Holocaust MEMORIAL DAY 2019

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 6 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, Nial Ring

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.

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. Tonight, we recall the suffering inflicted on the Jewish people of Europe and on those of other faiths, 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 to ensure that this dark page of history is always remembered.

Message from Holocaust Education Trust Ireland

Today we recall the dark days of the Holocaust. We remember six million Jewish people and millions of others who were persecuted and murdered. We think about their families who still bear the burden of memory. We remind ourselves in a world that is far from certain, that evil does not reside in one people or at one time.

In 1930s Europe, fear and uncertainty nurtured extremes unleashing a cataclysmic disaster on the world. The Holocaust did not emerge from nowhere. It was the result of fear and uncertainty. It was the result of seeds sown over many years. Seeds of hatred, mistrust, of antisemitism. Ultimately, the seeds of evil.

Those who perpetrated the Holocaust were, like their victims, men and women, sons and daughters, cherished family members. And yet, given fertile ground for hatred, they became killers and the world became a dark and dangerous place.

At times of great uncertainty, there is always a danger that extremists will triumph. It can emerge amongst any nations at any stage. Our vigilance and resolve to fight hatred and fear whenever it emerges will ensure that the Holocaust cannot, will not, and must not be repeated.

Eibhlín 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 people with disabilities and disabling conditions who were murdered, forcibly sterilised, and starved to death by doctors and other willing helpers.
**Reader:** David O’Brien, Down Syndrome advocacy group
**Candle-lighters:** Martin Rowan and Paul Alford, Inclusion Ireland

**Ethnic minorities, Poles and other Slavic peoples:** In memory of Poles, Slavs and ethnic minorities who were murdered, displaced and forcibly 'Aryanised' by the Nazis.
**Reader:** Barnaba Dorda, Chair of Forum Polonia
**Candle-lighters:** Thabi Madide, writer and Amina Moustafa, Sport Against Racism Ireland and 'Hijabs and Hat-Tricks' football coach

**Roma/Sinti:** In memory of the Roma people of Europe who were rounded up, murdered, displaced and forcibly sterilised by the Nazis. **Reader:** Barnaba Dorda, Chair of Forum Polonia
**Candle-lighters:** Alexandru Petrovici and Damaris Paun, Roma Community

**Homosexuals:** In memory of the homosexual men and women who were persecuted and murdered during the Holocaust because of their sexual orientation.
**Reader:** Max Krzyzanowski, Grand Marshal Dublin Pride, 2016
**Candle-lighters:** Dr Gráinne Healy, Co-Director of Yes Equality Campaign, and Caroline Keane, Chairperson, National LGBT Federation

**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:** Kim Bielenberg, whose grandfather, Peter, was among those involved in the plot to assassinate Hitler in July 1944
**Candle-lighters:** Frances Moss, Department of Education and Skills, and Sheila Nunan, General Secretary, Irish National Teachers’ Organisation

**Christian victims:** In memory of the Christian victims of all denominations who were persecuted and murdered by the Nazis.
**Reader:** Very Revd Maria Jansson, Dean and Rector of Christ Church Cathedral Waterford
**Candle-lighters:** Elaine O’Sullivan, Chairperson, School Chaplains Association, and Fr Liam Lacey, St Fintan’s Parish Sutton

**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:**
- Jonathan Phillips, whose father, Geoffrey, escaped Germany on the Kindertransports but whose parents, David and Recha Philipp, and other family members, perished in the Holocaust.
- Eleanor O’Higgins, whose maternal grandparents, Avrum Yitzchok and Etke Rivkah Ozdoba, her aunt Soori, uncles, cousins and other family members, perished in the Holocaust.
- Yoram Tokar, whose great uncle and aunt David and Jeanette Gelassen, also Paul and Sara Talma and other family members perished in the Holocaust.
- Nurit Schulman, whose grandparents Abraham and Emma Humberg, uncles, aunts and other family members, perished in the Holocaust.
- Joe Katz, whose mother, Frida, survived Auschwitz but whose family members perished in the Holocaust.
- Sharlette Caplin, whose father, Raphael Urbach, survived Buchenwald and Theresienstadt but whose other family members perished in the Holocaust.

*We will always remember.*
Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration

Programme

MC: Brian Merriman  Music: Conor Sheil (clarinet), Maria Geheran (keyboards), Feilimidh Nunan (violin)
Volunteers: 6th Dublin Leeson Park Scout Group and Foróige youth groups from Raheny and Skerries

- Opening Remarks: Brian Merriman
- Introduction: Eibhlin Byrne, Chairperson, Holocaust Education Trust Ireland
- Words of Welcome: Lord Mayor of Dublin, Niall Ring
- Keynote Address: President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins
- The Stockholm Declaration: Simon Coveney, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, TD
- The Legacy of the Holocaust: Charles Flanagan, Minister for Justice and Equality, TD

Musical interlude

- Holocaust survivor: Tomi Reichental
- Identification: Patricia Gordon, Principal, Stratford College. Youth Reader, Luca McGann
- Exclusion: Lenny Abrahamson, film-maker
- Evian and the Jewish Refugee Crisis: Willem Noé, The European Commission Representation Office, Ireland
- Surviving the Nazis, Exile and Siberia: Walter Sekules, Holocaust survivor
- November Pogrom, Kristallnacht: Patrick Prendergast, Provost, Trinity College Dublin
- Ghettos: Caryna Camerino, third generation
- Nazi Camps: Niall Oman, history teacher. Youth Reader, Sadbh Pettigrew
- Killing Squads: Kieran Cronin, Deputy Librarian, Waterford Institute of Technology
- Holocaust survivor, Jan Kaminski: Read by his daughter, Jadzia Kaminska
- Wannsee Conference: Michael Rothschild
- My Great-Grandparents: Kayla Hertz, third generation
- Irish Citizens, Victims of the Holocaust: David Jackson
- All of the Victims: Maurice Cohen, Chairperson, Jewish Representative Council of Ireland

Scroll of Names
Stratford College, Dublin; Coláiste Chill Mhantáin, Co. Wicklow; Kishoge Community College, Lucan, Co. Dublin; Dominican College, Taylor's Hill, Co. Galway.

