

MUSEUM GUIDE

THIS MUSEUM IS NOT
AN ANSWER.

IT IS A
QUESTION.

UNITED STATES
HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
MUSEUM ushmm.org

AND THE QUESTION ALWAYS IS:

**WHAT IS YOUR
RESPONSIBILITY
NOW THAT YOU'VE SEEN,
NOW THAT YOU KNOW?**

Each individual must answer that question for himself or herself.

—Elie Wiesel
Holocaust survivor and author

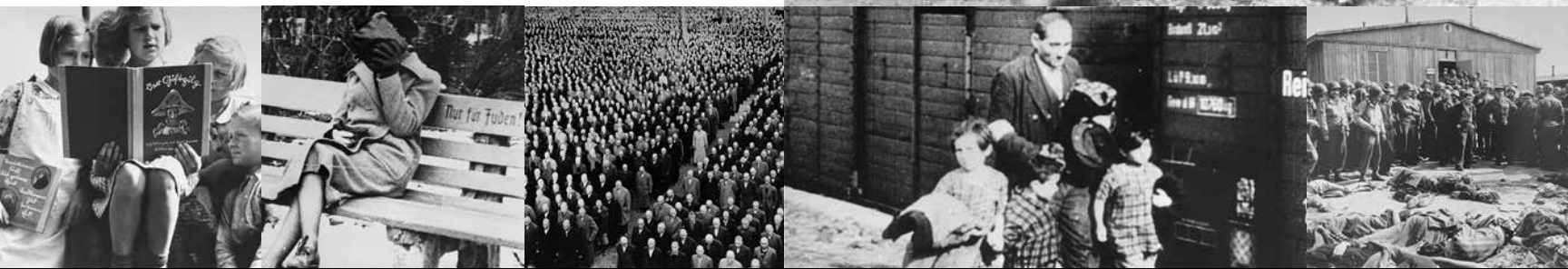


**It happened. Therefore it
can happen again. And it can
happen everywhere.**

—Primo Levi
Holocaust survivor and author

THE HOLOCAUST

The Holocaust was the state-sponsored, systematic persecution and annihilation of European Jewry by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945. Jews were the primary victims—six million were murdered. Roma (Gypsies), people with disabilities, and Poles were also targeted for destruction or decimation for racial, ethnic, or national reasons. Millions more, including homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, Soviet prisoners of war, and political dissidents, also suffered grievous oppression and death under Nazi tyranny.





EXPERIENCING THE MUSEUM

LEARN PERMANENT AND SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

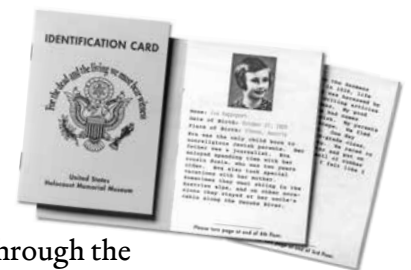
The Museum's Permanent Exhibition, covering the period of the Holocaust from 1933 to 1945, shows the Nazi Party's rise to power; how Nazi ideology led to persecution, world war, and mass murder; and the possibilities for response from individuals, institutions, and nations. Special exhibitions, located in the Kimmel-Rowan Exhibition Gallery and Gonda Education Center on the Lower Level, examine themes in Holocaust history that have particular resonance for our own times.

REMEMBER MEMORIAL AREAS

The Hall of Remembrance, located on the Second Floor, and the Children's Tile Wall on the Lower Level are places to bear witness and honor those who were killed.

ACT OPPORTUNITIES TO REFLECT AND RESPOND

Throughout the Museum, you will be challenged to reflect on what you have learned and the relevance of the Holocaust today. *From Memory to Action: Meeting the Challenge of Genocide* in the Wexner Center on the Second Floor has a range of activities that help us recognize that we all share responsibility for creating a more just world.



ENTERING THE PERMANENT EXHIBITION

The entrance to the Permanent Exhibition is through the elevators near the Information Desk. Before getting on an elevator, be sure to take an **Identification Card** that details the experiences of one person who was persecuted by Nazi Germany and its collaborators.

I had absolutely no idea that this exhibit would change my entire perspective on the Holocaust.

— Melissa, Ohio
Museum visitor





Permanent Exhibition

4th Floor THE NAZI ASSAULT 1933–1939

The opening floor of the Permanent Exhibition chronicles events in Germany from Adolf Hitler's appointment as chancellor in 1933 to the outbreak of World War II in September 1939.

