



# THE HOLOCAUST GALLERIES

## SENSITIVE CONTENT GUIDE

### PLEASE READ THIS CAREFULLY BEFORE YOUR VISIT

Due to some of the content in The Holocaust Galleries at IWM London, we have created this sensitive content guide to signpost moments in the galleries where graphic content is presented or is presented near the route that students will take. We have also created a Teachers' Map of The Holocaust Galleries that locates these moments, which can be downloaded and printed in advance of your visit via the IWM website here: [Holocaust Learning at IWM London | Imperial War Museums](#)

### SUPPORTING YOUR STUDENTS

Everyone can react differently to the content of this complex and challenging history. The below is not an all-encompassing list of what content students may find difficult to deal with, but rather areas where we have identified graphic photography, videos and content descriptions. We would encourage you to consider and support the emotional needs of your students before, during and particularly after their visit once some time has passed. You know your students best and are best placed to know how to support them.

We would advise providing further space and time for them to reflect and to encourage them to talk to you or another teacher if they have been affected by what they have seen in The Holocaust Galleries. You can find resources to support both teachers and students on the IWM website here: [Learning with IWM | Imperial War Museums.](#)

For further support and guidance, we recommend the below organisations that may be able to help with your students' emotional wellbeing:

[NSPCC Learning](#)  
[Mind](#)  
[Childline](#)

### HOW IWM WILL SUPPORT YOUR STUDENTS

The learning device that will accompany your students during their visit to The Holocaust Galleries deliberately does not guide them to any graphic photography or film. Your IWM learning practitioner will highlight that there is challenging material on display in The Holocaust Galleries during your introduction session and they will also remind students that they, and you as their teacher, are there to support them should they need to talk to someone during or after their visit.

### HOW THIS GUIDE WORKS

The Holocaust Galleries are divided into chronological sections. Each section has a title e.g., War. Below is a list for teachers of sensitive content featured in The Holocaust Galleries, in the order in which students may encounter it. This is listed with the section title, where on the colour-coded Teachers' Map it features and a brief description of the content.

### THE FOLLOWING PAGES OF THIS GUIDE CONTAIN DESCRIPTIONS OF GRAPHIC CONTENT FEATURED IN THE HOLOCAUST GALLERIES AT IWM LONDON



## THE HOLOCAUST GALLERIES

### SENSITIVE CONTENT GUIDE

## TEACHERS' MAP: 1934 –1941

### SECTION: WAR

#### CONTENT

Photographs of Operation 'Tannenberg'

#### DESCRIPTION

These photographs were taken during Operation 'Tannenberg', a German campaign targeting civilians after the invasion of Poland. More than 20,000 Polish civilians thought to be resisting – or capable of resisting – the German occupation were murdered within weeks. By the end of the year, the number of people killed had risen to 60,000. Soldiers particularly targeted Jews wearing traditional styles of dress. In one of these photographs, a Jewish man is being humiliated by having his beard cut off as soldiers and civilians look on. In another, a man is held at gun point and is stood in front of a pile of dead bodies of people recently shot. Others show executions by firing squads.

### SECTION: OUTCAST

#### CONTENT

*Erbkrank* film

#### DESCRIPTION

*Erbkrank* (meaning 'hereditarily diseased') was one of a number of films made by the Nazis intended to mock and demonise disabled citizens. It was filmed in institutions across Germany and callously exploited the people depicted within it in a deceptive and calculated way. None of those who appeared gave their consent. Many of them were later murdered as part of the euthanasia programme.

#### CONTENT

Photographs, artworks, and films of the ghettos

#### DESCRIPTION

A display of photographs, artworks, and films of the ghettos from across eastern Europe. These include images of malnourished and emaciated men, women and children and corpses.



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## TEACHERS' MAP: 1941 –1945

### SECTION: MASSACRE

#### CONTENT

*Einsatzgruppen* screen

#### DESCRIPTION

This screen features photographs and film of the mass shootings committed by the *Einsatzgruppen* (mobile killing units) across eastern Europe.