Musical interlude

- Liberation: Hilary Abrahamson, Chairperson, Dublin City Interfaith Forum. Youth Reader, Ciara Fox
- Holocaust survivor: Suzi Diamond
- Righteous Among the Nations: Paddy Butler, journalist and author
- Second Generation: Siobhan Zinn-Collis
- Israel and the Shoah: HE Ophir Kariv, Ambassador of Israel
- Holocaust and Other Genocides: Anastasia Crickley, former Chair of UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Minute's silence

Victim readings and candle-lighting ceremony

- Go home from this place: Eibhlin Byrne, Chairperson, Holocaust Education Trust Ireland
- El Malay Rachamim: Prayer for the Repose of the Souls of the Departed:
  Rabbi Zalman Lent and Cantor Alwyn Shulman, Irish Jewish community
- Closing remarks: Brian Merriman
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.
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.

Book burning

Jewish books, books by Jewish authors and books about Jews were condemned as ‘un-German’ and burned in public bonfires, along with other books considered by Hitler and the Nazis to be ‘degenerate’. These public book burnings took place in Berlin and other university towns throughout Germany, where some of the finest works of German literature, history, philosophy, science and art were destroyed.

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.

Antisemitism

Antisemitism fuelled Nazi propaganda and reached all levels of German society. Nazi ideology alleged a hierarchy of peoples: the pure ‘Aryan’ German at the top, with Poles, Slavs, Gypsies and ethnic minorities very low down on the list. Jews were at the bottom, considered ‘subhuman.

Identification and exclusion

Everyone in Germany was required to carry identity papers, but Jewish people had to add special identifying marks to theirs: a red “J” was stamped on their passports, and new middle names were added: ‘Sara’ for females and ‘Israel’ for males. Jews were no longer allowed in public places such as parks, theatres, cinemas, sports grounds or public transport. Jewish banks and accounts held by Jews were closed or confiscated, and Jewish employees were dismissed from their places of work. After 1941, the Nazis forced Jewish people to wear badges on their outside clothing: a yellow Star of David or a blue Star of David on a white armband.

Nuremberg Laws

The Nuremberg Laws of 1935 ratified many of the racial theories prevalent in Nazi ideology. German Jews were deprived of their German citizenship and 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.
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.

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.

While visiting a friend in Prague in late 1938, Nicholas Winton learned of the plight of Jewish refugees and 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.

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, and borders were gradually closed to them. Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States, convened an international conference in Évian-les-Bains, France, in July 1938, to consider refugee policies. Out of all of the thirty-two countries represented at Évian, including Ireland, none was willing to take in more refugees, and the conference was deemed a failure.

Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States, convening the Évian Conference, 1938

Myron Taylor, representing President Roosevelt, addressing the Évian Conference, 1938

Smashed windows, November Pogrom, USHMM

After years of official harassment of Jews in Nazi Germany, the state-sanctioned violence of Kristallnacht marked the acceleration of Jewish persecution that would ultimately culminate in the Holocaust.
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

More than 1,300 ghettos were established in countries occupied by the Germans, and it is estimated that more than 2 million Jews died in them. The purpose of the ghettos was to separate the Jews from the rest of the population so that they could be easily controlled and transported. Ghettos were created in cities and large towns, close to railways, and often near killing sites or death camps. Many ghettos 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.

The inhabitants of the ghettos, who came from all walks of life, soon realised that the ghetto served as a place to destroy them physically and psychologically, and that their eventual fate would be death. The illusion that the ghetto was a temporary place to reside before being sent for ‘resettlement in the east’ was soon dispelled as the ghetto residents realised the euphemism for murder.

Although there are heroic stories of resistance, most of them failed. In the end, all the ghettos created by the Nazis were rased and most of their populations murdered. There were few survivors.

Thousands of Roma and Sinti people were also incarcerated in some of the ghettos, and they ultimately met the same fate as the Jews.

‘The fence was finished and nobody can go out or come in and on every house they’ve posted a notice which tells exactly what we are allowed to do… Actually, everything is forbidden, but the most awful thing is that the punishment for everything is death. It doesn’t actually say that this punishment also applies to children, but I think it does apply to us too.’

Éva, aged 13, Romania

Einsatzgruppen/Killing squads

On 21 June 1941, Germany launched Operation Barbarossa – the invasion of the Soviet Union. Special killing squads called Einsatzgruppen followed the German army through the eastern territories of Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, and into Russia. They operated hundreds of killing sites in these regions. Einsatzgruppen comprised SS units, police, officers and soldiers of the German army, 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 pits themselves before they were shot into them. Einsatzgruppen mostly killed Jews, but they also murdered Gypsies, Communists and others. This ‘slow and cumbersome’ method of murdering their victims, as well as the face-to-face killing, had a psychological impact on some of the killers. This prompted the Nazis to find a more efficient method of murdering the Jewish people: the establishment of purpose-built death camps where the victims were murdered by poison gas. Einsatzgruppen continued to operate in rural areas in parallel to the murders taking place in the death camps.

The last man from a group of Jews being shot into a pit in Vinnystia, Ukraine 1942
Wannsee Conference

The Wannsee Conference took place on 20 January 1942 in a secluded lakeside villa, south-west of Berlin. Fifteen senior Nazi and German government officials had been summoned by Reinhard Heydrich of the Reich Security Head Office, who was Head of German Secret Police. 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 discussed ‘evacuation’ and ‘resettlement’ of the Jews. They 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.

It took the delegates less than two hours to give unanimous support to Heydrich 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.

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 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. “It’s over.” Someone was shaking me. “They’re all dead now!...”’

Kitty, aged 14, Poland
Murder

Recent research has revealed that there were more than 40,000 concentration camps, labour camps and transit camps throughout the Nazi-occupied territories. They were run by the SS, and there were four main types of camp within the Nazi system. All of them employed brutality, starvation rations, and very harsh living conditions.

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 superhuman 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.
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.

‘That journey, which was afterwards called the ‘death march’...was a journey to freedom, it was a journey through those gates out of which no one ever thought we would pass.’

