



THE HOLOCAUST

WHY IS IT SIGNIFICANT TODAY?

The Holocaust was the systematic, bureaucratic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of six million Jews by the German Nazi regime and its collaborators. From 1939-1945, around two thirds of Europe's Jews were murdered in the Nazi genocide. Roma, Sinti, male homosexuals and others were also victims. A singular tragedy, what makes it so significant to understand today?

- **A turning point in the history of humankind:** the Holocaust demonstrates that even a modern, technologically advanced society can fall victim to discrimination and hatred – with catastrophic results. Today, the Holocaust is frequently used as a basis of comparison for modern events, large and small. An informed understanding of the Holocaust enables us to appreciate the validity of making such comparisons and provides historical context. The preordained, methodical nature of the Holocaust gives rise to the idea that there is a “slippery slope” where hatred is used as a political tool of persuasion or coercion, and serves as a historical reminder that vigilantly pursuing policies of tolerance is required.



“It happened, therefore it can happen again. This is the core of what we have to say.”

— Primo Levi
Holocaust Survivor and Author

- **Illustrates the destructive power of racism:** Hitler's ideology of race-based hatred resulted in the deaths of millions and the destruction of communities and cultures.
- **Demonstrates the need to combat indifference towards the suffering of others:** the Holocaust was a premeditated event which occurred because of choices at every level: individuals, organizations and governments actively pursued discriminatory policies – it was not an accident. We can prevent such tragedies if we act to oppose them.
- **Highlights the importance of embracing diversity:** the Holocaust is an example of the consequences of failing to cultivate empathy and understanding of other groups, a failure which ultimately tore apart the social fabric of countless communities. As people of different backgrounds coexist in increasing numbers, this is especially important.
- **A defining historic memory:** The aftermath of the Holocaust led to the modern-day conception of universal human rights and redefined how we describe state-level crimes motivated by hatred.



Did you know? Chinese Diplomat Ho Feng-Shan saved the lives of over 3,000 Jewish refugees by issuing visas to leave Austria.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Consider the perspective of those from other backgrounds – can you relate to them?
- Inform yourself
- Pay attention to societal problems
- Learn about others before judging
- Act against bullying
- Find out about your family's history and ancestry



Entrance to Auschwitz death camp.

Scan to
learn about
Holocaust
related
programming
in Hong Kong



猶太大屠殺：

為甚麼時至今日仍是如此重要？

猶太大屠殺是德國納粹政權與合謀者對600萬猶太人的迫害和謀殺，有系統性、非人性化及由國家發起的特點。從1939年至1945年，約有三分之二的歐洲猶太人在納粹的種族滅絕中被殺害。羅姆人、辛提人、男同性戀者和其他群體亦淪為受害者。在當今，究竟是甚麼令我們了解這一場史無前例的慘劇如此重要？

- **人類歷史的轉捩點：**猶太大屠殺證明即使是一個現代的，科技先進的社會也可能遭受歧視和仇恨的侵襲，並會帶來災難性的後果。猶太大屠殺現今經常被用作同各種大小事件比較的基礎。對其深入了解可令我們體會這些比較的正當性並提供相關的歷史背景。猶太大屠殺被精密預謀及執行的特質讓人產生一種“滑坡”概念——即仇恨可成為容易用以說服或脅迫的政治工具，一旦踏入，便難以回頭。大屠殺由此作為歷史的警鐘提醒世人需要警惕奉行寬容政策。



「猶太大屠殺發生了，因此它可能再次發生。這就是我們要說的話的核心。」

— 普利摩·李維
猶太大屠殺倖存者及作家

- **說明種族主義的破壞力：**希特拉鼓吹種族仇恨的意識形態，最終導致上百萬人被殺害，社會及文化遭到重挫。
- **展示消除對他者受難的漠視的必要性：**猶太大屠殺是有預謀的事件。它的發生牽扯著不同層面的選擇：它需要個人、組織及政府積極地參與和奉行歧視政策——這絕非偶然。假若我們反對那些政策，此等悲劇就不會出現。
- **強調接納社會多樣性的重要：**猶太大屠殺是一個社會未能培養對他者的同理心和對其他社會群體的理解所造成的後果的例證，這種失敗最終使無數社群瓦解。隨著愈來愈多不同背景的人共存與當今社會，培養同理心和接納不同群體及個人變得尤為重要。
- **一段關鍵的歷史記憶：**猶太大屠殺的發生推動了現代普世人權的觀念的產生並重新定義了我們對由仇恨所引致的國家級罪行的認知和描述。



你知道嗎？中國外交官何鳳山向超過三千名猶太難民發出簽證助他們離開奧地利逃出生天。

你可以做甚麼？

- 思量不同背景人士的觀點，你能夠產生共鳴嗎？
- 豐富自己／豐富學問（了解更多背景信息）
- 留意社會問題
- 批判別人前先了解
- 反對欺凌
- 認識家庭的歷史和祖輩



奧斯威辛滅絕營正門

掃描以了解
本港有關
猶太大屠殺
的活動

