Soustiel</td>
<td>Born Thessaloniki, Greece</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1943</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agedni Soustiel Brudo</td>
<td>Born Thessaloniki, Greece</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1943</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emanuel Brudo</td>
<td>Born Thessaloniki, Greece</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1943</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soustiel Children</td>
<td>Born Thessaloniki, Greece</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1943</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heinrich Hainbach</td>
<td>Born Crernovitz, Austria</td>
<td>Murdered Riga, Latvia, 1941</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selma Hainbach</td>
<td>Born Vienna, Austria</td>
<td>Murdered Riga, Latvia, 1941</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simcha Zaks</td>
<td>Born Rovas, Lithuania</td>
<td>Murdered 1941</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rivka Zaks</td>
<td>Born Rovas, Lithuania</td>
<td>Murdered 1941</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berel Zaks</td>
<td>Born Rovas, Lithuania</td>
<td>Murdered 1941</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zisse Zaks</td>
<td>Born Rovas, Lithuania</td>
<td>Murdered 1941</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nachman Zaks</td>
<td>Born Rovas, Lithuania</td>
<td>Murdered 1941</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chana Zaks</td>
<td>Born Rovas, Lithuania</td>
<td>Murdered 1941</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aaron Zaks</td>
<td>Born Rovas, Lithuania</td>
<td>Murdered 1941</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chana Sherhai</td>
<td>Born Rovas, Lithuania</td>
<td>Murdered 1941</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joel Dov Zaks</td>
<td>Born Rovas, Lithuania</td>
<td>Murdered 1941</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bendit Zaks</td>
<td>Born Rovas, Lithuania</td>
<td>Murdered 1941</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leah Tzedak</td>
<td>Born Rovas, Lithuania</td>
<td>Murdered 1941</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gitel Zaks</td>
<td>Born Rovas, Lithuania</td>
<td>Murdered 1941</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoshana Zaks</td>
<td>Born Rovas, Lithuania</td>
<td>Murdered 1941</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheina Zaks</td>
<td>Born Rovas, Lithuania</td>
<td>Murdered 1941</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masha Zaks</td>
<td>Born Rovas, Lithuania</td>
<td>Murdered 1941</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosa Zaks</td>
<td>Born Rovas, Lithuania</td>
<td>Murdered 1941</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyla Feige Fachler</td>
<td>Born Ilza, Poland</td>
<td>Murdered 1942</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Majer Fachler</td>
<td>Born Lodz, Poland</td>
<td>Murdered 1942</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moshe Fachler</td>
<td>Born Ostrowy, Poland</td>
<td>Murdered 1942</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geila Fachler</td>
<td>Born Ostrowy, Poland</td>
<td>Murdered 1942</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shayndel Milechman</td>
<td>Born Ostrowy, Poland</td>
<td>Murdered 1942</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yecheil Milechman</td>
<td>Born Ilza, Poland</td>
<td>Murdered 1942</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theo Milechman</td>
<td>Born Ilza, Poland</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1944</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Milechman</td>
<td>Born Ilza, Poland</td>
<td>Murdered 1942</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peppi Grzyb</td>
<td>Born Ilza, Poland</td>
<td>Murdered 1943</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaya Milechman</td>
<td>Born Ilza, Poland</td>
<td>Murdered 1942</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yochevet Milechman</td>
<td>Born Ilza, Poland</td>
<td>Murdered 1942</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaim Meier Milechman</td>
<td>Born Ilza, Poland</td>
<td>Murdered 1942</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noosen Noote Fachler</td>
<td>Born Lodz, Poland</td>
<td>Murdered 1942</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ester Zarke Jakubovich</td>
<td>Born Lodz, Poland</td>
<td>Murdered 1942</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeme Althe Milechman</td>
<td>Born Poland</td>
<td>Murdered 1942</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Levi Fachler</td>
<td>Born Berlin, Germany</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1944</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Izzy Fachler</td>
<td>Born Berlin, Germany</td>
<td>Murdered Kielce pogrom, 1946</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathan Fachler</td>
<td>Born Berlin, Germany</td>
<td>Murdered Kielce pogrom, 1946</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johanna Karlsberg Sommer</td>
<td>Born Franksch-Crumbach, Germany</td>
<td>Murdered Theresienstadt, 1942</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emil Sommer</td>
<td>Born Germany</td>
<td>Murdered Theresienstadt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ettie Steinberg</td>
<td>Born Veretski, Czechoslovakia</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leon Gluck</td>
<td>Born Paris</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vogtjeck Gluck</td>
<td></td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hatzkel Abram</td>
<td>Born Belorussia</td>
<td>Murdered Riga Ghetto, Latvia, 1941</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belia Abram</td>
<td>Born Suvalki, Poland</td>
<td>Murdered Riga Ghetto, Latvia, 1941</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osia Joseph Abram</td>
<td>Born Riga, Latvia</td>
<td>K.I.A. Battle of Tartu, Estonia, 1941</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We Remember...