The artifacts and photographs on display document how an entire nation was mobilized against groups deemed to be "racially inferior" or "enemies of the state." This floor also shows the desperation of those trying to flee Nazi persecution and examines the response of the world, including the United States.

It was truly horrifying to see the knowledge the world had of Hitler's actions.

—Christopher, Florida
Museum visitor



Permanent Exhibition

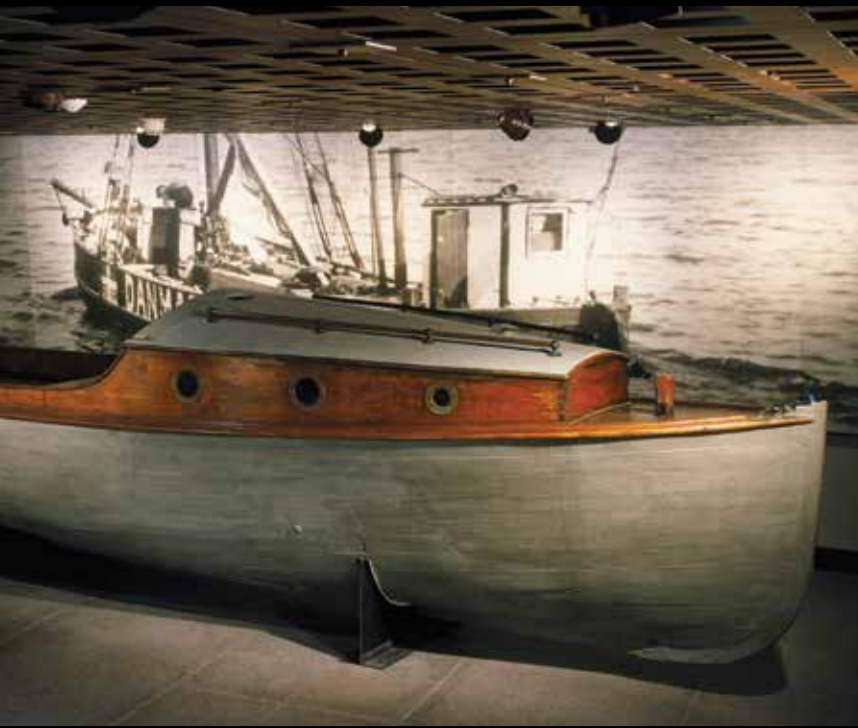
3rd Floor THE FINAL SOLUTION 1940–1945

The middle floor of the Permanent Exhibition examines the wartime evolution of Nazi policy toward the Jews, from persecution to separation in ghettos to annihilation. Major areas of focus are the ghetto experience, mass murder by mobile killing squads or poison gas in the killing centers, and the world of the concentration camps.

The smell of the shoes of so many people.... I will never forget that smell. This can never be allowed to happen in any form again.

—Tobias, California
Museum visitor





Permanent Exhibition
2nd Floor THE LAST CHAPTER

**HALL OF REMEMBRANCE, WEXNER CENTER, and
 HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS AND VICTIMS RESOURCE CENTER**

The final floor of the Permanent Exhibition addresses the possibilities for responding to the Holocaust in the face of mass indifference. Thousands of courageous non-Jews risked death or imprisonment to save Jews, and others joined the underground war against the Germans. Jews fought back throughout Europe, in ghettos, forests, and even killing centers. Ultimately, the Holocaust ended with the defeat of Nazi Germany by Allied soldiers in 1945.

This floor also covers the postwar quest to render justice, as well as the efforts of Holocaust survivors to build new lives in Europe, Israel, and the United States.

The US memorial to the victims of the Holocaust, the Hall of Remembrance is inscribed with the names of some of the major killing sites. Please honor the dead by lighting a candle or observing a moment of silence in their memory.

From Memory to Action: Meeting the Challenge of Genocide in the Wexner Center provides ways to explore the past, through the Holocaust Survivors and Victims Resource Center, and to think about today, through presentations on contemporary genocide.

