

Glossary of terms

It is helpful for pupils to be introduced to these terms before a visit to use the Refugee Stories Learning Kits

Anschluss

The German annexation of Austria on 13th March 1938, when Austria was effectively connected to Germany, and German laws took effect in Austria.
(Discussed in Hilda Goldwag kit only)

Antisemitism

Hostility to or prejudice towards Jews.

Holocaust

From Greek, meaning 'completely burnt sacrifice'. Term most commonly used to describe the mass murder of approximately 6 million Jews by the Nazis and their collaborators. Although certain other groups were victims of Nazi persecution and genocide, only Jews were targeted for complete destruction.

Kindertransport

From German, meaning 'children's transport'. Programme approved by the British government, allowing the admission of almost 10,000 mostly Jewish child refugees from central Europe following Kristallnacht, until the outbreak of war. Due to immigration restrictions, the children were unaccompanied by parents and had to be sponsored by welfare agencies.

Kristallnacht

From German, meaning 'Night of Broken Glass'. A nationwide action, organised by the Nazis, on the night of 9th-10th November 1938 in which Jewish businesses and homes were attacked and looted, synagogues burned, and 91 people killed. More than 30,000 Jews were held in concentration camps until they agreed to leave Germany. Also called the 'November Pogrom'. Pogrom is a Russian word meaning a violent riot and has historically referred to anti-Jewish violence.

(Definitions informed by guidance produced by the Holocaust Education Trust)

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