Otto Dov Kulka

Auschwitz-Birkenau

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

The persecution of Jews in Arab lands

Nazis planned 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.
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
Irish citizen victims of the Holocaust

David Jackson

Until 2018, the only Irish Jewish person known to have been murdered in the Holocaust was Esther (Ettie) Steinberg (1914–1942). Recently, research by David Jackson has revealed that there were others. Isaac (Yitshak) Shishi (1891–1941), Ephraim Saks (1915–1942) and his sister Lena (Jeanne) Saks (1918–1942), were all born in Ireland but their families returned to Europe when they were children. All of these Irish-born citizens, together with members of their families, were murdered by the Nazis in the Holocaust.

Esther (Ettie) Steinberg was born in Veretski (Vericky) in Czechoslovakia on 11 January 1914. Ettie was one of seven children. Her family came to Ireland in 1925 and lived in Raymond Terrace off the South Circular Road in Dublin. Ettie attended St Catherine’s school in Donore Avenue, and afterwards, worked as a seamstress. In 1937, she married Wojteck Gluck, a goldsmith from Belgium, in Greenville Hall Synagogue, Dublin. The couple moved to Belgium to live in Antwerp. From there, they moved to Paris where their son, Leon, was born on 28 March 1939. The young family moved several times, ending up in Toulouse in 1942. It was there that they were arrested and detained in Drancy transit camp, north of Paris. Ettie’s family in Dublin had succeeded in getting visas for the Gluck family which would have allowed them to travel to Northern Ireland. However, when the visas arrived in Toulouse, it was too late. Ettie, Wojteck and Leon had been captured. On 02 September 1942, they were deported by train from Drancy to Auschwitz where they were murdered in gas chambers two days later. The names of Ettie, Wojteck and Leon are inscribed in the Mémorial de la Shoah in Paris (Mémorial des Martyrs de la Déportation). There is also a memorial plaque in Malahide Community School in Dublin.

Isaac Shishi’s family came to Dublin from Vieksniai in Lithuania in 1890. His father, Shaya, had five married sisters who had also come to Dublin. Their married names were Fanny Pushinsky (Purcell), Malke Eppel, Judith Lipman, Pearl Klein and Rebecca Bloomberg. Today, these families have many descendants in Ireland, South Africa and the USA. Isaac was born in Dublin on 29 January 1891. His sister, Rose (or Rachel), was born in Dublin on 22 April 1892. The family were living in 36 St Alban’s Road, off the South Circular Road, Dublin.

In 1890, Shaya’s father died in Lithuania. He had been a publican and had a small brewery. In 1893, Shaya, together with his wife, Ida, and their two young Irish children, Isaac and Rose, returned to Vieksniai where they had three more children. The married sisters remained in Dublin. In 1920, Rose emigrated to the United States, but Isaac stayed in Lithuania where he married Chana Garbel in 1922 and they had a daughter, Sheine Shishi, born in 1924. In 1941, Isaac Shishi, an Irish citizen, his wife, Chana, and their daughter, Sheine, were murdered by the Nazis in Vieksniai. Isaac’s brother Louis, born in Vieksniai, also perished. Isaac’s brother-in-law, Benjamin Garbel, provides testimony on the Yad Vashem site about Isaac Shishi, his wife, Chana Garbel, and their daughter, Sheine.

(Isbirth certificates for both Isaac Shishi, born in Dublin in 1891, and for Rose Shishi, born in Dublin in 1892, are available on irishgenealogy.ie.)
The parents of Ephraim and Lena Saks made their way from Ponedel in Lithuania to Dublin in 1914 via Leeds and Antwerp. They had three young children when they arrived, and the family remained in Ireland for the duration of the First World War. Ephraim Saks was born in Dublin on 19th April 1915, and his sister, Lena (or Jeanne), on 2 February 1918. Sometime after the end of the First World War, the family returned to Antwerp and a Belgian record shows the family living there together with the five children.

Ephraim Saks was a furrier and single and living in France at the outbreak of the Second World War. He was arrested and was deported from Drancy transit camp in Paris to Auschwitz on 24 August 1942, where he was murdered.

Jeanne Saks was a salesperson and single. She was living in Antwerp during the war. She was captured and deported to Auschwitz where she was murdered in 1942/43.

Testimony by Julia Apfel, a sister of Ephraim and Jeanne Saks, is on the Yad Vashem website. Three of Julia’s siblings, two of whom, Ephraim and Lena, were born in Dublin and hence were Irish citizens, were murdered in the Holocaust. Her brother, Jacob, who also perished, had been born in Leeds in 1906. Ephraim Saks is inscribed in the Mémorial de la Shoah in Paris (Mémorial des Martyrs de la Déportation).

Addendum by Holocaust Education Trust Ireland

In the light of this recent research about Irish citizens murdered in the Holocaust, it is likely that there may be more Irish-born or naturalised Irish citizens who returned to Europe and who perished in the Shoah. Holocaust Education Trust Ireland welcomes the opportunity to correct the record. Ettie Steinberg was born in Czechoslovakia and came to Ireland as a young girl. She grew up in Dublin, went to school in Dublin and was married in Dublin. Ettie, her husband and her son were murdered in Auschwitz. Isaac Shishi, Ephraim and Lena Saks were all Irish born Jews. They, too, were murdered in the Holocaust. It is also likely that these stories are mirrored in other Jewish communities around the world.

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

The story of Ettie Steinberg can be found on pages 8-9 in the 2009 Holocaust Memorial Day booklet http://hetireland.org/programmes/holocaust-memorial-day/publications/).

David Jackson’s research can be accessed by contacting the HETI office.
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.

Amaile Schach 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.

Images used for lectures on genetics, ethnology and race breeding

Christians
Hundreds of Jehovah’s Witnesses were murdered by the Nazis for their refusal to salute Hitler or to serve in the German armed forces. Thousands of Catholic priests and nuns and Protestant religious leaders were persecuted and murdered by the Nazis for their opposition to the regime. There were also a great many Quakers and others of Christian affiliation who risked their lives to save Jews.
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.