**I am humbled by such courage
 and bravery.**

—Rebecca, Oregon
 Museum visitor

**I do not want to live in a world
 where hate can flourish. It is my
 responsibility to stop it.**

—Taylor, Pennsylvania
 Museum visitor



THE MUSEUM'S WORK TO INSPIRE ACTION

As a *living* memorial to the victims of the Holocaust, the Museum aims to inspire leaders and citizens worldwide to confront hatred, prevent genocide, and promote human dignity. The partial support of the federal government, which ensures the Museum's permanence, and the generosity of donors nationwide enable the Museum to carry out its educational programs, which focus on

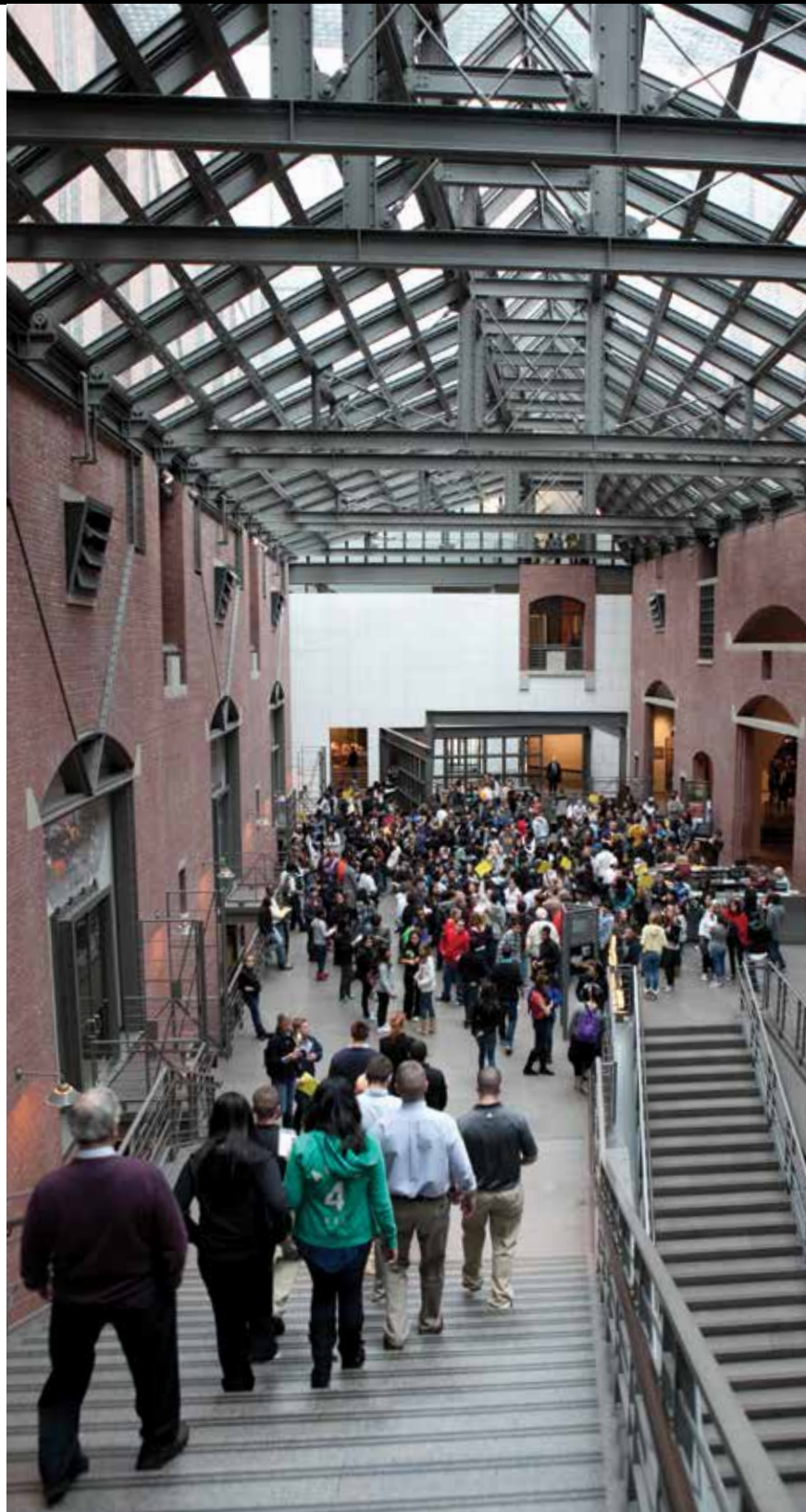
Teaching the dangers of unchecked hate to young people around the world. Every year, thousands of educators receive training at the Museum and across the country to teach the Holocaust effectively in their classrooms.