Sigmund Selig Cohn  Born Friedland, Kr. Stargard, Germany  Murdered Riga-Jungfernholz, 1941  Aged 67 Years
Ida Cohn (née Wintersberg)  Born Wolfsberg, Hess-Nass, Germany  Murdered Riga-Jungfernholz, 1941  Aged 66 Years
Heinrich Herbst  Born Nowy Sacz, Germany  Murdered Treblinka, 1942  Aged 64 Years
Karoline Herbst (née Wolf)  Born Jever, Germany  Murdered Treblinka, 1942  Aged 64 Years
Else Zimmak  Born Oldenburg, Germany  Murdered 1942  Aged 27 Years
Denny Zimmak  Born Hamburg, Germany  Murdered 1942  Aged 9 months
Abraham Humberg  Born Germany  Murdered KZ Riga, 1941  Aged 58 Years
Emma Humberg (Loewenstein)  Born Germany  Murdered KZ Riga, 1941  Aged 57 Years
Gerta Feist (Humburg)  Born Germany  Murdered Lodz, 1941  Aged 22 Years
Fanni Kaufman (Humberg)  Born Germany  Murdered Ravensbruck, 1942  Aged 60 Years
Adolf Humburg  Born Germany  Murdered KZ Auschwitz
Rafael Jermann  Born Warsaw, Poland
Karl Jermann  Born Warsaw, Poland
David Jermann  Born Warsaw, Poland
Rywna Zybner  Born Bulgoraj, Poland  Murdered Belzec, 1942
Baby Zybner  Born Bulgoraj, Poland
Mindy Zybner (née Nudel)  Born Bulgoraj, Poland
Szulim (Sol/Saul) Zybner  Born Bulgoraj, Poland
Frandle Zybner  Born Bulgoraj, Poland  Murdered Belzec, 1942
Sheindla Zybner  Born Bulgoraj, Poland
Joseph Zybner  Born Bulgoraj, Poland
Mendel Kirzner  Born Glasmanka, Latvia
Sheina Beila Kirzner  Born Lithuania
Osvse Kirzner  Born Glasmanka, Latvia
Sheina Riva Kirzner  Born Glasmanka Latvia
Shifra Kirzner  Born Latvia
Rasche Kirzner  Born Riga, Latvia  Murdered Auschwitz, 1943  Aged 44 Years
Tankel Kirzner  Born Riga, Latvia
Wanda Camerino  Born Rome, Italy
Renato Di Cori  Born Rome, Italy
Italo Camerino  Born Rome, Italy  Murdered Auschwitz, 1944  Aged 51 Years
Giulia Di Cori  Born Rome, Italy
Miriam Naftulovicova  Born Porubka, Slovakia
Moric Moje Jyczak Naftulovic  Born Porubka, Slovakia
Majer Naftulovic  Born Porubka, Slovakia
Sidonia Naftulovicova  Born Porubka, Slovakia
Hani Moskovicova  Born Porubka, Slovakia
Chaim Moskovic  Born Porubka, Slovakia
Benjamin Moskovic  Born Porubka, Slovakia
Moric Moskovic  Born Porubka, Slovakia
Izidor Moskovic  Born Porubka, Slovakia
Shimshon Hertz  Born Woloszcsza, Poland
Kaya Hertz  Born Woloszcsza, Poland  Murdered Brnoaica Forest, Galicia
Shayndl Hertz  Born Woloszcsza, Poland
Avraham Hertz  Born Woloszcsza, Poland
Royza Hertz  Born Woloszcsza, Poland
Josef Hertz  Born Woloszcsza, Poland
Lejb Hertz  Born Woloszcsza, Poland
Meir Hroshowsky  Born Woloszcsza, Poland
Rachel Hroshowsky  Born Woloszcsza, Poland
Kayla Hroshowsky  Born Woloszcsza, Poland
Hersh Hroshowsky  Born Woloszcsza, Poland
Grupia Chertkof  Born Dagda, Latvia
Max Kachtal  Born Riga, Latvia
Michlya Kachtal  Born Riga, Latvia  Murdered Rumbula Forest, Riga
Sioma Kachtal  Born Riga, Latvia
Dvora Krasnik  Born Riga, Latvia
Miriam Krasnik  Born Riga, Latvia
Hene Krasnik  Born Riga, Latvia
Feyga Krasnik  Born Riga, Latvia
Annie Otten-Wolf  Born Antwerp, Belgium
David Gelassen  Born France
Jeanette Gelassen  Born France
Paul Talma  Born France
Sara Talma  Born France
Isaac Shishi  Born Dublin, Ireland
Ephraim Saks  Born Dublin, Ireland
Lena (Jeanne) Saks  Born Dublin, Ireland
...We will always remember
OUR VISION
To create awareness throughout Ireland about the Holocaust and its consequences

