

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.

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. Prejudice can lead to persecution - 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).

Nazis

Short for the 'National Socialist German Workers' Party' – the political party led by Adolf Hitler, which took power in Germany in 1933, and ruled until their defeat at the end of World War Two in 1945.