#### CONTENT

Photographs of the massacres at Ponary forest, the town of Chişinău, Babyn Yar ravine, Lubny ravine and Šķēde beach

#### DESCRIPTION

This room features photographs of the above massacres that took place across eastern Europe. They are displayed in the size that they would have been developed at the time they were taken, which means the photographs are small. The captions alongside the images are highly graphic in description and are more challenging than the images themselves, despite what the images show.

### SECTION: ANNIHILATION

#### CONTENT

Photographs of the Rovno ravine massacre

#### DESCRIPTION

Jews in Mizocz mounted an uprising against the ghetto's liquidation in October 1942. After a short battle, those who had not been killed or fled into hiding were rounded up. They were taken to a ravine south of Rovno and shot. These photographs document their murder. Most of the 700 victims were women and children.

### SECTION: KILLING CENTRES

#### CONTENT

Death camp screens

#### DESCRIPTION

The three screens in this room feature computer-generated animations showing the functional and spatial organisation of the death camps Belzec, Sobibor and Treblinka.

### SECTION: ENSLAVEMENT

#### CONTENT

Photographs of biological experiments

#### DESCRIPTION

Photographs of concentration camp prisoners being subjected to inhumane medical experiments.

#### CONTENT

Slave Labour screen

#### DESCRIPTION

Photographs and film of Jewish prisoners being used for slave labour.



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#### SECTION: BREAKDOWN

##### **CONTENT**

Auschwitz-Birkenau screen

##### **DESCRIPTION**

Photographs taken by camp officials in the summer of 1944 documenting the selection of Hungarian Jews at Auschwitz-Birkenau. They capture the chaos of arrival, the moment of selection and the false calm of the final moments before people entered the gas chambers. They are the only known photographic evidence of this process.

##### **CONTENT**

Alberto Errera photographs of bodies being burned in the open at Auschwitz-Birkenau

##### **DESCRIPTION**

These photographs are displayed in the size that they would have been developed at the time they were taken, which means the photographs are small. The captions alongside the images are highly graphic in description and are more challenging than the images themselves, despite what the images show.

##### **CONTENT**

Photograph of corpse at Ohrdruf

##### **DESCRIPTION**

As the camps entered their final phase, guards prepared prisoners for evacuation. In many places they killed those too weak to walk, leaving piles of unburied corpses in their rush to leave. This photograph shows the body of a prisoner shot at Ohrdruf, a sub-camp of Buchenwald, before the departure of the SS.



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## TEACHERS' MAP: 1945 – present day

### SECTION: AFTERWARDS

#### CONTENT

Photographs, artwork, audio recordings, and films of the camps following liberation

#### DESCRIPTION

A display of photographs, artworks, audio recordings, and films of the camps following liberation across Europe. These include highly graphic descriptions and images of malnourished and emaciated men, women and children, naked corpses, hangings, and mass graves.

#### CONTENT

*German Concentration Camps Factual Survey* film

#### DESCRIPTION

This film has a running time of 42 minutes and features approximately 7 minutes in total of highly graphic footage, that features at various points throughout the running time of the film. This includes footage of malnourished and emaciated men, women and children, nudity, corpses, mass graves of naked corpses, medical treatments, and mass piles of hair and teeth belonging to those murdered in the camps.

The Allies commissioned the documentary *German Concentration Camps Factual Survey* to show to all Germans. They wanted the film to prevent any future denial of German war atrocities. It was also intended to crush lingering support for Nazism. Expert filmmakers and scriptwriters were employed to accurately capture the Nazis' crimes. Despite the Allies' intentions for the film, *German Concentration Camps Factual Survey* was never finished. Between 2010 and 2014, IWM used the original filmmakers' directions and script to complete it. The edit shown in this room is based on this completed film but has had some sequences – predominantly those containing particularly graphic content – removed.