Passive resistance, as it is sometimes called, was the courageous effort by many Jews to maintain their Jewish religious and cultural practices in the ghettos and the camps, despite the threat of severe punishment, even execution. Forging documents, organising opposition movements, clandestinely disseminating information – these were all forms of resistance.

Liberation

In summer 1944, as the Allies swept in from the west, the Soviets continued liberating camps and territories in the east. On 27 January 1945, the Soviet army (which included many Jewish soldiers) liberated Auschwitz-Birkenau. It is this date that was designated by the United Nations as International Holocaust Memorial Day.

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 entire families, their youth, 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’!

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.
Jewish Holocaust survivors living in Ireland

Suzi Diamond

I was born Suzi Molnar in the small town of Karcag in Hungary, in 1942. We were a small family comprising my mother, Gisela, my father, Sándor, 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 died in 1943. In July 1944, Adolf Eichmann oversaw the round-up and deportation of nearly half a million Hungarian Jews in just eight weeks. 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 Ravensbruck and then to Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, where we remained until we were liberated in April 1945. 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. He filled in some gaps in my family history. My father was one of four brothers who ran a timber business in Karcag. Two of them perished in the Holocaust and two survived. I have since learned that I have other first cousins in Hungary and in the United States – I have a family!

In the past couple of years, I visited Karcag where I saw my grandfather’s house, the Jewish cemetery where my grandparents are buried, and the synagogue where all my family prayed. Seven hundred and seventy-eight Jews lived in Karcag before the war, 461 of them were murdered in the Holocaust. There is a memorial scroll on the synagogue wall recording the Jews from Karcag who perished in the Holocaust. My family is listed on this scroll, but now it has to be corrected because my brother and I were not murdered – we survived!

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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.

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Doris Segal – In Memoriam

It was with much sadness that we learned of the death of Doris Segal (née Klepper) a few days before Holocaust Memorial Day in January 2018. She was born in June 1932 in Czechoslovakia, the only child of her parents, Siegfried and Gretel. Concerned by Nazi antisemitism and the annexation of the Sudetenland, the family managed to leave and came to Ireland in the summer of 1939 to work in the newly opened hat factory in Castlebar. Most of her family were unable to escape the Nazis. Her parents were burdened by the knowledge of the fate of so many loved ones who perished in the Holocaust. Each year their names were read from the Scroll of Names at the Holocaust commemoration. Doris was a much loved and highly respected member of the Irish Jewish community. She is fondly remembered.
Jan Kaminski

I was born Chaim Srul Zybner on the 30th March 1932 in the small town of Bilgoraj in eastern Poland. There were six in my family: my parents, Mindla and Szulim, my two sisters, Chana-Matla and Rywka, my baby brother, whose name had not yet been registered, and me. At the time, approximately 5,000 Jews lived in Bilgoraj, which was more than half the population of the town.

As Nazis killing squads swept through the region, the family were incarcerated in the ghetto in the centre of the small town. On the 3rd and 9th of November 1942, the Jewish population of Bilgoraj was dispatched to certain and immediate death in Belzec death camp, located 70 kilometres away. During one of these “actions”, I fled to a nearby forest and became permanently separated from my family.

It was no longer safe for me to identify myself as Jewish so I adopted the name, Jan Kaminski. I survived the war on the run, foraging and hiding in woods, living off farms, and keeping my identity concealed. In mid-January 1944 I linked up with the Russian army’s Polish corps and became a child soldier in the 21st Artillery Regiment. After liberation, I spent time in Europe before eventually coming to England and then, Ireland, as a refugee.

At the end of the war, I learnt that my entire family had been wiped out; parents, sisters and baby brother had all disappeared. Antisemitism still prevailed in Poland and elsewhere, and pogroms against Jews still took place – it was impossible to think of rebuilding Jewish life in Poland, which was also under Soviet occupation after the war.

Since the collapse of the Soviet rule in Poland in 1989, there has been a modest project of Jewish revival taking place in Bilgoraj. For more than thirty years I have been searching for anyone of my family who might have survived, but to date no trace of immediate family members has been found. My search continues...

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. The journey started in the arctic winter and ended in the gentle spring weather of Austria. 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. These arrived six months later. 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.
The Jews of Ukraine and of Slovakia

Approximately 85-90,000 Jews lived in Slovakia before the Holocaust. Josef Tiso, an antisemitic politician and Roman Catholic priest, was installed as head of the client state of Nazi Germany, the newly formed Slovak Republic in 1939. The first deportations of Jewish people from Slovakia took place between March and October 1942, the first victims were 1000 Jewish girls. Fifty-two transports containing some 58,000 Jewish Slovak people were sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau during this period of which only 280-500 survived. In August 1944 most of the remainder of Slovakian Jews were deported to Auschwitz. Slovakia was the only country that paid the Germans to take away their Jewish population!

After the invasion by Germany into the eastern territories of Poland, Galicia, Ukraine and parts of Russia in June 1941, the German army was bolstered by Killing Squads (Einsatzgruppen). These units rounded up Jewish people in all of the shtetls, towns and villages and dispatched them to death camps or shot them close to their homes. The killing sites of Ponary in Lithuania, the Bronica forest in Ukraine, and Gorlice and Bobowa in Galicia, hold the remains of hundreds of thousands of Jewish people. Soviet prisoners, Roma and local opponents of the Nazi regime were also shot by the Killing Squads which were supported in great numbers by local collaborators.

My Great-Grandparents

Kayla Hertz

As a descendant of Holocaust survivors and victims, it is with overwhelming sorrow that I often give my family silent moments. Yet it is my highest honor to be able to break that silence with a voice – a voice that can commemorate and educate.

My father’s father, Wolf Hertz, was twenty-seven when he, his parents and four siblings were rounded up in their home in Galicia, now western Ukraine. They were taken to a ghetto in the nearby city of Drohobycz. From there, his parents Josef and Royza, and siblings Kayla, Shayndl, Rachel and Shimshon, were all taken to the nearby Bronica forest, and shot into a mass grave. In the ghetto, Wolf was the only member of his family to survive selection. He was taken to a labor camp in Drohobycz and worked there until he broke his back while wheeling a barrow of bricks. Knowing he would be killed for it, he managed to hide his injury until night time when he dug his way under the fence and escaped into the forest. He hid in the surrounding forest area for the next year and a half, until liberation of the area.

