

Key Definitions

These definitions have been given by the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust.

The Holocaust

The attempt by the Nazis and their collaborators to murder all of Europe's Jews. From when they took power in 1933 until the end of World War Two in 1945, the Nazis used propaganda, persecution and legislation to deny human and civil rights to Jews. From 1941, the Nazi's 'Final Solution' was developed. By the end of the Holocaust, six million Jewish men, women and children had been murdered in ghettos, mass-shootings, concentration camps and extermination camps.

Genocide

The crime of trying to wipe out a group of people based on an element of their identity, such as their nationality, race or religion.

The full legal definition of genocide is:

Any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:

- killing members of the group
- causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group
- deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part
- imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group
- forcibly transferring children of the group to another group

Jewish

Relating to Judaism – a person who follows the religion of Judaism. Jews believe in one God, worship in synagogues, their leaders are called Rabbis and their holy book is called the Torah.

Prejudice

An unfavourable opinion formed without prior knowledge, or making negative assumptions about a person without meeting them. For example, Adolf Hitler encouraged the German people to have a negative opinion about the Jews without any basis in fact.

Persecution

Prejudice can lead to persecution. This is the deliberate, cruel and unfair treatment of a person or group, especially because of their religious or political beliefs, their race, or another characteristic (for example disability or sexual orientation).



HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY 27/1



LICHFIELD
CATHEDRAL

Nazi Persecution

We use this phrase on Holocaust Memorial Day to refer to the non-Jewish people targeted for discrimination, persecution and murder by the Nazis. This includes Roma and Sinti people, disabled people, gay people, black people, Jehovah's Witnesses, political opponents, and many other groups.