OUR MISSION
Sharing good practice in delivering Holocaust education, remembrance and awareness programmes and ensuring that Ireland commemorates the Holocaust and educates about it by promoting government policies that uphold the commitments of the Stockholm Declaration 2000, undertaking to counter antisemitism, all forms of racism, Holocaust denial and distortion of the Holocaust.

Board of Holocaust Education Trust Ireland:
Eibhlin Byrne (Chairperson), Anastasia Crickley, Lynn Jackson, Mary McAleese, Gwendolen Morgan, Carl Nelkin and Tim O'Connor

PROGRAMMES FOR TEACHERS

Study Visit to Berlin
A visit to the city of Berlin in the country where National Socialism originated, the visit provides context for studying and teaching the Holocaust. Working with scholars and educators, visiting Holocaust sites and encounters with survivors are incorporated into the visit.

Stories That Move
*In association with the Anne Frank House, Amsterdam.*
A dynamic interactive online resource that challenges racism and discrimination. The workshop provides an inclusive approach that focuses on young people’s voices making all learners feel included and involved.

Seminar at Yad Vashem, International School for Holocaust Studies
An eight-day programme that takes place at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. The course is tailored to Irish teachers, providing exposure to the many facets of the Holocaust. Working at the exceptional Holocaust Museum and Archives Centre, participants can avail of resources, expertise and personal testimonies.

IHRA
Ireland is a full member of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA).
Holocaust Education Trust Ireland has two representatives on the Irish delegation.

DONATE
HETI welcome donations towards Holocaust education and remembrance.
With your support we can continue our important work
http://hetireland.org/donate/
The Crocus Project
An Irish initiative which now includes the participation of twelve European countries. It is suitable for pupils aged ten years and older. HETI provides yellow crocus bulbs to schools for students to plant in Autumn in memory of all of the children who perished in the Holocaust: 1.5 million Jewish children and thousands of other children who were victims of Nazi atrocities. The yellow flowers recall the yellow Stars of David that Jewish people were forced to wear under Nazi rule. The crocuses bloom around the time of International Holocaust Remembrance Day. When people admire the flowers, the young people can explain what they represent and what happened to the children.

The Holocaust Narrative
Suitable for senior students, this interactive presentation provides an overview of the development of the Holocaust before, during and after the Second World War. It explains the context for the main events of the Holocaust. This programme is useful for students studying for their national examinations or research topics.