On my mother’s side, my great grandmother

Lenka was seventeen when she and her family were taken from their village in Porubka, Slovakia and eventually transported to Auschwitz-Birkenau. Lenka and her sister Berta were the only two out of their family to survive selection. Avrum, her childhood friend and eventual husband, was also the only one in his family to survive selection. Their parents, siblings and relatives were sent to their deaths in the gas chambers.

After one year in Auschwitz, Lenka and Berta endured a three-day death march in the middle of winter, walking in wooden clogs, to a concentration camp for women in Ravensbrück, Germany. On the march, when they stopped to sleep, the older women huddled to form a circle around the youngest. In the night, all of the women on the outside of the circle had died.

It is my honor to share my family’s story. As painful as it is to recall, we must always remember. We must teach the coming generations of what we endured, and who we were before the Shoah, and who we continue to be. As a Jewish woman from Brooklyn who has made a life in Dublin in a vast cultural minority, I relish the opportunity to share my history and keep traditions alive. Sometimes we need our moments of silence. But sometimes we need to break it with a voice of strength that will never fail to speak our story.
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).

In 1963, Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Remembrance Authority and Museum 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, an Irishwoman from Cork and a scholar of Trinity College Dublin, found herself in Vichy France during the war. Having worked with the Quakers during the Spanish Civil War, Mary joined hundreds of refugees who fled over the Pyrenees into France in 1939. When France fell in 1940, thousands of Jews fled south and were incarcerated in the Rivesaltes transit camp, whence they were deported to Auschwitz and other Nazi camps. Mary and her colleagues succeeded in saving a great number of Jewish children from the Nazis. She was awarded Righteous Among the Nations posthumously in 2013.

**Institutions**

**Diplomats**
Raoul Wallenberg, special envoy to the Swedish Embassy in Budapest in 1944, issued Swedish Certificates of Protection that saved the lives of thousands of Hungarian Jews.

**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.

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

**Righteous Arabs**
Si Ali Sakkat (Tunisia) sheltered sixty Jewish workers who had fled a nearby labour camp and cared for them until liberation.

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

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

**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.

**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 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*
Perilous journeys

The plight of the St Louis

On 13 May 1939, the St Louis sailed from Hamburg to the United States, via Cuba, with 937 Jews on board, fleeing Nazi tyranny. They held landing certificates issued by the Cuban director 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, most of the original passengers of the St Louis eventually fell victim to the Nazi ‘Final Solution’.

Refugees today

Fondly Remembered

It is with much sadness that we learned of the death of Albert Sutton, who passed away in October 2018, aged ninety-six years. Albert served in the British army in the Second World War and was in one of the units that participated in the liberation of Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in April 1945. Albert participated in the annual Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration in recent years. In 2016, Holocaust Education Trust Ireland was pleased to inaugurate the Albert Sutton Scholarship Fund to support members of the Defence Forces and the Gardaí, to study for the Certificate in Holocaust Education. He is fondly remembered.

It is with much sadness that we learned of the death of Max Levitas who passed away in November 2018, aged 103 years. Max was born in Ireland to Lithuanian parents who fled antisemitism in 1913, to join family already in Dublin. In 1927, the family moved to London. Max was a veteran of the ‘Battle for Cable Street’ which took place in 1936 when Oswald Mosely, leader of the British Union of Fascists, and 3,000 of his followers (Blackshirts), attempted to march through a largely Jewish part of London’s East End. They were blocked by Jewish groups, socialists, communists, trade unionists and others. Many of the Irish dock workers stood in solidarity with their Jewish neighbours to successfully prevent the march through their community. Max was proud of his Irish and Jewish roots and throughout his life, actively opposed antisemitism and fascism. For many years he attended the national Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration in Dublin. He is fondly remembered.
We must prevent future generations from thinking of the Holocaust in terms of anonymous, faceless numbers. Each victim has a name. Several people living in Ireland, Jews and non-Jews, lost cherished family members in the Holocaust whose names we have included in the Scroll of Names. For some of them we know their place of birth, their country of origin, their age and their place of death. For others, we have only a name – but every victim has a name. In this small way, we honour their memory and give them a personal Irish memorial.

