

Planning and Organization of the Genocide of the European Jews

The protocol of the Wannsee Conference shows that the genocide of the European Jews was the result of a process beginning with the isolation of German Jews and culminating in the systematic murder of the Jews of nearly all European countries. The stages of this gradual destruction of Jewish civil life and ultimately of the Jews themselves, in which different authorities performed different tasks, are examined in small groups. Participants present their results in different forms for discussion.

Points

- Structure of the extermination process
- Definition, registration and labelling of the Jews
- Deprivation of rights and expropriation
- Concentration in assembly camps and ghettos
- Deportation
- Mass murder
- The protocol of the Wannsee Conference as a key document of the extermination process

Methods

- Tour of the exhibition in small groups or topic-related guided tour
- Consideration of historical documents with reference to a survivors' report
- Feature writing
- Role plays or staged readings
- Fictional letter writing using historical documents
- Analysis of photographs
- Selection and explanation of key sentences from the recollections of victims and perpetrators
- Presentation of quotes from survivors' reports

This study day can be adapted to suit the interests and abilities of younger pupils (15+) or older students (17+).
