

# Activity 5: The Legal Effect: How Laws Can Persecute or Protect

## Historical events timeline, 1933-39

### 1933

- **First concentration camp opens** - The term concentration camp refers to a camp in which people are detained, usually under harsh conditions and without regard to legal norms of arrest or conviction of any crime following a judicial process. Dachau was the first concentration camp established by the Nazi government. It was originally intended to incarcerate political opponents of the new regime.

### 1936

- **Sachsenhausen concentration camp opens** - This was the principal concentration camp for the Berlin area.

### 1938

- **Germany annexes Austria** - German troops entered Austria on 12 March 1938. The next day, Germany officially annexed the country and incorporated Austria into the Third Reich. This event is called the *Anschluss*.
- **Evian conference on refugees** - After Germany annexed Austria, a refugee crisis began. Tens of thousands of German and Austrian Jews applied to immigrate to countries outside Europe. Diplomats and representatives from 32 countries met in Evian-les-Bains, France, in July 1938, to discuss the refugee crisis. Most of the representatives said that their country was sympathetic but would not admit more refugees. Some claimed that an increase in immigration would hurt their economy, while others stated that they did not want Jews.
- **Polish Jews deported from Germany** - Nazi Germany expelled about 17,000 Jews from Germany in 1938. Most of them had lived in Germany for years but were Polish citizens. Poland was unwilling to accept the Jews, so they were put in a no man's land between the countries and eventually into refugee camps.



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### 1938 continued

- ***Kristallnacht*** - On 9-10 November 1938, Nazi leaders unleashed a series of violent pogroms (or riots) against the Jewish population in Germany and recently incorporated territories. This event became known as *Kristallnacht* (Night of Broken Glass) because of the shattered glass that littered the streets after the vandalism and destruction of Jewish-owned businesses, synagogues, and homes. Approximately 30,000 Jewish men and boys were arrested and sent to concentration camps. Just under 100 Jewish people were murdered in the pogrom.
- ***Kindertransport*** (Children's Transport) - This was the informal name of a series of rescue efforts between 1938 and 1940 which brought Jewish children from Nazi-controlled territory to safety. Jewish parents sent their children on organised transports to live in children's homes, with foster families, or with distant relatives in Great Britain, the Netherlands, or France. The Kindertransport efforts brought about 10,000 children to safety in Great Britain.

## Sources

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, *Holocaust Encyclopedia: 1938: Key Dates* <<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/1938-key-dates>> [accessed 7 March 2022]

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, *Holocaust Narrative through Historical Photos* <<https://www.ushmm.org/m/pdfs/USHMM-Holocaust-Narrative-Photos.pdf>> [accessed 7 March 2022]