### We Remember...

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Born</th>
<th>Murdered</th>
<th>Aged in Years</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Max Heller</td>
<td>Born Chomotow, Czechoslovakia</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1943</td>
<td>73 Years</td>
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<td>Klara Heller</td>
<td>Born Hermanst, Czechoslovakia</td>
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<td>68 Years</td>
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<td>Gisella Molnar</td>
<td>Born Debrecen, Hungary</td>
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<td>Sandar Molnar</td>
<td>Born Debrecen, Hungary</td>
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<td>41 Years</td>
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<td>Born Vienna</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walter Frenkel</td>
<td>Born Vienna</td>
<td>Murdered Belorusia, 1942</td>
<td>14 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herbert Frenkel</td>
<td>Born Vienna</td>
<td>Murdered Belorusia, 1942</td>
<td>13 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fritz Frenkel</td>
<td>Born Vienna</td>
<td>Murdered Belorusia, 1942</td>
<td>8 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zigmund Frenkel</td>
<td>Born Vienna</td>
<td>Murdered Belorusia, 1942</td>
<td>62 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saloman Delmonte</td>
<td>Born Amsterdam</td>
<td>Murdered Belorusia, 1942</td>
<td>62 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karoline Wolff</td>
<td>Born Aurich, Germany</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin Wolff</td>
<td>Born Aurich, Germany</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wolfgang Wolff</td>
<td>Born Aurich, Germany</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selly Wolff</td>
<td>Born Aurich, Germany</td>
<td>Murdered Theresienstadt</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Henrietta Wolff</td>
<td>Born Aurich, Germany</td>
<td>Murdered Theresienstadt</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rosetta Wolff</td>
<td>Born Aurich, Germany</td>
<td>Murdered Theresienstadt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eli Velvel Avisanski</td>
<td>Born Lithuania</td>
<td>Murdered Lithuania, 1941</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Philipp</td>
<td>Born Wanne-Eickel, Germany</td>
<td>Murdered Stutthoff, Poland, 1944</td>
<td>62 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recha Philipp</td>
<td>Born Wanne-Eickel, Germany</td>
<td>Murdered Stutthoff, Poland, 1944</td>
<td>54 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leopold Philipp</td>
<td></td>
<td>Murdered 1943</td>
<td>61 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julia Philipp</td>
<td></td>
<td>Murdered Riga, c. 1942</td>
<td>61 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dagbert Philipp</td>
<td></td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1943</td>
<td>59 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louis Philipp</td>
<td></td>
<td>Missing, Minsk, 1941</td>
<td>50 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valeria Philipp</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosalia Scheimovitz</td>
<td>Born Slovakia</td>
<td>Murdered Bergen-Belsen, 1945</td>
<td>76 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julius Mayer</td>
<td>Born Slovakia</td>
<td>Murdered Buchenwald, 1945</td>
<td>50 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geiza Suri</td>
<td>Born Slovakia</td>
<td>Murdered Buchenwald, 1944</td>
<td>46 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oskar Scheimovitz</td>
<td>Born Slovakia</td>
<td>Murdered Buchenwald, 1944</td>
<td>39 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adela Fried</td>
<td>Born Slovakia</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1944</td>
<td>45 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bella Fried</td>
<td>Born Slovakia</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1944</td>
<td>16 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katerina Fried</td>
<td>Born Slovakia</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1944</td>
<td>10 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agnes Fried</td>
<td>Born Slovakia</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1942</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ezekiel Reichental</td>
<td>Born Slovakia</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1942</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Katarina Reichental</td>
<td>Born Slovakia</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1942</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kalmar Reichental</td>
<td>Born Slovakia</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1942</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ilona Reichental</td>
<td>Born Slovakia</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1942</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gita Reichental</td>
<td>Born Slovakia</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1942</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ibi Reichental</td>
<td>Born Slovakia</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1942</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Desider Reichental</td>
