

# All about Anne

The exhibition of the Anne Frank Zentrum in Berlin

## Explanation of difficult words

# A

**Allies** is another word for partners.

Here it refers to the countries that joined forces to fight against the Nazis.

**Anti-Jewish laws** are laws whose purpose is to discriminate against and persecute people considered Jews and take away their rights.

## **Antisemitism, antisemitic**

Antisemitism is another word for hostility towards Jews.

It describe someone who hates Jews.

Antisemitism can express itself in words or deeds: as exclusion, insults, threats or attacks against people and institutions that are considered Jewish.

Antisemitism can also be directed against Israel as a Jewish state. Antisemitism can be practised by individuals, groups or institutions.

**Auschwitz** is the largest German concentration- and extermination camp. It has been in existence in occupied Poland since 1940.

One part of the camp is called »Birkenau«.

Most people there are killed in gas chambers immediately on arrival.

The Nazis massacre more than 1.1 million people in Auschwitz, most of them in gas chambers.

On 27th January 1945 the Red Army liberates Auschwitz.

# B

**Bergen-Belsen** is a concentration camp between Hamburg and Hannover. It is established in April 1943. In 1944, Bergen-Belsen becomes the destination of deportations from other concentration camps. The Nazis murder more than 52,000 people there. Many inmates die of disease and starvation or are killed by the camp personnel. On 15th April 1945, British soldiers liberated Bergen-Belsen.

**Biography** is another word for someone's life story. The study of one biography makes it easier to understand the historical context. And how people have acted in it. In this process one always deals with one's own biography, that is: with oneself.

# C

The German abbreviation for **concentration camp** is »KZ«.

From 1933 onwards, the Germans construct so-called concentration camps. They imprison the people they persecute in these camps. The prisoners have to work very hard and are treated badly. The Nazis abuse and kill many prisoners.

From 1941, the Nazis build camps in which they murder the prisoners immediately after their arrival. These camps are called extermination camps.

# D

## **Deportation, to deport**

Deportation means that people are brought to another site against their will.

The Nazis deport the people they persecute. They bring them to different places, for example to concentration- and extermination camps.

## **Discrimination, discriminated, to discriminate**

Discrimination means disadvantaging people, for example, because of age, sex, origin, skin colour, disability, sexual orientation, class or religion.

These characteristics can be real or just assumed. Most people experience discrimination on the basis of multiple characteristics. Then the discrimination increases.

# E

The Nazis establish **extermination camps** as of 1941. Most of the prisoners are murdered as soon as they arrive there.

# G

A **gas chamber** is a room used by the Nazis to kill people with gas. The Nazis build gas chambers at different locations. People who the Nazis define as »handicapped« are murdered in killing centres.

The Nazis refer to Sinti and Roma as »**Gypsies**«.  
The aim of the Nazis is to murder them all.  
The exact number of victims is not known.  
Researchers estimate that there were up to 500,000 victims.  
Today, this genocide is called »Holocaust« or »Porajmos«.  
The word comes from the Roma language Romani and literally means »destruction«.  
Most Sintezza\* and Romnja\* reject the use of the word »Gypsy« to refer to themselves.

# H

The Nazis refer to people as **handicapped** and claim that they are harmful to society. They persecute them in Germany and the occupied territories and kill more than 70,000 people. Today we use the word disabled. It means a person has a disability and the surroundings are designed such that they cannot participate fully in society. People with disabilities have a right to have barriers removed. If we look at all people, then people with disabilities are a minority.

**Holocaust** is a word for the extermination of millions of people by the Nazis. For example: people whom the Nazis persecute as »Gypsies«.  
The word Holocaust comes from Greek.  
It literally means »completely burnt«.

# J

## **Jew, Jewesses\*, Jewish**

Jewish means associated with Judaism.

Judaism is a religion with various traditions, philosophies and cultures. Jews and Jewesses\* follow their faith in different ways.

The Nazis use the word »Jew« as an insult.

They use it to refer to the people they persecute.

It does not matter to the Nazis whether the people they are persecuting think of themselves as Jewish or not.

# N

**Nazism** refers to the time from 1933 to 1945 when the Nazis are in power in Germany.

**Nazis** are members of Adolf Hitler's party, »Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei« (National Socialist German Workers' Party) (NSDAP).

The Party is founded in 1919.

The Nazis are in power in Germany from 1933 to 1945.

The Nazis claim: they are superior to other people and threatened by them.

With this conviction, they persecute, mistreat and murder people whom they have declared their enemies.

**NSDAP** is the abbreviation for »Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei« (National Socialist German Workers' Party).

Their supporters are called Nazis.

They are in power in Germany from 1933 to 1945.

After the war, the NSDAP is banned by the Allies.

# R

## **Racism, racist**

Racism claims that there is a difference between people, in order to justify unequal treatment.

Racists divide people into two groups: »us« and »them«. They use real and imaginary characteristics – such as origin, skin colour, religion or language – as a basis for division.

Racism has been around for a long time: »White« people have used racism to justify the enslavement and exploitation of »black« people.

People affected by racism today face it every day: when they deal with other people but also in structures and institutions.

The **Red Army** is the name for the Soviet Union's soldiers\*.

The Soviet Union is a member of the Allies and largely responsible for the military victory

against the Nazis. The Red Army also suffers the biggest losses in the Second World War:

of a total of around 34 million soldiers\*, more than 8.5 million die.

A further 3 million soldiers\* are murdered by the Nazis in German war captivity.

Anyone who has experienced antisemitism can contact the **Department for Research and Information on Antisemitism (RIAS)**.

For example, who was attacked, insulted or threatened.

Or who noticed offensive slogans, stickers or graffiti.

RIAS employees\* help people who experience antisemitism in Germany.

They ask exactly what people need to feel better.

For example, whether they want to meet a psychologist\* or a lawyer\*.

Or whether they want to report the crime to the police.

RIAS publishes the experiences of antisemitism that are reported to them. They do this anonymously, without saying the name.

This is important in order to show everyone what antisemitism looks like today, i.e. exactly what is done and said against Jewesses\*.

In this way, politicians\*, journalists\* and others who want to do something about antisemitism can better understand what they can do.

The reports and contact information for RIAS can be found on this website:

*[www.report-antisemitism.de](http://www.report-antisemitism.de)*

# S

**Second World War** refers to the war waged all over the world by Germany and its allied countries between 1939 and 1945.

The war begins with the German attack on Poland.

The Nazis wage a war of extermination.

This means the Nazis want to kill a part of humanity completely.

**Sintezza\* and Romnja\*** is the female plural form of Sinti and Roma.

**Sinti and Roma** is a self-designation for a group that contains different people. They live all over the world. If we look at all people, then Sinti and Roma are a minority.

The **Soviet Union** is a member of the Allies and plays a significant role in the military victory over the Nazis.

# T

**Typhus** is an infectious disease:

Typhus causes severe headaches, rashes, constipation and high fever. The disease spreads quickly under concentrations camp conditions and is fatal for many prisoners.



# V

**Version** is another word for »edition«.

# W

The **Westerbork transit camp** is built by the Dutch government as a camp for Jewish refugees in 1939. In July 1942, the German occupiers begin using the camp as a concentration camp. The Nazis call the camp »Police transit camp.« They imprison the people that they persecute. The Nazis bring them from here to the concentration camps in Eastern Europe in a total of 93 trains. On 12th April 1945 Canadian soldiers liberate Westerbork.