Voices of Holocaust survivors and of their children or grandchildren (Second or Third Generation)
Personal accounts by Holocaust survivors or by Second or Third Generation, make an indelible impression on all who hear them. As the number of first-hand witnesses diminishes, it is essential that their stories are heard, their testimonies recorded, and their experiences shared. HETI facilitates survivors’ visits to schools, third level institutions community groups and organisations.

The Mary Elmes Prize in Holocaust Studies for Transition Year Students
Launching in September 2019, this prize will bear the name of Mary Elmes, an Irish woman who saved hundreds of children during the Holocaust and who is the first Irish citizen to be awarded (posthumously) the title ‘Righteous Among The Nations’ by Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Remembrance Authority in Israel. Details about the Mary Elmes Prize will be available on the HETI website.

Public Lectures and Exhibitions
HETI arranges public lectures and exhibitions throughout Ireland. Many are organised through the Library Service. HETI produces information booklets for the exhibitions. Many libraries arrange ‘school days’ and speakers from HETI, which always elicit a positive response from students and the general public.

Preparing to Visit Auschwitz-Birkenau
Increasing numbers of senior cycle students are participating in study visits to Auschwitz-Birkenau with their schools. HETI is pleased to assist in the preparation of students and their teachers for this important study visit and to guide them through the reflections afterwards. HETI also provides information booklets which are useful in preparation and reflection on the visit.

Ordinary Heroes workshop
This workshop, courtesy of Kazerne Dossin, Mechelen, encourages students to learn about both the actions and inactions of individuals during the Holocaust. They will develop skills and scripts to break the bystander effect today.

An Archive More important than Life workshop
This workshop, courtesy of the Jewish Historical Institute Warsaw, allows students to learn about life in the Warsaw Ghetto during German occupation and the circumstances in which the Underground Archive of the Warsaw Ghetto (also known as Ringelblum Archive) was created and hidden.
BIBLIOGRAPHY

Browning, Christopher. The Origins of the Final Solution: The Evolution of Nazi Jewish Policy, September 1939-March 1942, Heinemann, 2004
Gutterman, Bella, To Bear Witness: Holocaust Remembrance at Yad Vashem, Yad Vashem Publications, 2005
Katz, Dovid Lithuanian Jewish Culture, Baltos Lankos Publishers, 2010
Lipstadt, Deborah, Antisemitism Here and Now, Scribe 2019, UK and Australia
Pressburger, Chava (Editor), The Diary of Petr Ginz, Atlantic Books 2007, Atlantic Books
Reynolds, A History of the Nazi Concentration Camps
Stone, Dan, Histories of the Holocaust, Oxford University Press, 2010
The Jews in China, compiled and edited by Pan Guang, China Intercontinental Press, 2005

PHOTOGRAPHS, ILLUSTRATIONS and IMAGES

Albrecht Becker: Schwules Museum
Amalie Schai Reinhardt: romasinti.eu
Avoid Jewish doctors and lawyers: Imperial War Museum
Barracks in camp: USHMM
Belzec: Kazia Kaminska
Book burning: USHMM
Boycott of Jewish shops: USHMM
Camps: Yad Vashem
Children reading The Poisonous Mushroom: Yad Vashem
Concentration camp: USHMM
Crematoria and gas chamber IV: Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum
Death March: KZ Gedenkstätte Dachau Ost, Munich, Germany
DP camps: USHMM
Einsatzgruppen, Ukraine, 1942: USHMM
Ethnic minority victims: USHMM
Evin: USHMM
Forced labour Maurathausen: National Archives, Washington
Gas chamber: USHMM
Großno shäftl: Yad Vashem
Hall of Remembrance: Yad Vashem
Hitler appointed Chanceller: Yad Vashem
Irena Sendler: Yad Vashem
Jan Kaminski: private collection
Jewish partisans, Bielski group: USHMM
Jews before the Second World War: USHMM
Jews scrubbing streets, Vienna 1938: Yad Vashem
Jews waiting in the forest at Auschwitz-Birkenau: Yad Vashem
Kielce burial: Yad Vashem
Kindertransport: Imperial War Museum
Katrin Aufricht, Prague: Yad Vashem
Kindertransport: Imperial War Museum
Laterns in camp: USHMM
Liberation of Auschwitz: Yad Vashem
Lord Mayor: Dublin City Council
Magda and André Trocmé: Yad Vashem
Manfred Bernhardt: USHMM
Map of number of Jews in Europe: Yad Vashem
Memorial monument to the Holocaust, Listowel: Paddy Fitzgibbon
Oskar Schindler: USHMM
Other victims of the Holocaust: USHMM
Pedestrian bridge, Warsaw Ghetto: Yad Vashem
Political opponents: USHMM
Racial defiler: House of the Wannsee Conference
Rickshaw, Warsaw Ghetto: Yad Vashem
Righteous Certificate: Yad Vashem
Shoah: Yad Vashem
Sobibor: Yad Vashem
Suzi Diamond: private collection
Tomi Reichental: private collection
The Biacki family: ADL
Treblinka notice: Yad Vashem
Villa Emma: ‘Traces of War, Lennard Boliijn’
Walter Sekules: private collection
Wannsee list: House of the Wannsee Conference, Berlin
Wilhelm Hosenfeld: Yad Vashem