<td>Born Slovakia</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1942</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferdinand Alt</td>
<td>Born Slovakia</td>
<td>Murdered Auschwitz, 1942</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We Remember...

Renka Alt       Born Slovakia      Murdered Auschwitz, 1942
Erna Elbert     Born Slovakia      Murdered Auschwitz, 1942
Marta Elbert    Born Slovakia      Murdered Auschwitz, 1942
Josef Drechsler Born Plzen, Czechoslovakia Murdered Zamosc, 1942Aged 60 Years
Bedriska Drechsler Born Prague, Czechoslovakia Murdered Zamosc, 1942Aged 46 Years
Paul Drechsler  Born Plzen, Czechoslovakia Murdered Izbica, 1942Aged 54 Years
Marta Drechsler  Born Benec, Czechoslovakia Murdered Izbica, 1942Aged 41 Years
Bella Perlberg Born Plzen, Czechoslovakia Murdered Auschwitz, 1944Aged 64 Years
Irina Popper    Born Plzen, Czechoslovakia Murdered Auschwitz, 1943Aged 60 Years
Jure Mataija    Born Lika, Croatia Murdered Jasenovac, 1945Aged 45 Years
Ivica Mataija   Born Lika, Croatia Murdered Jasenovac, 1945Aged 24 Years
Anka Mataija    Born Lika, Croatia Murdered Jasenovac, 1945Aged 22 Years
Kalman Rosenthal Born Yaxina, Ukraine Murdered Auschwitz, 1944Aged 66 Years
Eleonora Rosenthal Born Kuty, Poland Murdered Auschwitz, 1944Aged 62 Years
Abraham Soustiel Born Thessaloniki, Greece Murdered Auschwitz, 1943Aged 63 Years
Polin Soustiel  Born Thessaloniki, Greece Murdered Auschwitz, 1943Aged 53 Years
David Soustiel  Born Thessaloniki, Greece Murdered Auschwitz, 1943Aged 49 Years
Shemon Soustiel Born Thessaloniki, Greece Murdered Auschwitz, 1943Aged 49 Years
Regena Soustiel Born Thessaloniki, Greece Murdered Auschwitz, 1943Aged 49 Years
Rapae Soustiel  Born Thessaloniki, Greece Murdered Auschwitz, 1943Aged 45 Years
Marta Soustiel  Born Thessaloniki, Greece Murdered Auschwitz, 1943Aged 45 Years
Shabtai Soustiel Born Thessaloniki, Greece Murdered Auschwitz, 1943Aged 41 Years
Lusi Soustiel   Born Thessaloniki, Greece Murdered Auschwitz, 1943Aged 34 Years
Moshe-Yom Tov Soustiel Born Thessaloniki, Greece Murdered Auschwitz, 1943Aged 34 Years
Adela Soustiel  Born Thessaloniki, Greece Murdered Auschwitz, 1943Aged 33 Years
Emanuel Brudo  Born Thessaloniki, Greece Murdered Auschwitz, 1943Aged 33 Years
Soustiel Children Born Thessaloniki, Greece Murdered Auschwitz, 1943Aged 53 Years
Heinrich Hainbach Born Czernovitz, Austria Murdered Riga, Latvia, 1941Aged 54 Years
Selma Hainbach  Born Vienna, Austria Murdered Riga, Latvia, 1941Aged 56 Years
Simcha Zaks     Born Rittava, Lithuania Murdered 1941Aged 61 Years
Rivka Zaks      Born Rittava, Lithuania Murdered 1941Aged 55 Years
Berel Zaks      Born Rittava, Lithuania Murdered 1941Aged 53 Years
Zisse Zaks      Born Rittava, Lithuania Murdered 1941Aged 51 Years
Nachman Zaks    Born Rittava, Lithuania Murdered 1941Aged 49 Years
Chana Zaks      Born Rittava, Lithuania Murdered 1941Aged 49 Years
Aaron Zaks      Born Rittava, Lithuania Murdered 1941Aged 49 Years
Chana Sherhai   Born Rittava, Lithuania Murdered 1941Aged 49 Years
Joel Dov Zaks   Born Rittava, Lithuania Murdered 1941Aged 49 Years
Benidt Zaks     Born Rittava, Lithuania Murdered 1941Aged 49 Years
Leah Tzedak     Born Rittava, Lithuania Murdered 1941Aged 49 Years
Gitel Zaks      Born Rittava, Lithuania Murdered 1941Aged 49 Years
Shoshana Zaks   Born Rittava, Lithuania Murdered 1941Aged 49 Years
Sheina Zaks     Born Rittava, Lithuania Murdered 1941Aged 49 Years
Masha Zaks      Born Rittava, Lithuania Murdered 1941Aged 49 Years
Rosa Zaks       Born Rittava, Lithuania Murdered 1941Aged 49 Years
Tyla Feige Fachler Born Ilza, Poland Murdered 1942Aged 34 Years
David Majer Fachler Born Lodz, Poland Murdered 1942Aged 34 Years
Moshe Fachler   Born Ostrowye, Poland Murdered 1942Aged 34 Years
Gella Fachler   Born Ostrowye, Poland Murdered 1942Aged 34 Years
Shayyde Milechman Born Ostrowye, Poland Murdered 1942Aged 34 Years
Yechiel Milechman Born Ilza, Poland Murdered 1942Aged 34 Years
Theo Milechman  Born Ilza, Poland Murdered 1942Aged 34 Years
Joseph Milechman Born Ilza, Poland Murdered 1942Aged 34 Years
Peppi Grzyb     Born Ilza, Poland Murdered 1942Aged 34 Years
Chaya Milechman  Born Ilza, Poland Murdered 1942Aged 34 Years
Yochevet Milechman Born Ilza, Poland Murdered 1942Aged 34 Years
Chaim Meier Milechman Born Ilza, Poland Murdered 1942Aged 34 Years
Noosen Noote Fachler Born Lodz, Poland Murdered 1942Aged 34 Years
Ester Zarke Jakubovich Born Lodz, Poland Murdered 1942Aged 34 Years
Meeme Alte Milechman Born Poland Murdered 1942Aged 34 Years
Levi Fachler     Born Berlin, Germany Murdered Auschwitz, 1944Aged 60 Years
Izzy Fachler     Born Berlin, Germany Murdered Auschwitz, 1944Aged 36 Years
Natan Fachler    Born Berlin, Germany Murdered Auschwitz, 1944Aged 32 Years
Johanna Karlsberg Sommer Born Frankfurt, Germany Murdered Auschwitz, 1944Aged 32 Years
Emil Sommer      Born Germany Murdered Auschwitz, 1944Aged 28 Years
Ettie Steinberg  Born Veretski, Czechoslovakia Murdered Auschwitz, 1942Aged 2 Years
Leon Gluck       Born Paris Murdered Auschwitz, 1942Aged 2 Years
Vogtjeck Gluck   Born Lodz, Poland Murdered Auschwitz, 1942Aged 2 Years
Hatzeck Abram    Born Belorussia Murdered Riga Ghetto, Latvia, 1941Aged 51 Years
Belia Abram      Born Suwalki, Poland Murdered Riga Ghetto, Latvia, 1941Aged 45 Years
Ossia Joseph Abram Born Riga, Latvia K.I.A. Battle of Tartu, Estonia, 1941Aged 19 Years
We Remember...

