

HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS AND VICTIMS RESOURCE CENTER



UNITED STATES
MEMORIAL
HOLOCAUST
MUSEUM

THE HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS AND VICTIMS RESOURCE CENTER ensures that the individual experiences of survivors and victims of the Holocaust and Nazi-era persecution are collected, preserved, and disseminated for future generations.

The Resource Center collects information about Jewish and non-Jewish survivors and victims of the Holocaust, creates research tools and resources related to the personal experiences of these individuals, and provides free reference services to the public.



SURVIVORS AND VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST

The Holocaust was the systematic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of six million Jews by the Nazi regime and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945. The Nazis believed that Germans were racially superior and that Jews were an inferior, alien threat to the German racial community. During this period, German authorities also targeted other groups for their supposed inferiority: Roma (Gypsies), people with disabilities, Poles, and East Slavic peoples. Additionally, Communists, Socialists, Jehovah's Witnesses, and homosexuals were persecuted on political or ideological grounds or because they did not conform to the Nazi leadership's vision of society.

The Museum honors as survivors and victims any persons, Jewish or non-Jewish, who were displaced, persecuted, or discriminated against due to the racial, religious, ethnic, social, and political policies of the Nazis and their collaborators.

TOOLS AND RESOURCES FOR RESEARCH ABOUT SURVIVORS AND VICTIMS

The Museum has an extensive collection of archival and library materials, oral histories, artifacts, photographs, film, and videos that could assist in researching the fates of individuals during the Holocaust. Many of these resources are only available on-site. The Holocaust Survivors and Victims Resource Center staff on the Museum's Second Floor can provide visitors with guidance on using these collections.



Holocaust Survivors and Victims Database

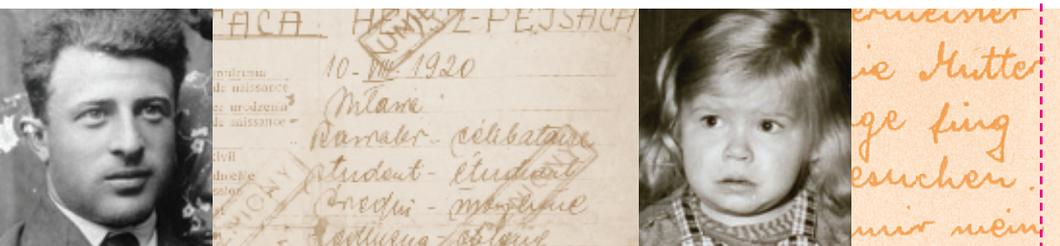
One of the largest resources of its kind, the Holocaust Survivors and Victims Database centralizes information from the Museum's collections about individual survivors and victims and includes millions of name lists and other personal records. The information contained in the database has considerable significance to survivors and their families, scholars, teachers, students, genealogists, and the general public. It is accessible in the Resource Center's public space on the Museum's Second Floor. The database makes the Museum's rich historical collections more accessible, memorializes survivors and victims, and provides a personal entry point into Holocaust history.

Survivors Registry

The Benjamin and Vladka Meed Registry of Holocaust Survivors seeks the names of all Jewish and non-Jewish survivors in order to record their experiences, assist people attempting to trace missing loved ones, and provide reference material for Holocaust scholars, genealogists, and other members of the public. Established in 1981 by the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, the Registry now includes more than 200,000 records relating to survivors and their families from around the world. Inclusion in the Registry is voluntary, and privacy is respected. Family members can register survivors posthumously. Registry forms are available at www.ushmm.org/resourcecenter.

REFERENCE SERVICES

The Holocaust Survivors and Victims Resource Center provides free reference services to the public. Requests for information range from inquiries about specific individuals to questions about towns and communities that disappeared during the war. Survivors and their representatives sometimes ask for help finding documentation from ghettos and camps to support claims for compensation from Germany. Our staff of experts conducts research in more than 25 languages and uses the available resources at the Museum to answer each inquiry.



International Tracing Service Collection

The International Tracing Service (ITS) was established by the Allies after World War II to help reunite families separated during the war and to trace missing individuals. Located in Bad Arolsen, Germany, the ITS archive contains more than 100 million documents relating to approximately 17.5 million victims of Nazism who were subjected to arrest, deportation, murder, forced labor, slave labor, and displacement. The Museum has been designated the American repository of a full digital copy of the ITS archive. The collection is open to the public at the Museum. The staff of the Resource Center is available to answer requests for information from the ITS records. Priority is given to survivors and their families. ITS research request forms are available at www.ushmm.org/resourcecenter/service.

CONTACT US

Reference requests can be made in person, online, or via e-mail, letter, fax, or telephone. The Holocaust Survivors and Victims Resource Center is located on the Museum's Second Floor. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, except federal holidays and Yom Kippur.



Holocaust Survivors and Victims Resource Center
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW
Washington, DC 20024-2126
Tel 202.488.6130, toll free 866.912.4385
Fax 202.314.7820
E-mail resource-center@ushmm.org
ushmm.org/resourcecenter

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The research and reference services provided by the Holocaust Survivors and Victims Resource Center are made possible, in part, through the generosity of private donors. If you are interested in supporting this important work, please contact lyavnai@ushmm.org.



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