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The commemoration was made possible through the support of:
The Department of Justice and Equality
Dublin City Council
Dublin Maccabi Charitable Trust
The Jewish Representative Council of Ireland
The Council for Christians and Jews
Private donations

MASTER of CEREMONIES: Cloidagh Finn
MUSICIANS: Carl Nelkin, Tenor. Maja Elliott, piano.

MUSIC: Close Your Little Eyes. Words: Yeshayahu Spiegel. Music: David Bagelman
Under The Little Green Polish Trees. Words: Joseph Papiernikov. Music: Israel Alter

SCHOOL READERS: Stratford College: Dragos Cazan, Grace Wright, Ross Gaynor; Portumna Community School: Eoin McClearn, Annie Clarke, Aleksandra Mrz; Assumption Secondary School: Nadine Orop, Aihina Ortiz, Hanna Parraiso; Our Lady’s College, Greenhills: Eoise Dunne Ward, Caroline McEvoy, Caoimhe Leech

YOUTH VOLUNTEERS: 6th Dublin, Leeson Park Venture Scouts; HQ Dublin, Dartyry Venture Scouts

THANKS TO: 
YOUTH READERS: Niamh Fanning, Oisin Stapleton Doyle, Ella Nethercott
DIRECTOR: Heino Schönfeld MEDIA COORDINATOR: Aine McKee
PRODUCTION TEAM: Mitzi D’Alton and Sian Ni Mhurri AV IMAGE EDITOR: Muireann O’Neill
MANSION HOUSE: MHL Events Management Ltd; CAYS VIDEO: ClickZoom

BOOKLET

Front cover image: Tisa von der Schulenberg

Writing, research and editing: Holocaust Education Trust Ireland

Printing: Print Bureau, Inchicore, Dublin 8 Design: Siobhán O’Reilly, Print Bureau

Holocaust Education Trust Ireland: Tel: 00 353 1 6690593 Email: info@hetireland.org www.hetireland.org

©2020 Holocaust Education Trust Ireland. All rights reserved.
No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form by any means without permission in writing.
The only public Holocaust memorial monument in Ireland was unveiled in the Garden of Europe in Listowel, Co. Kerry, in May 1995. The occasion marked fifty years since the end of World War II when the horrors of the Holocaust were revealed.

Paddy Fitzgibbon, of the Rotary Club of Listowel, made a very moving speech on that occasion; an excerpt is printed below:

Our generation, and the generation or two after us, will be the last that will be able to say that we stood and shook the hands of some of those who survived. Go home from this place and tell your children and your grandchildren and your great-grandchildren that today in Listowel, you looked into eyes that witnessed the most cataclysmic events ever unleashed by mankind upon mankind. Tell them that you met people who will still be remembered and still talked about and still wept over 10,000 years from now – because if they are not, there will be no hope for us at all. The Holocaust happened and it can happen again, and every one of us, if only out of our own sense of self-preservation, has a solemn duty to ensure that nothing like it ever occurs again.