Sigmund Selig Cohn Born Friedland, Krs. Stargard, Germany Murdered Riga-Jungfernhof, 1941 Aged 67 Years
Ida Cohn (née Wintersberg) Born Wolfsberg, Hess-Nass, Germany Murdered Treblinka, 1942 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 Murdered 1942 Aged 27 Years
Denny Zimmak Born Oldenburg, Germany Murdered 1942 Aged 9 months
Abraham Humberg Born Hamburg, Germany Murdered KZ Riga, 1941 Aged 58 Years
Emma Humberg (Loewenstein) Born Germany Murdered KZ Riga, 1941 Aged 57 Years
Gerda Feist (Humberg) Born Germany Murdered Lodz, 1941 Aged 56 Years
Fanni Kaufman (Humberg) Murdered Ravensbruck, 1942 Aged 60 Years
Adolf Humberg Born Germany Murdered KZ Auschwitz

Rafael Jermann Born Warsaw, Poland Murdered KZ Warsaw, 1942 Aged 28 Years
Karl Jermann Born Warsaw, Poland Murdered Warsaw, 1942 Aged 33 Years
David Jermann Born Warsaw, Poland Murdered Belzec, 1942 Aged 11 Years
Rywka Zybner Born Bulgnia, Poland Murdered Belzec, 1942 Aged 7 Years
Baby Zybner Born Bulgnia, Poland Murdered Belzec, 1942 Aged 2 Years
Minda Zybner (née Nudel) Born Bulgnia, Poland Murdered Belzec, 1942 Aged 2 Years
Suzlim (Sol/Saul) Zybner Born Bulgnia, Poland Murdered Belzec, 1942 Aged 2 Years
Frändla Zybner Born Bulgnia, Poland Murdered Belzec, 1942 Aged 2 Years
Joseph Zybner Born Bulgnia, Poland Murdered Belzec, 1942 Aged 2 Years
Sheindla Zybner Born Bulgnia, Poland Murdered Belzec, 1942 Aged 2 Years
Mendel Kirzner Born Glasmanka, Latvia Murdered Riga, 1941 Aged 81 Years
Sheina Beila Kirzner Born Lithuania Murdered Latvia, 1941 Aged 85 Years
Owsie Kirzner Born Glasmanka, Latvia Murdered Riga, 1941 Aged 31 Years
Sheina Riva Kirzner Born Glasmanka Latvia Murdered Riga, 1941 Aged 29 Years
Shífrá Kirzner Born Latvia Murdered Riga, 1941 Aged 26 Years
Rasche Kirzner Born Riga, Latvia Murdered Riga, 1941 Aged 46 Years
Tankel Kirzner Born Riga, Latvia Murdered Riga, 1941 Aged 3 Years
Wanda Camerino Born Rome, Italy Murdered Auschwitz, 1943 Aged 44 Years
Renato Di Cori Born Rome, Italy Murdered Auschwitz, 1943 Aged 51 Years
Italo Camerino Born Rome, Italy Murdered Auschwitz, 1943 Aged 49 Years
Giulia Di Cori Born Rome, Italy Murdered Auschwitz, 1943 Aged 40 Years
Miriam Naftulovicova Born Porubka, Slovakia Murdered Auschwitz, 1943 Aged 45 Years
Moric Moisse Jischak Naftulovic Born Porubka, Slovakia Murdered Auschwitz, 1943 Aged 3 Years
Majer Naftulovic Born Porubka, Slovakia Murdered Auschwitz, 1943 Aged 3 Years
Sidonia Naftulovicova Born Porubka, Slovakia Murdered Auschwitz, 1943 Aged 2 Years
Hani Moskovicova Born Porubka, Slovakia Murdered Auschwitz, 1943 Aged 2 Years
Chaim Moskovic Born Porubka, Slovakia Murdered Auschwitz, 1943 Aged 2 Years
Benjamin Moskovic Born Porubka, Slovakia Murdered Auschwitz, 1943 Aged 2 Years
Moric Moskovic Born Porubka, Slovakia Murdered Auschwitz, 1943 Aged 2 Years
Izidor Moskovic Born Porubka, Slovakia Murdered Auschwitz, 1943 Aged 2 Years
Shimshon Hertz Born Woloszczaka, Poland Murdered Rumbula Forest, Galicia
Kayla Hertz Born Woloszczaka, Poland Murdered Rumbula Forest, Galicia
Shayndl Hertz Born Woloszczaka, Poland Murdered Rumbula Forest, Galicia
Avraham Hertz Born Woloszczaka, Poland Murdered Rumbula Forest, Galicia
Royza Hertz Born Woloszczaka, Poland Murdered Rumbula Forest, Galicia
Josef Hertz Born Woloszczaka, Poland Murdered Rumbula Forest, Galicia
Lejb Hertz Born Woloszczaka, Poland Murdered Rumbula Forest, Galicia
Meir Kroshowsky Born Woloszczaka, Poland Murdered Rumbula Forest, Galicia
Rachel Kroshowsky Born Woloszczaka, Poland Murdered Rumbula Forest, Galicia
Kayla Kroshowsky Born Woloszczaka, Poland Murdered Rumbula Forest, Galicia
Hersh Kroshowsky Born Woloszczaka, Poland Murdered Rumbula Forest, Galicia
Grinia Chertkof Born Dagda, Latvia Murdered Rumbula Forest, Riga
Max Kachtof Born Riga, Latvia Murdered Rumbula Forest, Riga
Michlya Kachtof Born Riga, Latvia Murdered Rumbula Forest, Riga
Sioma Kachtof Born Riga, Latvia Murdered Rumbula Forest, Riga
Dvora Krasnik Born Riga, Latvia Murdered Rumbula Forest, Riga
Miriam Krasnik Born Riga, Latvia Murdered Rumbula Forest, Riga
Hene Krasnik Born Riga, Latvia Murdered Rumbula Forest, Riga
Feyga Krasnik Born Riga, Latvia Murdered Rumbula Forest, Riga
Annie Otten-Wolff Born Antwerp, Belgium Murdered in Auschwitz, 1944 Aged 37 Years
David Gelassen Born France Murdered in Drancy, 1942 Aged 21 Years
Jeanette Gelassen Born France Murdered in Auschwitz, 1942 Aged 19 Years
Paul Talma Born France Murdered in Auschwitz, 1942 Aged 19 Years
Sara Talma Born France Murdered in Auschwitz, 1942 Aged 19 Years
Isaac Shishi Born Dublin, Ireland Murdered Lithuania, 1941 Aged 50 Years
Ephraim Saks Born Dublin, Ireland Murdered Auschwitz, 1942 Aged 27 Years
Lena (Jeanne) Saks Born Dublin, Ireland Murdered Auschwitz, 1942 Aged 24 Years

...We will always remember
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 4 million of the 6 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 Sh’erit ha-Pletah, the ‘Spared Remnant’. After such great suffering, witnessing the murder and the decimation of their families and their communities, the survivors gradually rebuilt their lives. They established new generations of family in their ancient homeland.
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

Teaching the Holocaust
A three-day summer school for teachers that takes place in August in Trinity College, Dublin. This intensive programme provides in-depth tuition on teaching this complex subject. It explores interdisciplinary approaches and considers where Holocaust studies have relevance for our students today. Lectures, interactive seminars, workshops, materials and resources are presented by expert international Holocaust educators.

Learning from the Holocaust
A six day programme that includes a four day study visit to Krakow and Auschwitz-Birkenau. This programme is designed to help teachers grasp the enormity of the Holocaust and the history of the Jews of Europe up to the Second World War. The programme is supported by two separate seminars days, one in preparation for the study visit and one on reflection afterwards.

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 for 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.

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.

Certificate in Holocaust Education Continuous Professional Development
Tuition on the historical significance and contemporary resonance of the Holocaust. The programme provides participants with information, tools and skills to address this subject in their areas of work and to develop pedagogic expertise to complement their knowledge. The programme is divided into four modules, all of which must be completed by the participants.

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.
PROGRAMMES FOR SCHOOLS

The Crocus Project
An Irish initiative which now includes the participation of twelve European countries. It is suitable for pupils aged eleven 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 special booklets for each exhibition for everyone to take home. Many libraries arrange ‘school days’ and speakers from HETI, which always elicit a positive response from students and the general public.

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/
HONOURED GUESTS
Suzi Diamond – Hungary
Jan Kaminski – Poland
Tomi Reichental – Slovakia
Walter Sekules – Austria

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PHOTOS, ILLUSTRATIONS and IMAGES

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SCHOOL READERS: Stratford College: Penelope McHale, Jeremy Messam, Josh Barling, Coláiste Chill Mhantáin: Jessica Finnigan, Keith O’Mahony

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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 the Second World War 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."
Holocaust
MEMORIAL DAY

Dublin
January 2019

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