Addressing the threat of genocide today by raising awareness about areas at risk of genocide and inspiring action to prevent it.

Advancing democratic values and ethical leadership. The Museum offers professional development to judges, police officers, members of the military, senior US government officials, and other groups that safeguard democracy.

Confronting the rising tide of antisemitism and Holocaust denial through our multilingual website and efforts to collect evidence and ensure the Holocaust is studied and remembered.

*Credits: All photos US Holocaust Memorial Museum unless otherwise indicated. Cover: Shoes confiscated from prisoners at Majdanek, on loan from the State Museum of Majdanek, Lublin, Poland. Page 4, top: Jews are led away from the burning Warsaw ghetto by SS guards; bottom left to right: German children pore over an antisemitic schoolbook *Stadtarchiv Nürnberg*; a woman sits on a park bench marked "Only for Jews" Wiener Library Institute of Contemporary History; newly arrived prisoners stand during a roll call at Buchenwald. Continued on page 15*



The fact that an abundance of people are present gives me hope that future generations will achieve a world of tolerance and understanding.

—Erin, New Jersey
Museum visitor



WHAT YOU DO MATTERS

Now that you have seen, now that you know . . . what will you do?

The history of the Holocaust teaches one of the greatest lessons about individual responsibility—the choice that we each have to act or not to act and the consequences of that decision. In other words, what you do matters.

In a century already threatened by an alarming rise in hatred and genocide amidst growing Holocaust denial, the choices that we as individuals make are critical to creating a more just and humane world. Here's how you can help.

Learn more about the Holocaust and genocide on the Museum's website, ushmm.org.

Share what you learned today with someone at your school, office, or community organization.

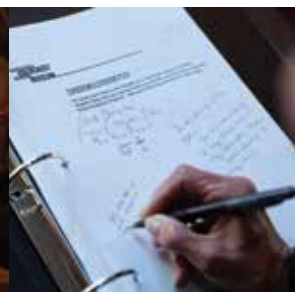
Stay connected with the Museum and join our e-community to hear about programs and activities in your region and around the world. Visit ushmm.org/connect.

Support our work to remember the past and shape the future by making a donation at ushmm.org/join.

Credits continued: Page 5, top: a police officer and SS auxiliary policeman walk in Berlin *Bundesarchiv*; bottom left to right: a Jewish man and children walk next to a deportation train in the Warsaw ghetto *Instytut Pamięci Narodowej*; General Dwight Eisenhower and other US Army officers view prisoners' bodies at Ohrdruf *National Archives and Records Administration, College Park*. Page 8, bottom right: eye-color examination with comparative chart *Bildarchiv Abramam Pisarek*. Page 9, bottom left and center: *Timothy Hursley*. Page 10, bottom right: Nuremberg Trial *courtesy of Albert Rose*. Page 11, top: *Timothy Hursley*.

This museum belongs to the ages. It is a place of healing, recognition, identification, and realization.

—Jonathan, Louisiana
Museum visitor



THE MUSEUM AT A GLANCE

PERMANENT EXHIBITION **4th–2nd Floors**

The self-guided tour takes most visitors one to three hours. Enter via the elevators near the Information Desk.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL **2nd Floor**

The Hall of Remembrance is our nation's memorial to the victims of the Holocaust.

FROM MEMORY TO ACTION **2nd Floor**

In the Wexner Center, you can learn about recent genocides and conduct research about Holocaust survivors.

RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN **1st Floor and Lower Level**

Remember the Children: Daniel's Story and the Children's Tile Wall are appropriate for children 8 years and older.

MUSEUM SHOP & CAFÉ **1st Floor and Eisenhower Plaza**

The shop is near the 14th Street entrance. The café is across the plaza on the 15th Street side.

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS **Lower Level**

Changing exhibitions explore specific themes in Holocaust history that challenge us to reflect on our responsibilities.

Hours: 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m., daily

Closed: Yom Kippur, Christmas



Please Note: Visitors to the Museum may make and share personal photos or audiovisual recordings unless otherwise posted. Flash photography is not permitted in the Museum, nor is eating, drinking, or smoking.

Restrooms are located on the Lower Level.

For more information, visit ushmm.org or call **202.488.0400**.



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100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW Washington, DC 20024-2126 ushmm.org